

Town of New Hartford  
Board of Finance Special Meeting  
Antolini School  
Tuesday, March 11, 2014

**Present:** Chairman Ben Witte, Jim Fitzgerald, Reggie Smith, Maria Moore, Dan Charest, Steve Roth, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Bookkeeper Annie Witte, Town Treasurer Gordon Ross, School Building Committee Denton (Bud) Butler, Roy Litchfield, Recording Secretary Penny Miller and Bob Moore.

**Absent:** Bill Coates and Steve Tuxbury

Chairman Witte opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**Seating of Alternates:** Steve Roth for Steve Tuxbury

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** by Fitzgerald, second Smith to approve the minutes dated February 11, 2014.

*Aye: All members present, no abstentions, no opposition.*

**MOTION:** by Fitzgerald, second Roth to approve the minutes dated February 27, 2014.

**MOTION:** by Moore, second Smith to amend the First Selectman's Report. Discussion followed and the motion to amend the minutes was withdrawn.

**MOTION:** by Moore, second Smith to add to the minutes that the WPCA has applied for money under the DEEP CT Clean Water Fund.

*Aye: Moore, Abstained: Charest, Opposed: Fitzgerald, Smith, Roth.  
Motion fails.*

**MOTION:** by Moore, second Smith to add on **Page 2, Project Overview**, "Member Moore said it would be good to get an expert's opinion on the air handlers since they are a Priority #4 on the architect's assessment."

*Aye: Smith, Moore, Roth, Abstained: Charest, Opposed: Fitzgerald  
Motion carries.*

*Aye: Roth, Smith, Fitzgerald, Abstained: Charest, Opposed: Moore to approve  
the minutes as amended.  
Motion carries.*

**Opportunity for Public to Speak:** None

### **First Selectman's Report:**

Mr. Jerram reported the big issue is the status of the Town Hall. The Senior Center will re-open on March 12, 2014 with the St. Patrick's Dinner. The budget meeting will be held in the Senior Center on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Photos of the finished Senior Center are included with these minutes.

There has been no change in the supplemental spending for the space. The town's insurance had a \$5,000 deductible. Small upgrades totaling \$6686.40 have been made. These include extra electrical outlets, LED lighting and a 'pass through door' between the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector's Office. Mr. Jerram had been asked at the last meeting about the sprinkler system. He has had 3 experts giving 3 different proposals. He is not ready to give a proposal but will come back with one to fix the deficiency in the sprinkler design which will be an additional cost. Mr. Butler asked in regards to the sprinklers will the ceiling be opened up again. Mr. Jerram is hoping that it won't be.

This is budget season and the Board of Selectman has made substantial changes to their budget. They have scheduled a special meeting to finalize these tweaks. They have done their best to keep spending down. They will be asking the Board of Finance to fund an additional constable. They will also ask for additional capital funds for the repair of the Maple Hollow Bridge.

Mr. Jerram has been working on the WPCA/WWTP compromise. Significant progress was made at the WPCA meeting this month and a good procedure is in place for handling the liens. The \$130,000 municipal loan is due on 3/31/14. A letter (included with these minutes) was sent by First Selectman Jerram to Bill Michaud, WPCA Chairman, regarding modification of the terms of the loan. The \$130,000 municipal loan would be paid back quarterly over the next 10 years with quarterly payments of \$3,250 due on 2/1, 5/1, 8/1 and 10/1. Failure to gain the approvals at any level means that the loan is due. It could be moved to a town meeting for consideration. Filed with these minutes: *Excerpted from Statement of Cash Flows for WPCA fund.*

Chairman Witte asked has the WPCA agreed to the payment terms. Mr. Jerram said they moved the request on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Member Moore stated that the rate payers are of the opinion that they have paid more than what they believe is their annual share of the debt associated with the treatment plant upgrade. Moore questioned if it was possible to consider some of what they consider to be 'more than their share' as repayment towards the \$130,000 owed to the town.

**MOTION:** by Roth, second Witte to approve the repayment for \$130,000 as presented subject to Board of Selectman approval and subject to town approval.

Discussion followed. Member Smith is fine with paying the \$130,000 but they would also like the WPCA to pay the town \$120,000 that was approved in last year's budget. Member Fitzgerald doesn't think we should spread out 10-11 years. He would be better with 6 years. Mr. Butler (WPCA member) said that currently \$101,000 is outstanding in unpaid water and sewer bills. The WPCA has put into motion a process to collect this money. Also late notices have been going out to those owing more than 30 days. The people are not excited about it but they are alerted to the fact that they owe this money.

The 120K debt is due in September every year

*Aye: Smith, Roth, Charest, Witte, Abstained: none, Opposed: Fitzgerald, Moore  
Motion carries.*

Member Fitzgerald suggested that if it fails at the town meeting that the Town Treasurer move the money back into the town's funds.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's report was handed out and included with these minutes. The numbers speak for themselves. In the short term interest account there is \$6,323,491. The payment to Region #7 has been made.

**Bookkeeper's Report:**

The Expenditure and Revenue Reports are included with these minutes. We are at 97.32% collection rate. There are no concerns with any state money coming in.

Member Moore asked have we looked into short term disability for people, like the Recreation Director, that are out for an extended period.

Bookkeeper Witte said the Total Undesignated Capital as of 3/10/14 is \$58,599. The last contractual payment on revaluation for their services has been paid today and not included in this report. That total was \$17,533. Copy of Capital Reserve Account Fiscal year 2013/14 filed with these minutes.

**Other Items to Come Before the Board:**

**Budget:** Will be discussed on Thursday evening.

**WPCA:** Bill Michaud was supposed to provide Mr. Jerram with information on line extensions. The Board of Selectman hasn't taken any action because they didn't have the hard copy.

**Correspondence:** Member Moore handed out a spreadsheet (included with these minutes) showing Per Pupil Expenditure 2008 – 2014 (compiled by BOE member Kate Rieger) and presented to the BOE at a recent meeting. A copy of *State of Connecticut, Substitute Senate Bill No. 815, Public Act No. 13-60 on 'An Act Concerning the Consolidation of Noneducational Services'* was also distributed and included with these minutes. New Hartford Schools are not part of Shared Services.

**MOTION:** by Charest, second Roth to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

*Aye: All in favor, no abstentions, no opposition. Motion carries.*

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Miller  
Recording Secretary