

**New Hartford Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
December 13, 2022 @ 7:00 pm**

Present: Members: Dan Charest, Kerry Guilfoyle, Charlie Neale, Ben Witte; Alternates: Ryan Bingham and Allen Voghel, First Selectman Dan Jerram.

Call to Order

Chairman Guilfoyle opened the meeting at 7:02 pm

Seating of Alternates

Ryan Bingham and Allen Voghel were seated for Lou Helt and Paul LeClair.

Adoption and/or Revision of Agenda

There were no requests to revise the agenda, therefore it was accepted as presented.

Approval of Minutes: October 11, 2022

As there were no changes to the minutes they were approved as presented.

Communication and Other Items Presented to the Board

A letter was received from Region 7 Director of Finance & Operation, James Gaskins, regarding the upcoming budget season. It is anticipated that our increase will be 0.44%.

Updates from New Hartford Education Association Negotiations

Mr. Neale said that a new contract with the New Hartford Teachers was reached without going to mediation. He was not aware if it had been ratified as of yet.

Updates from Region 7 Teachers' Collective Bargaining

Ms. Guilfoyle said that the teacher's contract has not been ratified yet. There will be some salary increases. A Special Ed teacher will be added as there is a new student entering the Region 7 school system next year.

Reports

The Income and Expense reports were reviewed. First Selectman Jerram said that some lines are higher than others.

A settlement has been reached with the contractor for the Carpenter Road Bridge.

At a recent town meeting a resolution was reached to allow the town to abate taxes for eligible properties. Legislative Body (town meeting) approval would be needed for each and every application for the abatement. The Town Meeting on December 6 recently approved a tax abatement for Aquarion Water Company for when they assume ownership of the water and wastewater assets of the Town of New Hartford.

Mr. Neale asked about the \$30,000 in the Expenditure Report for Police Equipment. Mr. Jerram believes this is for equipment for the police accountability – the personal body cameras are still on backorder with the State.

Mr. Jerram said the estimate for the ambulance is still out. A supplement may be coming. The Ambulance Corps that used to run with volunteers is finding it harder to get volunteers. A second ARPA request may be coming for an additional \$56,000.

The first order for salt has been made.

Jeff Sousa is the new school superintendent. He is working on the contracts for various services / suppliers.

The ARPA developments will be taken up at the next BOS meeting.

Mr. Jerram said he was meeting with the Beekley Library folks on Wednesday. They are not pursuing the expansion due to increased building costs.

He will have a plan by the next BOF meeting for use of the remaining ARPA funds. There is \$200,000 for Rails to Trails, \$100,000 for the Senior Center and \$360,000 for the sewer project. Mr. Jerram said he has spoken to the Rails to Trails consulting engineer. A final design for phase 1 is forthcoming. The funding set aside for the Senior Center may be able to be used to make improvements to the existing kitchen area so that the kitchen becomes a more useable space. Discussion with Farmington Valley Health Department will help guide the Senior Director.

The replacement of the New Hartford House will be on the agenda of the next Zoning meeting. The regulations were amended to accommodate the new building. One concern that has been expressed is adequate parking spaces.

Senior Housing will be built in the area behind Super Foodtown and Dollar General probably within the next year. They wanted tax stability for 10 years. There will be 230 units. Once completed this will make them the 2nd highest tax payer in town.

Public comment

No public comment

Other business

None

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Charest to adjourn at 8:13 pm. Second by Mr. Voghel

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, Penny Miller, Recording Secretary

No attachments were filed with the Town Clerk