

**Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, September 22, 2022  
Preston Town Hall - Lower Level**

**Call to Order** - Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**1. Roll Call**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier  
Jerry Grabarek  
Ken Zachem

**Also Present**

Sean Nugent - PRA Chairman  
Bruce Chudwick - PRA Attorney  
Claire Bessette - The Day Reporter  
Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

**2. Acceptance of Previous Minutes**

- **September 8, 2022 - Regular Meeting**

***Ken Zachem motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2022 as presented. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

**3. Correspondence**

It was shared that *Frontier* has notified the Town that they are expanding their broadband fiber optics network into Preston, and it will give gig level broadband service and voice over internet. At the Town's right of way at 291 Route 164 they will be installing a small equipment box on the pole. In a few weeks there will be a meeting with them where they'll give more details.

***Ken Zachem motioned to move the Executive Session forward in the agenda. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

***Ken Zachem motioned at 7:02 P.M. to move to an Executive Session of the Board of Selectmen, inviting Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Jerry Grabarek, Ken Zachem, Sean Nugent, and Bruce Chudwick into the session. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried.***

*At this point the Board went into Executive Session.*

*The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:40 P.M. with no action taken.*

***Ken Zachem motioned to approve a resolution to endorse and call a Special Town Meeting to approve Amendment 1 to the property disposition and development agreement by and between the Town of Preston and the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority; the acceptance and authorization to expend a state grant of \$7,000,000, and a state loan of \$2,000,000; and the ratification of the Town's previous approval of said loan. All is provided under said Amendment 1 and the state financial assistance agreement. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

***Ken Zachem motioned to approve the Legal Notice for the call for a Special Town Meeting Thursday October 6 at 7:00 P.M. at Preston Plains Middle School. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

**4. Reports - None**

**5. Appointments and/or Resignations - None**

**6. Tax Refund**

- a. James and Colleen Wignall at 41 Burton Road - \$301.10
- b. Jason Haller at 41 Doolittle Road - \$199.82
- c. Wayne Ferguson at 29 Drawbridge Road - \$8.22
- d. Tyler White at 29 Lakeview Drive - \$94.64
- e. Alvin and Debbie Miller at 83 River Road - \$10.95
- f. Jean Swift and Jade Swift at 166 Watson Road - \$9.80
- g. Valerie Reyyashi at 427 Route 164 - \$45.00
- h. White Gate, LLC, Steven Forrest St. Clair at 512 Route 164 - \$3,003.65
- i. Teresa Sindelar at 242 Route 165 - \$148.85

***Ken Zachem motioned to approve the following tax refunds: James and Colleen Wignall at 41 Burton Road - \$301.10; Jason Haller at 41 Doolittle Road - \$199.82; Wayne Ferguson at 29 Drawbridge Road - \$8.22; Tyler White at 29 Lakeview Drive - \$94.64; Alvin and Debbie Miller at 83 River Road - \$10.95; Jean Swift and Jade Swift at 166 Watson Road - \$9.80; Valerie Reyyashi at 427 Route 164 - \$45.00; White Gate, LLC, Steven Forrest St. Clair at 512 Route 164 - \$3,003.65; and Teresa Sindelar at 242 Route 165 - \$148.85. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

**7. Old Business - None**

**8. New Business**

**a. Grant Updates - LOTCIP, STEAP, and Bridge**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that everything was submitted to SCCOG for the LOTCIP Grant to meet the September 15th deadline. CLA Engineers submitted their part for the engineering and conceptual aspects. Now, we're just waiting for any comments that DOT and SCCOG may have. She stated that they submitted many letters of support for the project including letters from Hart's Greenhouse, Mashantucket and Mohegan Tribes. As the grant moves forward it will be important to continue to update and share progress on the Town website and Facebook page to keep all citizens well informed and to make sure the public understands what this project will do for the area and what it will not. Presently the Town is still actively looking at other programs to fund the Town's \$300,000 portion of the grant.

The STEAP grant for Public Works upgrades with a cost of \$498,000 has come through. Options for paying the Town's portion of \$55,000 are being looked into. We used some *in kind services* which we have already completed, which leaves \$34,000. That amount can possibly be paid from LoCIP funds.

It was reviewed that Parks Road bridge has a replacement cost of 2.9 million dollars and Cook Town Road bridge replacement will cost 2.7 million dollars for a total of 5.6 million. Originally a federal program was received that would cover 80% of the cost; however, with the help of DOT the Town will now receive funds from the Infrastructure Bill to cover the Town's 20% of the cost. So, at this point both bridges will be replaced at no cost to the Town.

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier acknowledged the team effort from Cindy Varricchio, Jim Corley, and Kathy Warzecha on all their hard work in securing these grants that has helped the Town significantly.

**b. Draft Budget Calendar**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared the proposed budget calendar with the Board members. She explained that moving up the calendar by about 3 weeks allows room for unseen delays and possible failed referendums, but still remains inside the ordinance guidelines. It also would ensure that tax bills would be prepared and distributed on time, allowing tax collection to begin July 1st.

**c. ClearGov Update**

It was shared that the Board of Finance voted in favor 5 to 1 of a bid waiver to move forward with ClearGov.

**d. Healthcare discussion**

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that Town employees were given informational letters concerning the Brown & Brown Health Care offer and the possible change in coverage. She shared that Brown & Brown held 3 informational workshops; the first was well attended and

there were few questions; the second only one person attended; and the third no one attended. Because United HealthCare and Cigna are the same it doesn't seem that Town employees are concerned with the possible move.

The Board of Education has also been informing and educating their employees of the possible change. It was stressed that if there is a change it must be both the Town employees and the Board of Education, which will be making their decision on October the 3rd.

***Jerry Grabarek motioned according to the presentation that Brown & Brown did for United HealthCare and Cigna as presented at the joint Board of Education, Board of Selectmen meeting on August 11th; and based on employee informational sessions; and contingent upon Board of Education approval at their October 3rd meeting, for a joint movement; that it is the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to approve Brown & Brown offer of health care coverage. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

**9. Public Comment - None**

**10. Adjournment**

***Sandra Allyn-Gauthier motioned to adjourn at 8:16 P.M. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.***

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kimberly Lang*

Recording Secretary