

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 3, 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

Sean Nugent - Board of Education Chair

Dr. Roy Seitsinger - Superintendent of Schools

Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

2. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **October 27, 2022 - Regular Meeting**

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2022 as presented. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence - None

4. Reports - None

Jerry Grabarek motioned to waive Youth Services Bureau appointment onto the Agenda. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. Appointments and/or Resignations

It was reported that the Youth Services Bureau has requested that the Board of Selectmen approve their recommendation to appoint Roberta Charpentier for a 1 year term to fill a vacancy on the Bureau. They feel that Roberta would be an asset to the programs, services, and decision making process of the Bureau moving forward.

Jerry Grabarek motioned to approve the appointment of Roberta Charpentier to Youth Services Bureau for a 1 year term. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Bid Waiver Request

Jim Corley presented a proposal to purchase a new F550 truck which would replace the current 2014 F350 truck. The money to purchase the truck will come 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 F350 truck. The Public Works has received pricing from TASCAs to purchase a new F550 pickup truck. The cost for the truck includes the body and equipment package and will not exceed \$84,000. It will be purchased off State Contract #19PSX0161.

Mr. Corley explained that this purchase is coming a year earlier than he expected, he has received a final pricing of \$82,067.70 and can take possession of the truck in one year.

There was a brief discussion about the economy and increased pricing and it was decided that it would be best for the Town to lock in the pricing at this time rather than wait. It was also decided rather than the exact price to honor Mr. Corley's original request not to exceed \$84,000 to cover any incidentals that may occur at the time of taking possession.

Jerry Grabarek motion to approve the bid waiver in the amount not to exceed \$84,000 to purchase a new Ford F550 truck, the cost includes the body and equipment package from TASCAs a State Contract #19PSX0161 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. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

b. Connecticut New Indoor Air Quality Reimbursement Program Update - Dr. Seitsinger

Roy Seitsinger presented information regarding the DAS Department of Real Estate and Construction: Office of School Construction Grants and Reviews (OSCGR). He explained that this is not a grant per se that the school is looking for a reimbursement for recent work that has been done to upgrade their HVAC system. He explained that the Grant information was distributed October 1st and the deadline is December 1st by 4:00 PM, not near enough time to get all the steps completed for a new construction project. So that's why the Board of Education wants to apply for a refund for work that has already been completed over the last two years. Adding up completed work that falls within the realm and guidelines of the reimbursement criteria, Dr. Seitsinger has identified \$188,406 spent upgrades. The Superintendent requested that the Board of Selectmen approve the application for the reimbursement program not to exceed \$190,000. The school will be informed by January 2023 if they have been awarded any funds.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve Dr. Seitsinger to apply for the DAS Department of Real Estate and Construction: Office of School Construction Grants and Reviews (OSCGR)

reimbursement program for an amount not to exceed \$190,000. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Seitsinger thanked the Board for their support and then stated that, “If we are not more nibble, we’re going to lose out on a lot of money. We need to be ready for the opportunity.”

The group then discussed how to become more ready for grant and funding opportunities, most of which have a very short turnaround time. These opportunities just pop up and when they do, if you're not ready you miss the chance to fund significant projects at a cost that is more palpable to the taxpayers. It was mentioned that a sitting Building Committee would help sustain readiness so as funds become available the Town can act and apply for various funding opportunities. It was mentioned that a Building Committee could help identify the projected needs of the town and have a cost estimate for each project which is imperative so that opportunities aren't missed. It would then allow Town officials to look and apply for funding as it becomes available. Unfortunately with only two Boards ready to move forward, the Town is stagnated without a Building Committee and an approved Capital Plan in place.

c. CCM Conference Update

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared with the Board members that she, Cindy Varricchio, Erin Gizio, and Leigh Pappas all attended the CCM Conference on Tuesday. And, in order to get the most out of the broad variety of workshop sessions being offered, the 4 split up to acquire as much useful information that could be helpful to the Town. Each attendee will submit a summary of what they discovered that may be useful to themselves or the Town. Ms. Allyn-Gauthier briefly reviewed the list of different workshop sessions that were attended.

She shared that on Wednesday she attended the CCM Legislative Committee Meeting and that SCCOG Legislative Agenda Committee met Thursday. Both seem to have similar legislative agendas. Once they have been developed and finalized she will share the agendas with the Board.

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier did point out that WorkForce Development is an issue in several areas. For example: Education is lacking teachers and paraprofessionals; Public Safety is lacking firefighters and EMTs; and Code Enforcements is lacking zoning and building officials. It was mentioned that workforce development is something that needs to be done collectively to help the region, hopefully Eastern Workforce Investment Board can be instrumental in that area as they were in the past with workforce shortages. One issue with building the workforce is where do they live. The region needs to provide more affordable housing for that workforce. Amanda Kennedy has begun to call it *Attainable Housing* which seems to have a different connotation to it, but it is clear that the region needs to build a diverse workforce and have housing to meet their needs. Another topic was Shared Services and streamlining the process to make it easier

to accomplish the sharing. Finally the topic of Zoning Enforcement Officers needing to be certified by 2023, however there's a shortage in that area as well. SCCOG would not extend the timeline for candidates to meet their requirements. To become certified, candidates need job experiences and classes. There is hope their revised wording will allow candidates who are actively working towards meeting the requirements, can continue working as ZEO until the workforce can catch up with the demand. Those were the broad topics that were on the legislative agendas and Ms. Allyn-Gathier will continue to share updates with the Board as they develop and finalize what topics will be presented to the Legislature.

7. Old Business - None

8. Tax Refund

- a. CCAP Auto Lease -2021-03-0050785 for a refund of \$553.00.

Ken Zachem motioned to approve a tax refund to CCAP Auto Lease -2021-03-0050785 for a refund in the amount of \$553.00. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Public Comment - None

10. Adjournment

Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 8:00 P.M. Jerry Garbarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary