

**New Hartford Board of Finance  
Special Meeting - Sessions Conference Room  
Tuesday, March 26, 2019 @ 7:00 pm**

**Present:** Chairman Regina Wexler, Members: Kerry Guilfoyle, Dan Charest, Reggie Smith, Jr., Steve Tuxbury, Ben Witte; Alternates: Lourena (Lou) Helt, Paul Leclair; Recording Secretary Penny Miller.

**Absent:** Alternate Bart Baxter

Others Present: Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy, Board of Education Chairman Tim Goff, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Members of the Public: Tom Buzzi, Kelly O'Dell Longhi, Tm Klepps, Bob Howson, Eric Claman, Mary Misorski, and others.

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

She noted that all members were present; therefore there was no need to seat alternates

**Approval of Minutes: March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION:** by Charest to approve the Board of Finance Regular Meeting dated March 12, 2019; seconded by Smith.

Hearing no request for changes/editions/ revisions, Chairman Wexler declared the minutes approved.

**MOTION:** by Tuxbury to approve the Board of Finance Special Meeting dated March 16, 2019; seconded by Witte.

Hearing no request for changes/editions/ revisions, Chairman Wexler declared the minutes approved.

**Take action, if any, on Auditor's Engagement Letter**

Chairman Wexler said that King & King had sent an amended letter with the corrected fees. In the original letter the WPCA had been double-counted. Their fees are now in-line with their historical increases. The amended letter stated that their fee for their services would be at their standard hourly rates and not expected to exceed \$30,420. The Town will be billed \$28,545 and the WPCA will be billed \$1,878. If a Federal Single Audit is needed the fee will be \$1,785.

**MOTION:** by Smith to approve the King & King 2018-2019 audit in the amount of \$30,420 and further to authorize the Chairperson and First Selectman to spend up to \$1,785 on the single federal audit, if necessary, and further to authorize the Chairperson Regina Wexler to sign; seconded by Guilfoyle.

*Unanimous*

**Consider and take action, if any, on Line item transfers**

Mr. Jerram said he had briefed the Board on one of two proposals in the Capital budget. Previously it was noted the radios in the newer cars needed to be upgraded as they were not in sync with the frequency requirements required. It was also recommended that our local constables be equipped with tasers and rifles. With the help of Trooper Figueiral one of the radios was upgraded. Because of this that line item was reduced to \$4,000. The Board of Selectman is making a request to transfer from the Constable line item in the budget to Capital in the amount of up to \$8,000 for the tasers.

When the budget was presented before Mr. Jerram has said one of the line items that were soft was the Bakerville Library. The library has a heating issue and they would like to do up to \$18,000 of work to the furnace. The motion from the Selectman is to consider up to \$10,000. This would help them solve their heating issue with the understanding that the new budget number would come down. In the current fiscal year they are budgeted for \$52,418.76.

**MOTION:** by Smith to transfer \$8,000 from the Constable Line Item to Capital for four Tasers for the Police Force and to transfer from the Constable Line Item \$10,000 to the Bakerville Library Operation Line for Emergency HVAC repairs in the present year budget; seconded by Witte.

*Unanimous*

**2019-2020 New Hartford Budget: discussion (all aspects- town, schools, capital revenue, etc.) and action on the proposed 2019-2020 Budget, and take action on approval and adoption of Budget for presentation at Board of Finance Special Meeting Scheduled for April 2, 2019.**

Mr. Jerram said previous lines that weren't final – Pension, Health Care, Probate, Poll Worker's, Board of Finance Supplies (Legal Notices), Audit, Paramedic Contract, Bakerville Library and Farmington Health District have been resolved. There are two modifications. One is the Fire Marshal is asking for an increase of \$500. He is training the Deputy Fire Marshal to take over once the Fire Marshal retires. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is the village parking expansion; in reviewing the capital projects the engineer noted in the Downtown Project request that he felt it could be done for \$25,000 less.

Mr. Smith asked where they were on the construction of the Wash Bay. Mr. Jerram said they have started the engineering plan. The project would be done over two years with permitting, concrete work and trenching to be done in year 1. In year 2 the rest of the work would be completed. Currently the trucks are taken up to Winsted to be washed.

Chairman Wexler asked about the DPW gates for \$30,000. She asked since the cameras were installed a few years ago have there been any losses. Mr. Jerram said there hadn't been any real problems. When asked about the \$50,000 for Bridge Improvements, Mr. Jerram said this covers repairs to 11 bridges as deemed by the state as having problems. The 2 bridges of concern are the Cedar Lane Bridge by Route 202 and Steele Road Bridge by Brown's Corner. Mr. Smith would like to see firm numbers on the Wash Bay before commitment is made to spend an anticipated \$250,000 on it.

Discussion began on the Bakerville Library and the number for the 2019-2020 Budget. Mr. Smith suggested putting in \$55,000 for the Bakerville Library. He feels there needs to be more planning on the Wash Bay and suggested pushing it out for another year and then having firm numbers.

**MOTION:** by Smith to set the Bakerville Library number for 2019-2010 at \$55,000; seconded by Witte.

Discussion followed. Ms. Guilfoyle asked if the Bakerville Library had a breakdown of where their increases are. Mr. Jerram left to make copies of the breakdown.

