

Town of New Hartford, CT
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
December 13, 2011

Present: Board of Finance members: Ben Witte, Reggie Smith, Jr., Maria Moore, Alternates: Kate Rieger, Joe Gareis; Bookkeeper Annie Witte, Town Treasurer Gordon Ross, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Supt. of Schools Dr. Philip O'Reilly, Board of Education Bryan Kielty, Steve Tuxbury, Recreation Commission member Dan Eddy, Members of the Public Lila Tuxbury, William Coates (prospective alternate), Bob Moore, Register Citizen reporter Debbi Morello, Recording Secretary Penny Miller

Absent: Dan Charest, Jim Fitzgerald

Chairman Witte called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Seating of Alternates:

Kate Rieger was seated for Jim Fitzgerald and Joe Gareis for Dan Charest.

Chairman Witte welcomed the new Board of Finance members.

Adoption/Revision of Agenda: No Changes

Resignation & Replacement:

Chairman Witte read the following letters that are filed with these minutes:

- Resignation letter from BOF member Alesia Kennerson following her election to the Board of Selectman
- Letter from BOF member Jim Fitzgerald re: Alesia Kennerson's seat and recommendation of Kate Rieger to that seat and appointment of William Coates to replace the position left by Kate Rieger as an alternate.
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William Coates then read his short bio (filed with these minutes).

MOTION: by Smith, second by Moore to nominate Kate Rieger to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of member Alesia Kennerson. There were no other nominations.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions

MOTION: by Smith, second by Moore that the nominations be closed.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions

BOF member Smith suggested that Kate Rieger be sworn in as a regular member at this meeting. As a member of the court and present at this meeting Attorney at Law Bryan Kielty can do this.

MOTION: by Smith, second by Rieger to nominate William Coates to fill Kate Rieger's alternate seat on the Board of Finance. There were no other nominations.

MOTION: by Rieger, second by Smith that the nominations be closed.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions

Member Moore had sent Chairman Witte an email about nominating a non-Republican to the vacant alternate position. Chairman Witte replied that it is not his decision who to appoint. It is the board's decision. Member Smith asked if she had another candidate for this position. Member Moore suggested Bill Baxter. There was no other discussion.

Noting that the nominations were closed, a vote was held to have William Coates fill the alternate seat.

Aye: Witte, Smith, Rieger & Gareis, no opposition, one abstention Moore.

Attorney Kielty swore in Kate Rieger as a member to the Board of Finance. He also swore in William Oates as an alternate.

Approval of the Minutes:

MOTION: by Smith, second by Rieger to approve the minutes of the October 11th minutes.

Member Smith asked that the last sentence in the 3rd paragraph in "Opportunity for the Public to speak" be amended to read: Member Smith suggested that Dan Eddy go back to the Rec Commission board, approve his position as spokesperson, and determine if the Rec Commission wants to sit down with the Board of Selectman for next year's budget.

Amend on page 3, item #3 to read: Meetings between the New Hartford Board of Education and NEHA have started.

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

Aye: all members present on the amendments, no opposition, no abstentions

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

Opportunity for the Public to Speak:

Dan Eddy, Recreation Commission voiced concern on proper documentation for capital requests. Should they need to put a roof on a cabin and there is no money available. How do they propose to do a proper study for a forester to take down trees that may be hazardous? They need clarity on where to get this additional money. Chairman Witte responded that if the Recreation Commission has expenditures out of the budget it needs to go to the Board of Selectman and they would look at it and determine if it can be funded in the budget. If it can't the Board of Selectmen can come to the Board of Finance and ask for the money. This is the proper path.

Non lapsing Education Fund Subcommittee update:

Member Smith passed around information on the state statute – Sec 10-248a (filed with these minutes). BOE member Kielty feels it is a good idea and helps to promote savings. He paraphrased a letter he had sent to Chairman Witte on this subject (filed with these minutes). A letter from King, King & Associates, CPAs (filed with these minutes).

MOTION: by Smith, second Rieger that in accordance with Connecticut General Statute **Sec. 10-248a. Unexpended education funds account**, the New Hartford Board of Finance approves the creation of and Unexpended education funds account. At the end of each fiscal year and at the request of the New Hartford Board of Education the Board of Finance may transfer any unexpended funds from the Board of Education's budget to the Unexpended education funds account.

Following a discussion member Smith withdrew his motion and member Rieger withdrew her second. This item will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

Superintendent of Schools Report:

Dr. O'Reilly passed out the internal financial statement. There are no specific concerns except for special education. This past year a special education student left the district mid-year and a position was eliminated. Dr. O'Reilly thanked Chairman Witte for his help with the teacher negotiating contracts. The contract was approved this afternoon.

The contract will be posted in the town hall as soon as it is signed.

The 2011-12 Revenues for Selected State Grants was passed out (filed with these minutes). The ECS entitlement is what was expected. On the Student Based Supplement (May Payment) of \$26,400 they used \$20,000 last year. This has not been paid yet as it is estimated.

Bookkeeper's Report:

Bookkeeper Witte said the tax collections are just about on track and where they were last year. The change from the Bank of America to Northwest Bank is just about complete. There are only 6 accounts left to be moved. In the Short Term Interest Account #448 (under revenue) \$22,000 has been taken in just through November. Last year at the Bank of America it was \$13,000 for the whole year. She is still working on FEMA for Storm Irene. There are no firm numbers yet. Nothing has been started on Storm Alfred.

Treasurer Ross said the Investment Account is holding steady. The Short Term account is down and in good shape.

First Selectman's Report:

First Selectman Jerram reported that the site plan for Brown's Corner has been approved by Planning & Zoning. A letter to the Board of Finance on these improvements along with the site plan is part of these minutes.

A chain link fence is being placed along Route 202 by Cape Cod Fence. ADA considerations are being worked on.

Photos of the Halloween Storm and Storm Alfred) were passed around. Most were without power for at least a week. The lowlands were the hardest hit. The emergency generators functioned very well at the town hall and Antolini School. An emergency shelter was opened at Antolini School serving upwards of 100 meals and 25 people stayed there. Warming centers were available. Everyone stepped in to help out. It was realized after the recent storms that the fuel storage tanks in the garage are inadequate. The second item noticed was that all the police vehicles are 2 wheel drive and gas driven. In the future a consideration would be all-wheel drive and storage for gasoline. The generator that runs the town garage is inadequate. Not enough equipment can be run at one time when making repairs. CL&P said they would give the town 5 days of tree trimming. So far they have only done 3 days.

BOE Chairman Kielty said there is no provision in the budget to deal with the emergency shelter costs at Antolini School. Maybe in the future this should be provided for. The recent costs are being compiled as to the total incurred during the recent storm.

Member Smith asked First Selectman Jerram for costs for a new gas tank, generator and expanded diesel tank. He would like these for the January Board of Finance Meeting.

Other Items to Come Before the Board:

Proposed schedule of meetings to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month was passed out (filed with these minutes).

MOTION: by Smith, second Rieger to approve the meeting schedule

Aye: all members present, no opposition, no abstentions

The election of BOF Chairperson for 2012.

MOTION: by Rieger, second Smith to nominate Ben Witte to this position. There were no other nominations.

MOTION: by Rieger, second Smith to close nominations

Aye: all members present, no opposition, no abstentions

A letter from member Fitzgerald was read regarding thanks to the former Board of Finance board and the new Board of Finance board (filed with these minutes).

The Capital budget sub-committee will be discussed at the next meeting. They meet twice a year. Currently on the committee is the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Denton Butler, Town Treasurer Ross and First Selectman Dan Jerram.

MOTION: by Rieger, second Gareis to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary