

**Town of New Hartford
Board of Finance - Special
Thursday, February 27, 2014
Antolini School**

Present: Chairman Ben Witte, Members: Jim Fitzgerald, Reggie Smith, Steve Tuxbury, Maria Moore, Alternates: Steve Roth, Bill Coates, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Town Treasurer Gordon Ross, Board of Education members: Chairman Josh Adams, Kate Rieger, Pat Spaziani, School Building Committee Denton (Bud) Butler.

Others Present: Mike Companik, Joe Toro, John Wilhelm, Bob Moore, Brian Zelasko, Recording Secretary Penny Miller.

Absent: Dan Charest

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by Chairman Witte.

Seating of Alternates: None

Overview of potential upcoming bond projects – Dan Jerram:

First Selectman Jerram reported there are a number of fairly large projects.

1. Maple Hollow Bridge – this 53' span bridge has been given a rating of 4 (the worst). The problem is that for many years it was left unpaved and then salted over during the winter months. Lenard Engineering has submitted a plan (copy attached) which would take off the entire 2-1/2" top. The estimated cost is \$214,000. This is a 60-day project which could be done during the 2014 summer. It is not in the proposed budget for the coming year.
2. Carpenter Road Bridge – 18-1/2' span off Route 202. If the bridge is replaced with a new one the projected cost would be \$704,000. The other scenario would be to eliminate the bridge and put in a cul-de-sac. This would be a summer 2015 project. Funding from the state is 45-50%.
3. Stedman Road – the minimum cost estimate is \$700,000. The road is cut into the hill on one side and the Nepaug River is on the other. Stedman Road would be done after the Carpenter Road and Maple Hollow bridges.
4. Rail to Trails Initiative. Currently there is a foot path that goes from Callahan Park, past the fair grounds and up to Barkhamsted. The allocation for this is included in their capital plan. A copy of the proposed trail is attached. It may be possible to seek state grants for this. There is \$20,000 in this year's capital plan for Municipal Improvements.
5. The WPCA believes that expansion of the sewer system would lead to better rates. A meeting in March will be held to discuss this. A Steap Grant application and map that shows expansion of the sewer line up into the park is included with these minutes.

The total cost estimate for these projects is in excess of 7 million dollars.

Antolini School Proposed Bond Project:

New Hartford Board of Education Recommendation:

BOE Chairman Josh Adams reported that a special meeting was held on February 25, 2014 for the sole purpose of making the following motion. *"The New Hartford Board of Education supports a school building project defined by the Kaestle Boos Associates Facility Conditions Assessment - Ann Antolini School less the items included in the New Hartford School Security Project with a budgetary Total Project Cost of \$6,651,800 as presented by the School Building Committee on 2/11/2014."* This motion was passed unanimously by all members present.

Bond Payment schedule and budgetary impact – Gordon Ross

Mr. Ross shared with the Board of Finance the payment schedule for two separate school bond projects and the effect it would have on the mill rate. These projections are filed with these minutes.

Project Overview – Denton (Bud) Butler

A Facility Assessment Recommendation for the Antolini School was distributed and part of these minutes. Included in this handout was the recommendation of the Architect, consensus of the School Building Committee and the Board of Education. A separate scenario was the Facility Conditions Estimate for a total project cost of \$6,608,897 before state reimbursement. The second scenario was an estimate for the Roof & Doors (not including the air handlers) for a total project cost of \$3,415,100. Reimbursement is a generalization which is slightly less for the windows than the roof. Because Antolini is not a K-6 school – the percentage is less. Normal maintenance items are not reimbursable.

Member Moore asked if the air handlers work. Mr. Butler it is the understanding of the school building committee that they don't run. Air handlers are used for circulation and moving air in the building.

Member Moore asked about the kitchen. Is it something that needs to be done? Mr. Butler said that the kitchen is non-compliant. If the State of Connecticut were to inspect it we could be required to make it compliant. It was compliant with the school was built.

Member Smith thanked Denton Butler, Roy Litchfield and their committee for all the work they have done.

Chairman Witte said that the Board of Selectman needs to take a position on this project. Mr. Jerram said they are eager to do a project. They would like to have a project that will have success. With our environment people are not likely to endorse a \$6.5 million dollar project. The Board of Selectman does not have a prescribed number in-hand that would be approved by the taxpayers. They are not against it but it is a lot of money and it will have a significant impact on the debt service to the taxpayers. They would like to make a presentation to the townspeople that would be acceptable and get approved on the first vote.

A grant application has been filed for the security project only.

MOTION: by Smith, second Tuxbury to support the school building project for the Antolini School in the amount of \$6,651,800 to be bonded.

Discussion followed. A time line needs to be done by 2014 for the project to be done summer 2015. It will need to go out to bid no later than January 2015.

Member Fitzgerald asked if this will be presented at the budget hearing. Chairman Witte personally didn't think so – just an overview.

Aye: None, no abstentions

Opposed: Smith, Fitzgerald, Tuxbury and Moore.

Motion fails.

Member Smith would like to see funds set aside from the Undesignated Fund Balance for the air handlers.

Member Tuxbury asked for a skinned-down project from the Board of Selectman that includes the bridges and what else needs to be done in the next six months.

Chairman Witte read a letter from First Selectman Dan Jerram sent to the Board of Finance, School Building Committee, Board of Selectman and Board of Education (filed with these minutes).

Mr. Zelasko (member of the public) said that the average voter will not vote if not given the whole picture. The sewer issue is too contentious. There needs to be buy-in from all the boards. The town is still responsible for the sewer & water treatment plant.

MOTION: by Smith, second Tuxbury to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Aye: all members present, no abstentions, no opposition

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary