

New Hartford Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Present: Interim Chairman Reggie Smith, Jr., Members: Dan Charest, Steve Tuxbury, Regina Wexler, Ben Witte, Alternates: Kerry Guilfoyle, Paul Leclair; Members of the Public, Tom Buzzi, Linda Goff, Tim Goff, Bob Howson, Bob Nilsson, Greg O'Brien, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Member of the Press Kathryn Boughton (Republican American), Penny Miller Recording Secretary.

Absent: Alternate Bart Baxter

Interim Chairman Smith opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Seating of Alternates:

Alternate Kerry Guilfoyle was seated in the vacant seat created by former chairman Jim Fitzgerald.

Review and Approve BOF Meeting Minutes from 12/11/2018

MOTION: by Charest to approve the minutes dated December 11, 2018, second by Witte.

Aye: Charest, Witte, Tuxbury, Smith, Guilfoyle; opposed: none; abstained: Wexler

Motion passes

Mr. Smith asked for nominations to fill the seat vacated by Jim Fitzgerald.

NOMINATION: Mr. Witte nominated Alternate Kerry Guilfoyle to fill the vacant regular member seat. Ms. Guilfoyle was also recommended by the Republican Town Committee. Second by Ms. Wexler. Nominations were closed.

Unanimous

Town of New Hartford Audit Status

Mr. Smith said that in speaking with Chris King (King, King & Associates) that the audit draft be finished and then reviewed by the board at a future meeting.

Town of New Hartford Budget Status including CAPEX committee schedule

In December First Selectman Jerram, Ms. Guilfoyle and Mr. Smith attended a meeting at Region 7. New Hartford's student population is dropping at Region 7 by 24 students which will help with our budgeting process. Barkhamsted and Norfolk have seen an increase in their student population. The Region 7 budget schedule is filed with these minutes. Mention was made at the meeting regarding the replacement of the Region 7 school roof and inclusion in future budgets.

In an email to Mr. Smith, Superintendent Murphy said that the 2019-2020 New Hartford Public Schools budget will be presented to the local board on February 5th. Mr. Murphy said the priorities of the district will be identified at the January 15th meeting. A CAPEX representative will also be identified at that January meeting.

Ms. Guilfoyle, as the CAPEX representative for the Board of Finance, will let the chairman know when the CAPEX meetings are. Mr. Jerram reported that Dave Helt, highway superintendent, has requested the installation of a wash bay for the town trucks be made a priority.

Mr. Witte said we should connect with the tax assessor to see what we have for grand list growth, new homes and additions. By having this information we should see what new revenue is coming in before it gets hidden in the revaluation numbers. Mr. Jerram said it isn't ready yet but by statute the grand list will be completed by the end of the month.

Review, Revenue and Expenditure Reports

Ms. Witte submitted her written report along with the revenue & expenditure reports and 5 year comparison report. Mr. Tuxbury asked for clarification on the 5 year Comparison Report what had changed in Worker's Comp, Health Insurance, Engineering and Constables. Mr. Jerram said the Engineering is associated with the design of the Bruning Road drainage pipes that are in Capital. In Health and Worker's Comp they may be ahead a payment. The Constable line is low because one of the constables was out on extended medical leave.

Line item transfer request, if any, for consideration and approval by the BOF for FY 2019-2019

None

Opportunity for public comment

None

Other items or communication to the Board

Selectman's Report:

Mr. Jerram reported that the budget looks good. RRDD#1 is the only problem. The South Meadows Trash to Energy plant is off-line. They let RRDD know that they will be getting a mid-year rate increase. Recyclable rates are going down. Mr. Jerram was notified that the Rails to Trails project was awarded \$120,000. Hopefully with the new state administration this stays intact. The Carpenter Road Bridge is progressing. The historic bridge abutments were moved to storage for use at a later date. Mr. Smith asked if the bridge can be worked on during the winter. Mr. Jerram said as long as the weather is good they should be able to. Tax Collector, Linda Sheffield is retiring after 33 years.

Mr. Smith read a letter from Chris King regarding the 'pass-through' education grants. Email submitted with these minutes.

The next Board of Finance meeting will be on February 12, 2019.

Elect BOF Chairman

Mr. Smith said while he has enjoyed his time as chairman he will be stepping down.

NOMINATION: Ms. Guilfoyle nominated Ben Witte to fill the BOF Chairman seat. Mr. Witte declined. There was no second.

NOMINATION: Mr. Witte nominated Regina Wexler to fill the BOF Chairman seat. Second by Mr. Charest. Nominations were closed.

Aye: Charest, Witte, Tuxbury, Guilfoyle, Smith; Opposed: none; abstained: Wexler

Motion passes

Adjournment

MOTION: by Guilfoyle to adjourn at 7:44 pm, second by Tuxbury.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary

Attachments:
Republican Town Committee re: Kerry Guilfoyle
Chris King re: Pass-through education grants
Supt. Murphy re: Budget Information
Region #7 Budget Timeline
Bookkeeper's Monthly Report