

**Town of New Hartford
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 2019**

PRESENT Chairman Regina Wexler, Members: Dan Charest and Ben Witte; Alternates: Lourena Helt and Paul Leclair and Recording Secretary Penny Miller

Others Present Bookkeeper Annie Witte and First Selectman Dan Jerram

Absent Members Kerry Guilfoyle, Reggie Smith, Jr. and Steve Tuxbury, Alternate W. Bart Baxter.

Call to order Chairman Wexler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Seating of Alternates Lourena Helt was seated for Kerry Guilfoyle and Paul Leclair was seated for Reggie Smith.

Adoption and/or Revision of Agenda None

Approval of Minutes: May 14, 2019 meeting

MOTION by Helt to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2019 meeting as presented, seconded by Witte.

Unanimous

Communications and Other Items presented to Board

A letter from Jim Phillips (GFOA) was forwarded to Chairman Wexler by former BOF chair Jim Fitzgerald regarding GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Awards Program. Ms. Wexler responded to Mr. Phillips that Chris King (Auditor) would submit on behalf of the town. A copy of the letter can be viewed at the Town Clerk's office.

Opportunity for Public Comment None

Reports

Bookkeeper: Revenue & Expenditures Fiscal YTD and previous Fiscal YTD

Ms. Witte submitted her report and a copy can be viewed at the Town Clerk's Office. The Tax Collection Rate is 98.71% as of May 31, 2019.

Revenue: State Owned Property of \$10,288.00 & Emergency Management \$3,442.50 has been received and was not anticipated at budget time. Short Term Interest is approximately \$101,049 due to investing in CT STIF program (forecast at \$20K in budget). CIRMA Equity Distribution \$5,080.00 over-budget projections. Telephone Access @ \$15,030 was received and LoCIP funding has been received @ \$73,659.00.

Expenditures: Longevity Pay over by \$1,248.00 due to police union contract retro. Litchfield County Dispatch over by \$3,569.41 due to final contract number. Conservation Commission is over by \$353.00 due to Farmington River Watershed dues. Communications Exp. is over by \$395.00 due to actual cost of

Web hosting of the new Town Website. Retirements/Benefits is over due to moving away from traditional pension plan to a 401K plan implemented for new hires. To date all overages will be covered by department transfers.

First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Jerram reported that we are closing out the year in good order. Speaking about the work on the Carpenter Bridge, Mr. Jerram said when the contractor, LaRosa Construction Company, Inc., tried to remove the corrugated metal sheeting, using a vibratory hammer, the procedure caused the bridge to move slightly. LaRosa is asking for approval from DEEP allowing them to leave the sheet metal in place in the ground. A letter from Lenard Engineering regarding LaRosa is available at the First Selectman's Office. Mr. Jerram spoke about the sale of the water and sewer. He recently attended a meeting with PURA, the Public Utility Regulatory Authority, in New Britain along with Mrs. Hayward, Attorney Chip Rohrbach (on the Board of Directors for Torrington) and Aquarian. As it stands now the draft contract is being reviewed. It includes an escrow agreement for proceeds of sale which will require approval of the Board of Finance. No date has been set for the presentation to the Board of Finance. Dunkin Donuts has broken ground. All Star Storage is expanding. Passiflora is closing the end of June.

Discussion and Action if any on Mill Rate adjustment for 2019-2020 fiscal year

Mr. Jerram said we took a conservative track on the budget. The State of Connecticut budget was passed but the teacher's pension was not passed onto the towns. The ECS was increased. Therefore these increased revenues justified reducing the mill rate in order to avoid over-taxation of the New Hartford residents.

MOTION: by Witte - Based on the state budget eliminating the state teacher pension contribution and the restored ECS funding, we reduce our recently approved 2019-2020 mill rate from 30.416 to 30.25 by increasing the estimate of ECS revenue from \$2,818,807.00 to \$2,927,500.00. Seconded by Helt.

Unanimous

MOTION: by Helt and seconded by Charest to adjourn by 8:06 pm.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary

On file:
Jim Phillips (GFOA) letter
Bookkeeper's report