

**New Hartford Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 @ 7:00 pm**

Present: Chairman Jim Fitzgerald, Members: Dan Charest, Reggie Smith, Jr., Steve Tuxbury, Regina Wexler, Ben Witte; Alternate: Kerry Guilfoyle, Recording Secretary Penny Miller.

Absent: Alternates: Bart Baxter, Paul Leclair

Others Present: Bob Howson, Tom Buzzi, BOE Vice Chair Tim Goff, Tim Kleppe, Laura Garay, Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy, BOE Chairman Josh Adams, Member of the Press Kathryn Boughton (Republican American)

Chairman Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 7:01 pm

Seating of Alternates:

As the full board was present no alternates were seated.

Adoption / Revision of Agenda:

No revisions were made to the agenda

Approval of minutes from the BOF February 13, 2018 regular meeting:

MOTION: by Charest to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018 regular meeting of the Board of Finance. Second by Tuxbury.

Unanimous

Opportunity for public comment:

None

Board of Education – Superintendent Brian Murphy & Chair Josh Adams Proposed Five Year Capital Plan (approved by the BOE) Detailed report on all BOE Capital Projects, open, closed, balances:

Superintendent Murphy presented the proposed BOE 5-year Capital Plan which is the same information as previously submitted to the BOF at their February 13th meeting. (A copy is with the Town Clerk). The projects for the FYE 2018 are:

- (1) \$45,000 – replacement of the Antolini Gym Floor. The gym floor is a safety issue with students slipping on the floor. The gym is also used for community based events.
- (2) \$15,000 – A proactive preventative plan for the heating systems at the 3 schools. This includes replacing some thermostats, ventilators and some pumps.
- (3) \$36,000 – Technology. \$20,000 is for access points in the 3 schools so students can access the internet more efficiently. \$16,000 is for the purchase of Chrome Books for each student in the 6th grade.
- (4) \$7,000 – to replace the boiler room stairs at Bakerville School.
- (5) \$10,000 - to replace the Zero Turn Mower for Ann Antolini School. This mower is also used for snow plowing.

Supt. Murphy said issues have been discovered with the underground storage oil tanks which were installed in 1990 and have a life expectancy of 30 years. In next year's proposed Capital Plan there is \$120,000 (\$30,000/tank) to extend the life of the oil tanks another 10 years. The replacement of these oil tanks at each school is \$250,000 each tank. The first plan is to extend the life of the current tanks. When asked what issues were found, Mr. Murphy said the spill cap at Bakerville School had to be replaced. When the tanks were tested they were found to be near the end of their life expectancy. The

money is to repair the piping to the tanks. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if there is a mandate to pull them out and get them above ground. Mr. Murphy said this could be an option. This line item in the Capital Plan is to extend the life of the current tanks.

Mr. Smith asked what needs to be done with the kitchen at Antolini School. Mr. Murphy responded we are very close to fulfilling everything. Some counters need to be replaced but we can go another year.

Mr. Charest asked about the gymnasium floor. Mr. Murphy said the new floor will be rubberized. The current floor will be removed (asbestos is not a problem) and the new floor will go down. Mr. Tuxbury commented with the lunch tables going up and down – how long will the rubberized floor last? It won't get ruined? Mr. Murphy responded the current floor is 12 years old and the tables shouldn't be a problem. Where the gym floor wasn't a problem before, over the last couple of years slipping and sliding has increased.

Ms. Wexler asked for an explanation of the Technology – infrastructure. Mr. Murphy said they are looking for more access points and chrome books (for 6th graders). The chrome books will be purchased not leased. The \$25,000 in the following years is for the purchase of chrome books for each grade level. Ms. Wexler asked about the philosophy behind this. Mr. Murphy said last year in the SBAC testing some of the children (grades 3 – 8) were having problems accessing the internet. With additional access points this won't be a problem.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked about any projects still open. Mr. Murphy said the only piece that needs to be completed is the heating control system at Bakerville and that should be completed in the next week. Everything else that was budgeted is done.

