

**New Hartford Board of Finance
Regular Meeting – September 13, 2022**

Present: Acting Chair Lou Helt, members: Paul LeClair, Charlie Neale, Ben Witte, Alternates: Allen Voghel, Jack Casey (in at 7:02 pm), Recording Secretary Penny Miller

Others Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Bookkeeper Annie Witte, Treasurer Gordon Ross, Kathryn Boughton (reporter Republican American) in at 7:16 pm

Absent: Kerry Guilfoyle, Dan Charest, Ryan Bingham

Call to Order

Acting Chair Lou Helt opened the meeting at 6:59 pm

Seating of Alternates

Ms. Helt seated Allen Voghel for Kerry Guilfoyle and Jack Casey for Dan Charest.

Adoption and/or Revision of Agenda – No changes

Approval of Minutes: August 9, 2022

MOTION by Mr. Witte to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022 meeting. Second by Mr. Voghel.

Unanimous

Communications and Other Items Presented to Board

A letter was received from King & King for the annual audit. It has been approved previously but a motion was needed for the Board of Finance Chair to sign the contract.

Motion by Mr. Casey for BOF Chairman Kerry Guilfoyle to sign the King & King contract. Second by Mr. Voghel.

Unanimous

Discussion and action, if applicable, on virtual BOF options moving forward

Ms. Helt said Ms. Guilfoyle felt that offering a virtual meeting by using the OWL technology is for the public and not for the regular board members. It was decided to try it at a future meeting.

Reports:

a. Bookkeeper: Fiscal 2021/2022 Close

Ms. Witte said the surplus for the town is \$419,915.98. The CPA will be meeting with the Board of Education to review their grants, expenditures, etc. The auditors will be in next week. We did take in a Fire Marshal Grant for \$995.00. Also received from the state was \$313,403 for the Carpenter Road Bridge. We have underspent to budget of \$266,038.65.

Mr. Jerram said that because of a rounding error the line Debt Service is over by \$1.00.

Motion by Mr. Witte to move \$1.00 from Contingency to Debt Services. Second by Mr. Neale.

Unanimous

NH BOE: Fiscal 2021/2022 Close

Karl Hermonat, BOE Chair, reported that the local town schools ended up with a surplus of \$481.00. Savings were found in employee benefits, medical costs were lower and this was offset by plant operations.

First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Jerram said he and Ms. Guilfoyle recently met with Judy Palmer and Molly Sexton Read over teacher negotiations. The Beekley Library project for the expansion is on hold due to an increase of cost. They had planned on \$1.8 million but received cost estimates of \$3.5 million. The Rails to Trails plan is nearing completion. Those plans will be released soon. There are 3 draft plans that the Selectmen will review for the Brodie Park bathrooms. The DPW did a good job on the parking lots at Antolini School. The paving came in at \$95,000 with the milling was almost \$20,000. There might be a slight overage. The front end of the Cedar Lane Bridge is done. The 2nd phase may be done over Columbus Day weekend.

Dr. John Tindall-Gibson has been hired at the Interim Superintendent for the New Hartford Public Schools. A search committee has been formed to look for a new superintendent.

The upcoming Region 7 teacher contracts will impact our budget. Also, the Town Hall, Police Department and DPW contracts will also be coming for negotiations in the fall.

Treasurer's Report

Gordon Ross reviewed the town's accounts at Northwest Bank.

Update ARPA projects and funds

Mr. Jerram said the town took in on August 8th - \$338,498.56. This is not the full 2nd tranche. The final portion of that is the county disbursement. Because we don't have county government that amount will be emailed separately. There is about \$650,000 more coming.

The ambulance received their first round of money - \$75,000. There are applications for the small business and individual. The selectmen will be working on round 2. With the Beekley situation we may want to modify the way we vote to add a provision that any unexpended funds may be allocated or swapped with an existing project.

Mr. Casey said that the EDC would like to have their own website to draw more people into town. They would like it to be separate from the town's website. They would like it this website to be similar to the one that Canton has – *Make It Canton*.

The water sale is going well. An easement has been acquired for Pine Meadow. It just needs to be accepted a town meeting.

Motion by Mr. Voghel to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. Second by Mr. Witte.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, Penny Miller, Recording Secretary