

**Town of New Hartford
Board of Finance Meeting – Special Meeting
New Hartford Town Hall
Tuesday, April 17, 2012 @ 7:00PM**

Present: Board of Finance members Ben Witte, Kate Rieger, Reggie Smith, Jr., Maria Moore, Alternates: Joe Gareis, Bill Coates, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Jack Casey, Bookkeeper Annie Witte, BOE Chairperson Bryan Keilty and Recording Secretary Penny Miller

Absent: Jim Fitzgerald, Dan Charest

Chairman Witte opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Seating of Alternates: Joe Gareis was seated for Jim Fitzgerald.

Review /Approval prior meeting minutes:

MOTION: by Smith, second Gareis to approve the minutes dated March 13, 2012.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions

MOTION: by Rieger, second Smith to approve the minutes dated March 17, 2012.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions

MOTION: by Smith, second Gareis to approve the minutes dated March 22, 2012.

BOF member Gareis asked that on Page 2 the words “more than” be stricken from his remark.

MOTION: by Gareis, second Rieger to amend the minutes as stated.

Aye: All members present as amended, no opposition, no abstentions

Aye: All members present on the minutes, no opposition, no abstentions

MOTION: by Smith, second Moore to approve the minutes dated April 10, 2012.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions

Public Comments: None

2012-13 New Hartford Budget discussion (all aspects – town, schools, capital, revenue, etc.) and take potential actions on proposed budget.

Chairman Witte reported on the hearing of April 10, 2012. There were more comments than usual and a broader representation of townspeople.

Chairman Witte asked are there any other changes to the budget as presented with the 2.75% tax increase. Do we want to change anything on the revenue or expenditure side?

Member Smith asked if there have been any changes to the Region #7 budget. No change yet. First Selectman Jerram said no additional changes to the general government budget. For the local Board of Education what to do with the \$35,000 in technology and the \$72,000 cut out of their budget. Shall we leave it at that?

BOE Keilty was asked is the \$35,000 just for technology or is it for books, etc. He responded that it was just for technology (laptops, monitors, etc.) and not books. Moving the \$35,000 from the capital budget into the operating budget is just a reclassification.

The Board of Finance has asked the Board of Education to reduce their budget by \$70,000.

Unless we change it tonight, we are voting on a 2.75% increase.

MOTION: by Smith, second Gareis

To move the \$35,000 from the capital budget Board of Education - Education Technology to the Board of Education operating budget thereby increasing the final Board of Education number to \$7,861,191 and further thereby reducing the Board of Education capital budget to \$140,000 total.

Discussion followed.

Aye: Smith, Gareis, Witte, Opposed: Moore & Rieger. Motion passes.

Filed with these minutes is an email from member Fitzgerald with his suggestion for cuts that he would like to see take effect in this budget via the meeting of April 17, 2012.

Town Government budget: The \$40,000 reduction in the budget is for downtown, revaluation, etc.

Projected revenues: \$715,751,208.

MOTION: by Rieger, second Moore

To add an additional \$50,000 revenue to line item FEMA reimbursement that we expect late this year or next.

Motion rescinded.

Member Smith asked when we will know from the tax collector how it looks for this year. Chairman Witte responded we received a number from her that is similar to previous years. We have been putting in 97.5% and we have been running around 98.4%

We have bumped up our surplus by \$150,000 this year.

Chairman Witte recommends no other changes to the revenues but it is up to the Board of Finance members.

MOTION: by Witte, second Smith

To approve a total budget for the year 2012 – 2013 of \$22,306,107, an increase of 3.5% expenditures resulting in a tax increase of 2.75% at a 97.5% collection rate.

Discussion followed. After the referendum the mill rate is set.

Aye: Smith, Rieger, Witte, Opposed: Gareis, Moore – motion passes.

Member Smith feels that all the budgets should be approved before they go to referendum. BOE member Keilty said that the board has two more meetings before the referendum and they will get their budget approved.

MOTION: by Rieger, second Smith to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted:

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary