

**Town of New Hartford
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Town Hall – 530 Main Street
Tuesday, January10, 2012**

Present: Board of Finance members: Ben Witte, Reggie Smith, Jr., Maria Moore, Dan Charest, Kate Rieger, Alternates: Joe Gareis, Bill Coates; Bookkeeper Annie Witte, Town Treasurer Gordon Ross, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Member of the Public Dan Eddy, Recreation Commission, Recording Secretary Penny Miller.

Absent: Jim Fitzgerald

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

Seating of Alternates:

Joe Gareis for Jim Fitzgerald

Adoption/Revision of Agenda: No Changes

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Charest, second Gareis to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting.

The December minutes are amended as follows:

1. The letter regarding Kennerson, Rieger and Coates under **Resignation and Replacement** was sent from Jim Fitzgerald, Chairman – Republican Town Committee.
2. Member Moore asked that her email re: **Alternates for BOF** be part of these minutes.

MOTION: by Rieger, second Smith to amend Jim Fitzgerald's title under **Resignation and Replacement** to: Jim Fitzgerald, Chairman – Republican Town Committee

MOTION: by Moore, second Rieger to include the email (attached to these minutes).

Aye: all members present on the amendments, no opposition, Charest abstained

Aye: all members present on the minutes, no opposition, Charest abstained

Opportunity for the Public to Speak: None

Bookkeeper's Report:

Bookkeeper Witte reported that Linda Sheffield, Tax Collector, has no concerns on the taxes. Last week money was taken in for the elderly, veterans, ½ of the Pequot money and the disabled money.

First Selectman's Report: Everything has been going good thanks to the lack of precipitation. The town crew has been focusing on storm clean-up and cutting back of ditches. The field house is 98% done - \$38,480. The contract was modified for \$2900 to fix some corrugated plastic windows up near the peak. Notification from OPM was received and the STEAP grant we applied for was not approved. This latest

grant addressed everything. We currently have 2 STEAP grants for \$450,000. There are towns that have none.

We would like to change the police vehicles over to 4 wheel drive. We have \$30,000 set aside for purchase of a new police vehicle. We do have the DARE truck that can be used but a 2nd four-wheel or AWD drive vehicle would be nice. The generator we have is a 10K watt and it isn't enough to run everything at the town garage. We do have the old generator from the WPCA to use. GOFF Equipment has been contacted and they can replace the old generator for around \$10,000. Selectman Jerram wasn't sure if this would be a gas or propane generator. Tankworks & Envirosience has been contacted regarding Increase fuel storage capacity. They would like to see a design spec before they give us a quote.

Treasurer's Report: This is the end of our semiannual tax cycle. There is nothing major to report.

Other Items to Come Before the Board:

Chairman Witte passed out the timeline draft for the upcoming budget meetings. He will confirm with the Board of Education that these dates do not conflict with any of their board meetings (attached to these minutes).

Selectman Jerram has a phone call with the town attorney to discuss the budget ordinance referendum.

Budget expectations – the economy hasn't changed much in terms of the grand list – it is flat. We want to keep the tax rates down. A letter has been received from Region 7 inviting Chairman Witte and First Selectman Jerram to a pre-budget meeting the end of January.

Chairman Witte asked member Kate Rieger if she was interested in chairing the capital sub-committee. She agreed. First Selectman Jerram, Town Treasurer Gordon Ross, BOE member Steve Tuxbury and Denton Butler are on the committee.

Member Smith asked about the status of the audit. Chairman Witte received a letter that the audit is done. He will call them to come to the BOF February meeting.

Chairman Witte will also look into getting an update from the WPCA at the February meeting.

Member Gareis asked about the status of the contract negotiations. Chairman Witte reported the teachers voted on it and the contract is done. Any opportunity to challenge has passed. Member Gareis asked if there was any more due diligence we need to do? Is it in summary form? Chairman Witte will check with Dr. O'Reilly.

MOTION: by Smith, second Rieger to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary