

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

August 28, 2012

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Jack Casey, Executive Director of Northwest Conservation District Sean Hayden, Recreation Commission member Dan Eddy, Member of the Press Sarah Bogues (Register Citizen), New Hartford Plus videographer Andy, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Minutes:

MOTION: by Kennerson, second Casey to accept the minutes dated July 24, 2012 as presented.

Unanimous.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Sean Hayden, Executive Director of the Northwest Conservation District asked to address the Selectmen and present a brief summary of a watershed management plan he had developed for Morgan Brook. Mr. Hayden stated that he had been compiling data and doing research to help identify the source of bacteria affecting the water quality of Morgan Brook. This Brook is fed by West Hill Pond. Mr. Hayden informed the Selectmen that a study such as this allows for towns to qualify for Grant funding in the event that contamination is found and clean up needs to occur. Mr. Hayden left a copy of the summary for the Selectmen to review.

Operations Updates:

First Selectman Jerram updated the Board on miscellaneous items.

Field House:

The Field House safety improvements are almost complete. This building will be able to be used for various events and is now code compliant.

STEAP Grant:

The STEAP Grant application has been submitted. Mr. Jerram has met with both Senator Witkos and Representative Simanski to inform them of this application and seek their support for the funding request.

Tanglewood Road:

Tanglewood Road has had 1/3 of the road completely re-built. Many catch basins were replaced, the road was re-paved and curbing installed. Backfilling of the area behind the curbs still needs completion, but is in the process of being done. The highway department has been fortunate to have had a piece of equipment on loan from Comer Contracting that is used for dispersing top soil behind the curb. Mr. Jerram noted that it might be worth investigating the purchase of this equipment since it increases efficiency.

Assistance at Ann Antolini:

The highway crew removed some stumps at the Ann Antolini School and replaced a couple of catch basins on the premises.

New Employee:

A new highway maintainer has been hired for the highway department. Applications for the position were professionally screened by an outside agency. Four (4) applicants were interviewed. The offer has been extended and accepted to one of the applicants. This individual has experience in the areas needed for a highway maintainer and should be an asset to the crew. Mr. Jerram noted that having the applications screened by an outside agency was helpful as it eliminated any potential concerns regarding the appearance of favoritism; especially in a small town where "everybody knows everybody." The First Selectman noted that there have been 4 positions that have been filled in the

past few months (Town Clerk Assistant, Tax Collector Assistant, and two highway maintainers). Filling these positions has been time consuming, on top of the day to day operations.

Board of Education – school consolidation:

The Board of Education has requested that the Selectmen and the Board of Finance attend a joint meeting with the Board of Ed to discuss consolidation of schools. There have been preliminary discussions regarding closing Bakerville Elementary. This meeting will be to present information and have a general discussion with the members of the 3 Boards. The meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2012.

FEMA Approvals:

The Town continues to receive notification of additional FEMA approvals for storm related expenses. The approvals exceed the estimate used for budget purposes, therefore revenues are already on the plus side for next year.

Eagle Scout Brian Ferrarotti:

Mr. Jerram announced that resident Brian Ferrarotti was honored for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout at a ceremony this past weekend. For his Eagle Scout project, Brian had completed an 'outdoor classroom' at New Hartford Elementary School. Mr. Jerram encouraged everyone to check it out if they had a chance, stating that it really was an asset to the school grounds.

Antolini Field Expansion:

The contract for the field expansion at Antolini has been awarded to M.E. Carroll LLC. Tree removal at the site has been quoted at \$19,000 and there will be an additional \$4,000 expense for soil and erosion control. Mr. Jerram will be meeting with the contractor on site on Wednesday to perform a site walk of the area. It was noted by the First Selectman that the project has received Planning & Zoning approval and that the only condition placed by the P&Z was to limit work to times when school is not in session. This will insure the safety of the students during this project. The budget for this expansion is on target. The town will provide construction fencing around the work area and will provide rip rap as needed.

Main Street Sidewalk Repair:

Hemlock Construction has been contracted to replace the sidewalk in the area of the Sewer repair that was done on Main Street. The sidewalk was removed in an area above the post office in order to install a new section of sewer line where a failure had occurred.

