

**New Hartford Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

Present: Chairman Regina Wexler, Members: Ben Witte, Reggie Smith, Steve Tuxbury, Alternates: Bart Baxter and Lou Helt; First Selectman Dan Jerram, Town Treasurer Gordon Ross and Member of the Public Aulay Carlson and Recording Secretary Penny Miller.

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

Seating of Alternates

Bart Baxter was seated for Dan Charest and Lou Helt was seated for Kerry Guilfoyle.

Adoption and/or Revision of Agenda

Chairman Wexler asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the agenda and there were none.

MOTION: by Helt to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Witte.

Unanimous

Election of Chair

MOTION: by Witte nominating Regina Wexler to the position of Chairman for the Board of Finance; seconded by Helt. There were no other nominations.

MOTION: by Smith to close the nominations, seconded by Baxter.

Unanimous

MOTION: by Smith that the Recording Secretary cast one ballot to elect Regina Wexler as the Chairman for the next two years; seconded by Helt.

Unanimous

Approval of Minutes: November 12 meeting

Chairman Wexler asked if there were any changes to the minutes of November 12th as presented. Hearing no objections to the approval of the minutes, Chairman Wexler ruled the minutes approved.

Communications and Other Items presented to the Board

None

Opportunity for Public Comment

Aulay Carlson, West Hill Road, read a letter stating that after listening to the New Hartford School districts "Strategic Plan" he felt that this was not a plan and there was no understanding of the word "Strategic" and the word "Plan". A copy of his letter is filed with the town clerk.

Kerry Guilfoyle arrived at 7:08 pm, Lou Helt was unseated and Ms. Guilfoyle was seated.

Reports

Bookkeeper: Revenue & Expenditures Fiscal YTD

Selectman Jerram said the line item for Purchased Services - Highway Department is over slightly because of street line painting done this fall. Everything else appears to be going well. Last month the assessor expenses were talked about and they have gone to a part-time assessor with a part-time clerk. The salary line item will be over but as they are not taking health care benefits this line item should be about \$10,000 to the good. The money was received from ECS.

Chairman Wexler received an email from the Town Clerk asking if the reports from the Bookkeeper should be on file in that office with the minutes or as the minutes reflected last month available at the First Selectman's Office. Mr. Jerram said that for many years they were recorded with the minutes. It creates a better record to have them available there. Mr. Smith said that the minutes should reflect the agenda, discussion during the meeting and the documents presented.

MOTION: by Tuxbuy that all reports and communications be filed in the Town Clerk's Office; seconded by Smith.

Chairman Wexler asked if the different drafts of the budget should also be filed. Mr. Smith recommended that they should as it would tell why certain changes were made at that time. Mr. Jerram said that the BOF could have workshops where the minutes reflect that you have an updated budget recorded as of a certain date. He continued by saying that it was in the board's purview to say that it is a working draft.

Unanimous

Selectman's Report

Mr. Jerram said that we are now in the snow mode. Ten percent of the overtime budget has already been absorbed. A couple of grants have been filed. One is the Emergency Management Performance Grant. The other is the Rail to Trails grant. This co-funded project is underway. They are currently working on their mapping and routing. Health care costs - we are part of the Region 7 consortium (which includes all the Region 7 towns plus Winsted and Thomaston). Following two low years with Connecticare there has been a spike in claims. All three town union contracts are up. The audit is basically done. The letter of transmittal, the final editing and management discussion are down to the final tweaks. This should be done by the end of the year.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Ross reported that the STIF (Short-Term Investment Fund for the State of Connecticut) account continues to do well. Short term interest rates are down from their high. Copies of his report are available from the Town Clerk. Any identifying information on his reports was redacted by the Recording Secretary.

Discussion re: ongoing NH Board of Education and NW Region 7 contract negotiations

Mr. Tuxbury reported that the New Hartford Board of Education teacher's contract was signed for a 8.75% salary increase over 3 years. The split is 2.8, 2.8, and 3.15%. The state average at the time was 9.1%. Savings on insurance was around \$30,000. Accumulated sick days was increased by 3 to 183 sick days. When they leave, they do not receive a pay-out for their sick days. They also can't bank or donate their sick days.

Ms. Guilfoyle and Ms. Wexler are the BOF representatives for Region 7. No notes were forthcoming from the mediation meeting held last Friday. Communication has been lacking from Region 7 to the BOF representatives.

Discussion and adoption of 2020 Board of Finance Calendar

MOTION: by Smith to adopt the 2020 Board of Finance Calendar as presented; seconded by Guilfoyle.

Unanimous

Other Business

MOTION: by Smith to enter Executive Session; seconded by Witte at 7:38 pm

Unanimous

MOTION: by Smith to come out of Executive Session at 7:53 pm; seconded by Guilfoyle.

Unanimous

MOTION: by Witte to move \$20,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to the General Government Computer Maintenance; seconded by Guilfoyle.

Unanimous

MOTION: by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm; seconded by Baxter.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary
Filed with the Town Clerk
Aulay Carlson's letter
Bookkeeper Reports
Treasurer's Reports