Supt. Murphy, Josh Adams, Tim Goff, Tom Buzzi, Tim Klepps left @ 8:19.

Reports:

Bookkeeper's Report: Ms. Witte wasn't present but the board reviewed the Expenditures and Revenue Reports. Mr. Fitzgerald said the budget for ECS and Adult Ed are not the numbers budgeted and approved at the referendum. Those are the adjusted numbers from the state. The mill rate was set to accommodate the gap. The actual budget is \$2,957,511 for ECS and Adult Ed is \$2,845. The budget column shows the cut from Malloy after the budget was approved. The Revenue Sheet should show what was approved at referendum. Mr. Fitzgerald will send a message to Ms. Witte and Mr. Jerram about these numbers not matching. Ms. Wexler asked about the expenses being over for BOF Supplies. Mr. Fitzgerald thought it was for the notices in the paper. Mr. Fitzgerald will find out from Ms. Witte what is included in this. Mr. Tuxbury wanted to know where the town is with Revenues and Expenses. This board should be seeing the disbursements for the ambulance, library and other agencies.

Mr. Fitzgerald continued with the agenda as Mr. Jerram wasn't immediately available for his presentation.

Communications to the Board of Finance:

Letter from John Burdick, President of the Library Board and David MacHenry Library Director for the Licia and Mason Beekley Community Library, Budget request – Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

The Library Board is submitting the same request as previous years. Mr. Fitzgerald said that last year Beekley Library in keeping up with their expenses had to dip into their endowment. This board should be receiving the detailed budgets from the libraries and ambulance association for review. Ms. Wexler asked that the board request these documents.

Regional School District No. 7, Judith Palmer, Ed D., Superintendent of Schools – inviting the board to attend their BOE meeting on March 7th – rescheduled to March 8th. Mr. Tuxbury filled in as chairperson for that meeting in Mr. Fitzgerald's absence. Mr. Tuxbury said the general tone of the meeting from the other boards was that the budget needs to be lower. Mr. Charest said it will take another 2-3 years to see the impact from the student decline. Ms. Wexler said that Supt. Palmer told them that historically 20 extra children are added over the summer plus the elementary children who attended schools other than Region 7 Middle School. She said one Barkhamsted members pointed out the benefits line item is always over funded and why isn't it being cut back. This is where the surplus is kept. There is no separate line item for their surplus. They don't want to come back to the towns for more money if they should run out. They have to pad that every year because of changes in personnel. Mr. Fitzgerald said they are running \$600,000 for surplus this year.

First Selectman Jerram, Selectmen Alesia Kennerson and Eric Claman arrived at 8:00 pm.

First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Jerram presented a modified Capital Plan (available at the First Selectman's Office). Contained in the plan is: Revaluation of \$60,000 is the 2nd payment. The current foreman's truck isn't safe to drive, cracked frame and corrosion, \$35,000. Some of the other items are: Utility Pick-up Truck \$65,000; Police Car \$45,000; Technology \$10,000; Town Hall Equipment (3 heat pumps @\$6,000 each) \$20,000; Recreation – General Park Improvements including securing the space under Berkshire Hall - \$30,000; Security Gates reduced to \$16,000 with the trenching done in-house; Downtown Improvements – more sidewalks, repair and replacements - \$30,000; Bruning Road Drainage – replacing failing pipes on Bruning Road @ Grey Rd – \$45,000; Rails to Trails – continued development of trails (Wickett St./Satan's Kingdom) - \$30,000 for a total of \$386,000.

Mr. Jerram said he believes all open projects are good and on target for closing out everything.

Line item transfers, if any, for consideration and approval by the BOF for FY 2017-2018 YTD

None

MOTION: by Smith to adjourn at 8:32 pm, second Charest.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

BOE 5 year Capital Plan

The Licia and Mason Beekley Community Library Budget Request – Fiscal year 2018-2019

Regional School District No. 7 Letter