

**Town of New Hartford  
Board of Finance – Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, June 14, 2016 @ 7:00 pm**

**Present** Chairman Jim Fitzgerald, Members Reggie Smith, Jr., Steve Tuxbury, Dan Charest, Bart Baxter (in at 7:06 pm), Supt. of Schools Brian Murphy, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Republican American reporter Kathryn Boughton, Members of the public Tom Buzzi, Karl Hermonat, Maria Moore and Recording Secretary Penny Miller.

**Absent** Ben Witte, Bob Nilsson

Chairman Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 7:05 pm

**Seating of Alternates** None

**Adoption / Revision of Agenda** None

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** by Tuxbury to approve the minutes of the Board of Finance Regular Meeting dated May 10, 2016; seconded by Charest.

*Unanimous*

Member Bart Baxter in at 7:06 pm

**MOTION** by Smith to approve the minutes of the Board of Finance Special Meeting dated May 31, 2016; seconded by Tuxbury.

*Unanimous*

**Opportunity for Public to Speak**

Maria Moore spoke on the \$22,000 taken from the Highway Overtime line item to cover the capital expenditure for a town vehicle for the First Selectman. She is concerned that we are taking operation money to cover a capital expense and #2 since it is over \$20,000 why wasn't it brought to a town meeting for discussion and approval. It is really a poor precedent to set to say that we have slush money in Highway Overtime. We had a good winter and we deserve to have some extra money there and it should come back to the town. How are you going to show the new vehicle in your Capital if there wasn't any money allocated to it. Chairman Fitzgerald said this was brought to attention of the board in advance. There was \$35,000 in the Capital and that was removed. Mr. Smith, acting chairman of that meeting, said it was first approved earlier that evening at a Board of Selectman meeting and the Board of Finance debated it. As he understands it legally we can move the money and this is based on the town attorney's

opinion. We have done it before and it isn't really a precedent. Chairman Fitzgerald said that First Selectman Jerram did speak with the town attorney and it didn't increase the overall budget for the general town government between operating and capital. Otherwise we would have had to go to the town to allocate additional money from Surplus. It was within the total operating capital budget for the town 2015/ 2016. Mr. Jerram said the BOS had a discussion on it approving it unanimously and the BOF approved it unanimously. It is documented in the minutes. The town followed all the appropriate procedures with transparency.

### **New Hartford Board of Education – Superintendent Brian Murphy**

Supt. Murphy said a surplus is anticipated by the end of this fiscal year, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. They don't have a final figure as they are still receiving bills. There were several unanticipated liabilities incurred this year such as the CREC Magnet School tuition. The budget looks good for next year. In the Capital, plans are completed and there is a surplus of \$5,200. There is one major issue at Antolini School. The septic system has some corroded pipes that need to be replaced. M.E. Carroll is doing the work. School was not impacted and the Antolini building project will not be impacted. In the Capital plan for next year some work needs to be done with the septic system recommended by M.E. Carroll and they are completing that report. Mr. Murphy said the current work is being paid through the operating budget and about \$20,000 has been expended to date. There are 43 children registered for next year's Kindergarten class. The projection is for 445 students next year with another 10 – 12 students enrolling over the summer. There are still PPTs going on and so far there are no surprises for next year. This could change with additional staffing needed to meet the needs of our special ed. students. Sheila Hawley announced her retirement after the budget was set. The oil tanks are not full so we have excess money in that account to fill the tanks. We are locked into the oil contract with a new one starting on July 1, 2016. We owe \$67,000 to CREC and that will be paid off in this fiscal year. The Antolini School project is on target – windows, HVAC and ADA compliance.

### **Reports**

**Bookkeeper's Report** (Revenue & Expenditure reports filed with minutes). Mr. Fitzgerald asked when the revenue will be coming from the state. Mr. Jerram said we will lose some more revenue from the state. The line items to be targeted haven't been announced as yet from the state. Mr. Fitzgerald continued that tax collections are still on track. The Surplus of \$518,000 hasn't been moved or taken. Mr. Tuxbury asked about the 27<sup>th</sup> pay period. Mr. Fitzgerald will contact Chris King, auditor, and ask that he either email or attend a future meeting to give a detailed explanation of how this works.

### **First Selectman's Report**

A 2012 Jeep with 23,000 miles was purchased for \$18,275 to replace the old Jeep. The old Jeep, #3 truck, two dump bodies, sander & old generators will be sold on-line.

An Asset Evaluation sub-committee to consider the sale of the water & sewer was nominated by the Selectmen. The 5-member board consists of First Selectman Jerram, WPCA Chair Denton

Butler, WPCA Vice-chair Joe Toro, former member of WPCA & user Tom Hart & Kim Estep, non-user. The committee will look at all the assets and take offers. Downtown Improvements went out to bid – sidewalk repairs, pavilion, Rails to Trails engineering review and town hall LED lighting. The town's electrical contract except for the BOE went out to bid. He is looking to lock in a deal for 8 cents per kilowatt for the next 4 years. Carpenter Road Bridge bid openings is on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Charest asked about the sub-committee. Mr. Jerram responded that it is a sub-committee of the Selectmen. Their charge is to familiarize themselves with the town assets, water & sewer. Review, amend and make any changes to the draft RFP. Review any and all bids associated with the RFP and make a final recommendation to the Selectmen with regards to bids received. All the hazmat has been taken out of the Brodie House and they are moving toward demolition. The stone abutments from Carpenter Road Bridge will be used on the corner where the Brodie House is now.

**Line item transfers, if any, for consideration an approval by the BOF for F& 2015-2016 YTD**  
None

**Discuss and take any action on the BOF regular meetings regarding the months of July and August 2016**

This will be left to the chairman's discretion.

**Other Items to Come Before the Board**

Member Bill Coates sent in his resignation effective immediately. His term expires November, 2017. A special meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2016 to interview candidates.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Smith to adjourn at 7:50 pm; seconded by Tuxbury.

*Unanimous*

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Miller  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:  
Revenues & Expenditures  
Bill Coates' resignation