Capital Reallocation:

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board that the Steele Road reconstruction project is coming along. The drainage work is completed. There were some modifications made to the original plan. Some areas of the road were widened a bit to alleviate 'bottlenecking.' Additionally, both Tim Traub of Hemlock Construction, a professional engineer, and the town's consulting engineer Roger Hurlbut advised that the town place additional stone in some areas to provide a better base for the new road. Galasso Materials (the paving contractor) has estimated that the cost may run about \$42,000 for the additional stone used for road base and drainage improvements. Selectman Casey was in agreement that the road needs to be done right and if it needs extra stone to make it right, then it should be done. Mr. Jerram noted that there will be excess funds remaining in the Brown's Corner Capital item. There are a few outstanding issues such as the installation of the ADA accessible ramp, repaving the basketball court and the installation of expansion tanks for storage of water reserves so that the well is not run dry. A quote has been received for approximately \$18,000 for the ramp. This will leave a balance of roughly \$39,700. The Selectmen discussed the option of using some of the Browns Corner funds to pay for the stone. They all agreed that \$30,000 should be used to help offset the stone expense on Steele Road.

MOTION: by Casey, second Kennerson to appropriate \$30,000 from Brown's Corner Capital line item to pay for Steele Road drainage improvements.

Unanimous.

Purchase of Town Truck:

First Selectman Jerram noted that the town has been in discussion with Marola Motors regarding purchasing a new dump truck. A meeting was held and attended by the salesman, the First Selectman and the highway mechanic to review the specifications for the new 2013 7400 International Dump Truck. It was decided that it would be a worthwhile investment to order the Stainless Steel Body. The truck has been ordered. Mr. Jerram informed the Board that there are a couple of options available regarding the financing of the purchase. Marola Motors is offering 3.87% financing while Northwest Community Bank will charge 3.5%. Mr. Jerram also discussed the warranties available.

MOTION: by Casey, second Kennerson to purchase the truck from Marola Motors with an extended warranty and finance the purchase through Northwest Community Bank.

Unanimous.

Phillips Farm Debt Service Discussion

Mr. Jerram informed the Selectmen that there has been some confusion regarding the status of the final payment for the purchase of development rights to Phillips Farm. A Town Meeting was held in 2008 to authorize the purchase of the development rights. At that time, it was stated that there would be 3 payment installments; therefore it has been assumed that the final payment was in 2011. However, it has come to light that the initial payment was considered the closing and there were 3 additional payments to follow that initial payment. Therefore, there is a payment due in September of this year. The Open Space Land Acquisition fund does not have the funds available to make the final payment using that as funding source, therefore it will be necessary for the payment to be made using the General Fund, with the understanding that future deposits into the Land Acquisition fund will be used to pay back the general fund. This has all been discussed with the auditor and the auditing firm is in agreement with how this will be tracked. Mr. Casey stated that he was Ok with this – he saw no problem with handling the payment in this way, knowing it will be paid back to the town.

Approval of Highway Department contract:

Mr. Jerram stated that the Highway Crew members have approved the negotiated Union contract. Members of that bargaining unit will receive 2.25% increase in salary each year for 2 years. The contract will expire June 30, 2014. It is a 2 year contract so that it would be “in-sync” with the Town Hall employees contract. It is much easier to negotiate contracts in the same year due to the fact that the health insurance covers both unions. Highway employees will pay 12% of their health care premiums and the health care package they agreed to will have increased out of pocket expenses. A major change to the new contract is that no new employees will be able to accrue a sick time payout when they retire or leave the town’s employ. This will provide savings to the town in the future.

MOTION: by Kennerson, second Casey to approve the highway contract (Public Works Department) for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014 as negotiated.

Unanimous.

Appointments/Resignations Boards and Commissions:

Mr. Jerram announced that Helen Sellei has resigned her position as a member of the Conservation Commission.

MOTION: by Kennerson, second Casey to accept the resignation of Helen Sellei as a member of the Conservation Commission with regret and thanks for her service.

Unanimous.

Mr. Jerram announced that he had received a request from the Commission on Aging to appoint Linda Hupplesberg to fill a vacancy as an alternate member.

MOTION by Kennerson, second Casey to appoint Linda Hupplesberg as an alternate member of the Commission on Aging, filling a vacancy with a term to expire 12/31/13.

Unanimous.

Discussion of Task Order – Accident Reduction Grant/Niles Road improvements:

The First Selectman noted that Lenard Engineering has prepared a task order for engineering services related to the Niles Road Improvements project funded by an Accident Reduction Grant. The proposed fee is substantial and Mr. Jerram stated that he was not ready to take any action on this matter at this time.

Proclamations:

The First Selectman read three different Proclamations that the Board has been asked to endorse. The proclamations were for Constitution Week, Leukemia, Lymphoma & Myeloma Awareness Month and United Way Day.