**MOTION:** by Smith to table the motion; seconded by Guilfoyle.

*Unanimous*

**MOTION:** by Smith to approve in the 2019-2020 Budget the \$125,000 for the Wash Bay; seconded by Tuxbury.

Aye: Wexler, Guilfoyle; Nay: Smith, Tuxbury, Charest; abstained: Witte

*Motion Fails*

**MOTION:** by Smith to change in the Capital Budget for the Wash Bay of the amount of \$25,000 in the year 2019-2020, \$100,000 in the year 2020-2021 and \$125,000 in the year 2021-2022; seconded by Tuxbury.

Discussion followed. Ms. Guilfoyle said looking over the capital plan for the next five years she noted that it keeps going up and up. We will probably be getting a significant bill from Region #7 that is higher than this year. She would not like to see that money out of the Capital. Mr. Witte said he would advocate taking some of the dump truck money and moving it to this year.

Aye: Charest, Smith, Witte, Tuxbury; Nay: Guilfoyle, Wexler.

*Motion Passes*

**MOTION:** by Witte to move the Garage Equipment Loader \$85,000 from 2021 Capital to the 2019-2020 Capital; seconded by Guilfoyle.

Aye: Wexler, Guilfoyle, Charest, Tuxbury, Witte; Nay: Smith.

*Motion Passes*

Discussion continued with what other changes could be made to the Capital Budget. With the changes made to the Capital Budget the new number is \$539,500.

**MOTION:** by Tuxbury to accept the Capital with \$25,000 for the Wash Bay, \$165,000 for Garage Equipment; \$50,000 for the Village Parking Expansion for a total Capital of \$539,500; seconded by Smith.

*Unanimous*

Mr. Smith said he had no problems with the rest of the General Government budget. The board then went back to the motion regarding the Bakerville Library that had been tabled.

**MOTION:** by Smith to set the Bakerville Library number at \$55,000; seconded by Witte.

*Unanimous*

Discussion then moved onto the local Board of Education. Mr. Witte said that he felt the BOE Capital at \$104,500 was reasonable. Mr. Tuxbury asked about the tractor in last year's budget for snow removal. Now they are looking for a mower. Supt. Murphy said that last year they purchased a mower for Antolini School and this year they are purchasing a mower for New Hartford Elementary. The new mower will not remove the snow. Mr. Goff said by using the tractor only for snow removal and purchasing a zero-turn mower the wear and tear on the tractor will be saved. Mr. Witte asked about the Special Education reimbursement. The increase was slightly over \$200,000 but the Special Ed Excess Cost Reimbursement only went from \$10,000 to \$17,000. He thought it should be more than that. Supt. Murphy said the state gives 12.5% times per pupil expenditure. Supt. Murphy said that they take each student individually and figure the cost. There are two out-placed students. Mr. Tuxbury asked about the pre-school revenue. Supt. Murphy said it can be found in the Special Education Paraprofessional – Line 112. The full-day 4-year olds pay \$4,500 and the part-time 3-year olds is \$1,800. They usually budget for 9 all-day students. Mr. Tuxbury asked how many classes were going to be at New Hartford Elementary. Supt. Murphy said they hadn't determined about how many Kindergarten classes there would be. This all depends on the swing line. Currently they anticipate 3 Kindergarten sections, 2 first grade and 2 second grades along with one pre-k. There are 97 students. Mr. Tuxbury asked about cutting down on administrative expenses. Mr. Murphy said they cut the Curriculum Director from full-time to part-time. Mr. Tuxbury said you are adding a 4<sup>th</sup> nurse. Is there going to be any reopening of the consolidation committee? Mr. Goff said there hasn't been any discussion on it. At the next meeting we will discuss the regionalization and maybe the consolidation committee will come up. Mr. Tuxbury continued, if you consolidate you only need 3 nurses. We are taxing the people of New Hartford more than they should be to maintain the buildings. You are losing out on educational opportunities by spreading out the students and teachers. I hope you will look at it again.

**MOTION:** by Charest to accept the local Board of Education 2019-2020 budget as proposed in the amount of \$8,357,516 and Capital of \$104,500; seconded by Guilfoyle.

Aye: Smith, Guilfoyle, Wexler, Charest; Opposed: Witte, Tuxbury

*Motion Passes*

**MOTION:** by Smith to approve the Town of New Hartford 2019-2020 budget as amended at \$24,832,480.35 including General Government, Capital, Regional 7 and the local Board of Education for a 1.55% increase; seconded by Witte.

Discussion followed. Mr. Tuxbury said we have the one-time windfall from Region 7 that we are spending. If you take their expected numbers there will be an increase next year. If everything stays the same our increase for next year will be around \$90,000.

Aye: Smith, Wexler, Guilfoyle, Charest, Witte; Opposed: Tuxbury

*Motion Passes*

**MOTION:** by Smith to adjourn at 9:00 pm; seconded by Guilfoyle.

*Unanimous*

Respectfully submitted;

Penny Miller  
Recording Secretary  
Available at the Town Clerk's Office  
Bakerville Library