

**New Hartford Board of Finance
Special Meeting
Monday, April 21, 2015 @ 6:30 PM**

Present: Chairman Jim Fitzgerald, Members Dan Charest, Steve Tuxbury, Reggie Smith, Jr., Ben Witte, Alternate Steve Roth, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Roy Litchfield, Denton Butler, Recording Secretary Penny Miller

Absent: Member Maria Moore, Alternate Bill Coates

Chairman Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Seating of Alternates: None

Mr. Fitzgerald said there is only one item on the agenda and that is to take action with respect to an appropriation from the General Fund of an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to the Water Pollution Control Authority to cover expenses associated with studies related to sewer infrastructure upgrades. Said amount to be fully reimbursed back to the General Fund by grant funding obtained from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Clean Water Fund.

Mr. Witte asked is the reimbursement a guarantee or is it locked out. It says 'said appropriation shall be from the general fund and fully reimbursed by grant funding obtained from the state'. Mr. Butler said he sent an update via email to DEEP about two weeks ago indicating the steps they had taken in the process in managing the review for expansion, selection of engineers, work done, etc. and ended with they hoped they would qualify for funds to be available for the planning study. He received an acknowledgement from George Hicks that said 'great news - pleased you are making progress and the funds are available here for you'.

MOTION: by Witte, second Charest to approve an appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$30,000., to cover expenses associated with studies related to sewer infrastructure upgrades for the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA). Said appropriation shall be from the General Fund with the intention of being reimbursed by grant funding obtained from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Clean Water Fund. Upon reimbursement, said appropriation shall return to the General Fund.

Discussion followed. Mr. Smith asked if it would be taken out of Undesignated Fund Balance. Mr. Charest has the same concerns that Ms. Moore raised through her email. Mr. Fitzgerald read Ms. Moore's email (copy attached). Mr. Jerram said the request that was approved by the Board of Selectman to bring this to you was approved as proposed by the WPCA. They came with a specific proposal and proposed it as a wash to the town. Mr. Roth said based on the parameters all those other issues are secondary. We have been asked solely to float a loan. The only concern is what happens if this additional funding through the state falls through – are we on the hook for this \$30,000 and what is the back-up plan from the WPCA to make sure the town stays whole in this matter. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the motion was modified to be contingent upon the grant happening – is there any room there? Mr.

Jerram said when George Hicks tells you there is money there – it comes through and it comes back quickly. Mr. Butler said we are talking about state funds – not federal funds. Mr. Fitzgerald said we want to make sure that if it falls through the money isn't already at the WPCA.

Mr. Butler then provided some additional information. One was a Statement of Work (SOW) (copy attached). The sole intention of this money is to support a planning document that they will submit to the State of Connecticut to obtain reimbursement. The second item was that the WPCA went through the quality based selection process to pick a qualifying engineer to assist them in this process. They interviewed Wright-Pierce; Woodard & Curran; and CDM-Smith – selecting CDM-Smith. Finally, in regard to Ms. Moore's memo everything they are pursuing has nothing to do with economic development. They are working with Clean Water Funds.

Unanimous

Motion passes

MOTION: by Smith, second Tuxbury to adjourn at 6:51 pm

Unanimous

Motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

1. Email from Ms. Moore – subject: \$30,000 appropriation for APCA to cover infrastructure expansion study
2. Statement of Word (SOW)