MOTION: by Casey, second Kennerson, to endorse and support the Proclamations as read.

Unanimous.

Correspondence:

A thank you note was received from Amanda Shaw, Principal at Antolini School stating thanks to the highway department for assistance provided at the school.

Request for Tax Refunds:

MOTION: by Kennerson, second Casey to approve a request for refund of motor vehicle property taxes due to military exemption in the amount of \$33.49.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson, second Casey to go into Executive Session at 8:30 PM for discussion related to potential land acquisition.

(Jerram, Casey, Kennerson entered into Executive Session)

MOTION: by Casey, second Kennerson to exit from Executive Session at 8:32 PM.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Casey, second Kennerson to adjourn at 8:32 PM.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The United Way of Northwest Connecticut is a trusted organization that unites donors, volunteers, human service providers and their clients to give hope and change lives, here in Northwest Connecticut; and

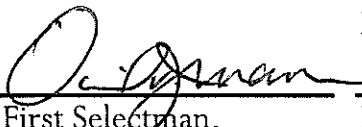
WHEREAS: The United Way of Northwest Connecticut builds strong partnerships with community leaders, business, labor, and government, allowing them to target critical social issues affecting quality of life; and

WHEREAS: The United Way of Northwest Connecticut has a trusted 68-year history of efficient, responsible and accountable stewardship of donor support; and

WHEREAS: The United Way of Northwest Connecticut is investing in the following three priority areas: Children and Families, Hungry and Homeless, and Sick and at –risk; and

WHEREAS: One donation supports 24 local agencies that deliver programs in the 16 communities of Northwest Connecticut including Barkhamsted, Canaan-Falls Village, Colebrook, Cornwall, Goshen, Harwinton, New Hartford, Litchfield, Morris, N. Canaan, Norfolk, Salisbury-Lakeville, Sharon, Torrington, Winsted, West Hartland.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, on behalf of the Members of the Legislative Body of these Towns, we, the elected representatives, do hereby proclaim **September 10th** as “**United Way Day**” as the Board of Directors and Campaign Cabinet officially kicks off their annual fund drive to give hope and change lives here in Northwest Connecticut.

_____ First Selectman, Town of Barkhamsted	_____ First Selectman, Town of Canaan/Falls Village	_____ First Selectman, Town of Colebrook	_____ First Selectman, Town of Cornwall
_____ First Selectman, Town of Goshen	_____ First Selectman, Town of Hartland	_____ First Selectman, Town of Harwinton	_____ First Selectman, Town of Lakeville/Salisbury
_____ First Selectman, Town of Litchfield	_____ First Selectman, Town of Morris	 _____ First Selectman, Town of New Hartford	_____ First Selectman, Town of Norfolk
_____ First Selectman, Town of North Canaan	_____ First Selectman, Town of Sharon	_____ Mayor, City of Torrington	_____ Mayor, City of Winchester

CONSTITUTION WEEK

WHEREAS: The Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and

WHEREAS: September 17, 2012 marks the two hundred twenty fifth anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS: It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it: and

WHEREAS: Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17th through the 23rd as Constitution Week,

NOW, THEREFORE WE, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of New Hartford do hereby proclaim the week of September 17th through 23rd as CONSTITUTION WEEK and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and have had the Town Clerk of the Town of New Hartford affix the Town Seal on this 28th day of August, in the year of 2012.

Daniel V. Jerram

Alesia Kennerson

John H. Casey

**Resolution Recognizing September
as Leukemia, Lymphoma & Myeloma Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, blood cancers currently afflict more than 1,012,533 people in the United States, with an estimated 140,310 new cases diagnosed each year, and

WHEREAS, leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma will kill an estimated 53,010 people in the United States this year, and

WHEREAS, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), through voluntary contributions, is dedicated to finding cures for these diseases through research efforts and the support for those that suffer from them, and

WHEREAS, LLS maintains an office in Wilton & Meriden to support patients with these diseases and their family members in the State of Connecticut and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut is similarly committed to the eradication of these diseases and supports the treatment of its citizens that suffer from them, and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut encourages private efforts to enhance research funding and education programs that address these diseases,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of New Hartford within the State of Connecticut joins with LLS in designating the month of September 2012 as Leukemia, Lymphoma & Myeloma Awareness Month to enhance the understanding of blood related cancers and to encourage participation in voluntary activities to support education programs and the funding of research programs to find a cure for them.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of New Hartford at a regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on August 28, 2012.

First Selectman Daniel V. Jerram Selectman Alesia Kennerson Selectman Jack Casey