

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 27, 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

Jim Corley - Public Works Manager
Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

2. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **October 13, 2022 - Amended Regular Meeting**

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the Amended Regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2022 as presented. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence - None

4. Reports - None

5. Appointments and/or Resignations - None

6. New Business

a. Freightliner Plow Truck Proposal

Jim Corley presented a proposal to purchase a new large plow truck which would replace the current 2004 Sterling plow truck. The money to purchase the truck will be pulled from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that the Town has received. At the July 7, 2022 Town Meeting, voters approved the use of the funds to replace the 2004 Sterling truck. The Public Works has received pricing from Freightliner of Hartford to purchase a new Freightliner 114SD plow truck. The cost for the truck, including the body and equipment package is \$210,000 and will be purchased off State Contract #14PSX0239.

Mr. Corley explained that another town ordered the truck, but didn't accept delivery so, if he can move ahead with this purchase the Town could take delivery by the end of November. There was a brief discussion of trucks and wait times that ended with the group feeling this was a good purchase for the Town especially with the delivery in 30 days.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the bid waiver to purchase a \$210,000 for a Freightliner 114SD plow truck with a body and equipment package from Freightliner of Hartford a State Contract #14PSX0239 according to the December 30, 2014 Town of Preston Ordinance, Bid Opportunities, and Section no. 1 bid waiver requirements using ARPA funds as already approved. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

b. Federal Local Bridge Program Commitment of Funds

1. Parks Road over Broad Brook - No. 05520

2. Cooktown Road over Unnamed Brook - No. 06085

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared with the Board that the DOT has sent a Commitment of Fund for both bridges under the Federal Local Bridge Program. The letter states that 80% of the cost will be paid under the Federal Off-System Bridge Program and the remaining 20% will be covered by State or Federal funds. They recommend that in order to track the funds properly that the Town set up a separate budget line item and to make the auditors aware of the projects.

The Board had a brief discussion on the possibility of getting the same grant for other bridges. It was mentioned by Jim Corley that bridges need to be at least 20 feet wide and structurally obsolete. He also stated that there is a Rural Bridge Program, however, it's not as cost effective as this program. He did mention that he is having DOT look at Lewis Road Bridge to see if that could possibly be deemed as obsolete.

Jerry Grabarek motioned to authorize Sandra Allyn-Gauthier to sign the Commitment of Fund with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation on behalf of the Town of Preston. Ken Zachem second the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

c. 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Planning Calendar (Approved by BoF on 10/19/22)

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier reviewed the Proposed Budget Calendar to be followed in the upcoming budget process. She shared that the Board of Finance approved the Budget Calendar at their meeting last week, October 19th. It was explained that the proposed calendar complies with Town Ordinances; allows flexibility if something were to come up; and allows enough time for both the Tax Collector and the Assessor to do their part of the process and get the appropriate information to their vendors resulting in the tax bills being mailed out on time, July 1st.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Planning Calendar as presented. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

d. Healthcare Update

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier explained that even though they were hoping for a switch in healthcare coverage as of November 1st, but because Cigna couldn't commit to that, it has been delayed. They could have done a partial move in health coverage, but rather than a partial switch the new coverage will now begin as of December 1st. It was decided to make a smooth transition, that it was better to wait the extra month. All the affected employees will receive a written notice explaining this.

e. BoS Plan of Conservation and Development

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier reviewed the 7 page POCD proposed Board of Selectmen document with the members. She explained that she would like to see a more user-friendly document for the 2024 Plan. That it should have goals with actionable steps that are obtainable for the Board it's assigned to. She described the horizontal spreadsheet that she'd like to see the Plan set up in and then proceeded to discuss the previous plan by section.

The following decisions were made:

- Page 2, eliminate Action 1 under Goal #2.
- Page 2, under Goal # 3, Action 1 would require Boards and Commission to meet and discuss progress of the Plan and what changes need to occur to meet the goals of the Plan.
- Page 3, Goal #3, Objective 2, Action 1 it was felt that it should be left to the Conservation and Agricultural Committee not the Board of Selectmen so that was eliminated.
- Page 4, Goal #4, Objective 1, Action 1 is very similar to Goal 1. At this point the Board discussed the need for an inventory of properties that are suitable for economic development and the need to define business friendly.
- Page 5, Action 1 was eliminated. The Board also discussed the possibility of public water, sewage, and gas along Routes 12 and Route 2 to help economic development to thrive in those areas.
- Page 6 - It was mentioned that there are some 20 cemeteries in town and to maintain all of them is impossible without funding and manpower. So the Town will continue to maintain the cemeteries that they have committed to caring for.
- Page 7 - The Board discussed solar energy and what the Town's offices requirements are greater than what the few panels on the roof can provide. The conversation also brought up Blue Earth, a composting company that would collect bags of composting garbage from residents, take them to their facility, and could return compost to citizens for their use. It would have a small enough footprint that it might be worth looking into adding that to the Transfer Station sooner rather than later.

With no other comments or discussion at this time, on this matter, the meeting moved on with the Agenda.

7. Old Business - None

8. Tax Refund

- a. Jennifer Crary of 108 Old Jewett City Road for a refund of \$29.41.

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve a tax refund to Jennifer Crary of 108 Old Jewett City Road for a refund in the amount of \$29.41. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Public Comment - None

10. Adjournment

Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 7:55 P.M. Jerry Garbarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary