

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2015**

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Jack Casey, Selectman –elect Laura Garay; Members of the Public: Donna LaPlante, Dan LaPlante; Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and noted that the meeting was a Special Meeting.

Carpenter Road Bridge Update:

First Selectman Jerram updated the Selectmen on the status of the Carpenter Road Bridge project. He reviewed the circumstances that have caused this project to be delayed. One of the abutting property owners had initially verbally agreed to the use of his property for the construction easement and later changed his mind when it came to executing a formal agreement. He expressed concerns regarding the width of the bridge; requesting that the Town investigate the possibility of a narrower structure. First Selectman Jerram stated that he had consulted with both the Town Engineer and the State Department of Transportation representative to ascertain whether or not a change in the width would jeopardize grant funding. The grant would still be available for a one lane bridge IF Carpenter Road was to be designated a one-way road. A traffic study would be required to show that a one way road at that location would be feasible. It was noted, however, by the engineer that a reduction in the size of the bridge would not bring significant savings to the overall project costs, due to “fixed costs” associated with the project. Therefore, the cost of the bridge would remain close to the current costs but the Town would only be getting a one lane bridge and would be closing the road to two-way traffic. Mr. Jerram noted that the Legislative Body (Town Meeting) had voted in favor of a 2-lane, 2 direction bridge. Although the Selectmen can “modify the scope” it is his belief that to make such a drastic change in design is not in keeping with the approval given. Selectman Casey agreed, asking rhetorically “will a one lane bridge serve the needs of those who use the road?” The consensus among the Selectmen was that a one-lane bridge, one way road would not be in the best interest of the community. The Board discussed what action should be taken next and determined that legal advice should be sought.

MOTION: by Kennerson to authorize the First Selectman to take any and all steps necessary to move the project forward; including the retaining of legal counsel; seconded by Casey.

Mr. Casey expressed his disappointment that, in his opinion, someone did an “end run” and raised concern of the abutting property owner. Mr. Casey asked if additional outreach to the property owner should be attempted. Jerram replied that he will contact the property owner again to discuss this situation. Mr. Casey suggested that compensation should be considered; noting that it may be an amicable way to get resolution.

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Selectman-elect Garay commented that she was in agreement with the current Board regarding the fact that a one-lane, one way bridge would not meet the needs of the community. She noted that she had spoken with emergency services personnel who stated that they need to have the bridge available for a possible detour should there be an issue on Route 202. She also stated that the bridge is used for agricultural purposes in both directions.

Donna LaPlante commented that one way will not work. She asked if the Selectmen would consider allowing the bridge to be restricted to farmers if it needed to be one lane. Mr. Jerram replied that the intent of the motion under consideration was to 'open up the bridge to two lane traffic.'

Unanimous.

Pavilion Update:

First Selectman Jerram stated that it was his intent to get the pavilion project out to bid within the next week. He would like to bid the project in phases, with the first phase concentrating on the patio and pavers. Selectman –elect Garay asked if the project is consistent with the recommendations made by the Architectural Review committee. Jerram replied that the pavers and patio were ok as submitted for review.

RRDD#1 Amendment:

Regional Refuse Disposal District #1 Administrator Debbie Angell has forwarded an amendment to the MIRA contract to be executed by the First Selectman. The Amendment clarifies responsibility for costs incurred if the South Meadows trash/recycling Facility is unavailable for an extended period of time due to a Force Majeure event. These costs were originally borne by the member towns, but a new insurance policy has added coverage to the facility releasing the burden on the Municipalities.

MOTION: by Casey to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Amendment to the Solid Waste Management Services Agreement, seconded by Kennerson.

Unanimous

Action re: recommendation of December 24, 2015 as Discretionary Day:

The Town Hall union has requested approval to use December 24, 2015 as a discretionary day.

MOTION: by Casey to approve the request of the Union to use December 24, 2015 as a discretionary day; seconded by Kennerson.

Unanimous

Discussion/Action re: sale of town vehicles/equipment (2003 police vehicle, 2 trucks, miscellaneous equipment):

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board that there are a couple of used vehicles and some miscellaneous equipment at the Town garage that should be liquidated. He would like to offer the 2003

police car, a 1994 plow truck, some sanders and a generator for sealed bid sale consideration. There is also some miscellaneous equipment that should be either sold or considered for scrap metal sale.

MOTION: by Kennerson to authorize the First Selectman to offer for sale and or liquidate for scrap proceeds miscellaneous equipment and vehicles; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

Action re: recommendation from Pension Committee re: fund choice:

The pension committee met recently and received a recommendation from Hooker and Holcomb investment Advisor Art Meisner to make some fund changes as follows: remove the 2% currently being allocated in TIPS to High Yield Bond Category, splitting it equally between the two existing funds. The committee reviewed the recommendation and agreed to move it to the Selectmen for approval.

MOTION: by Casey, to follow the recommendation of the pension committee to move funds as suggested by financial consultant Art Meisner from Hooker and Holcomb; seconded by Kennerson.

Unanimous.

Proclamation re: National American Indian Heritage Month:

A request was received to proclaim November as National American Indian Heritage Month. First Selectman Jerram read a proclamation into the record.

MOTION: by Kennerson to approve the proclamation and proclaim November as National American Indian Heritage Month; seconded by Casey.

Selectman Kennerson commented that she fully endorsed this proclamation as she is aware of some media coverage of discussion to change Columbus Day to honor Native Americans. She stated that it was her belief that November is the proper month to honor Native Americans.

Selectman –elect Garay noted that it would be nice to develop a program next year to honor National American Indian Heritage Month with a ceremony/celebration in the pavilion next to the river.

Kennerson agreed that was a good idea.

Unanimous.

Appointments/Resignations from Boards/Commissions:

First Selectman Jerram read a letter of resignation from Recreation Commission Member Don Govotski. Mr. Govotski has tendered his resignation due to recent health issues. He has been an active member of that commission for many years and will be missed.

MOTION: by Kennerson to accept with regret the resignation of Donald Govotski as a member of the Recreation Commission; seconded by Casey.

Mr. Casey asked that a letter of accomplishment, thanking Mr. Govotski for his years of service be sent to Mr. Govotski.

Unanimous.

Request for Tax Refunds:

MOTION: by Kennerson to approve, as presented, the requests for tax refunds as presented by the Tax Collector; seconded by Casey. (\$248.03 to Mercedes-Benz Financial Services due to sale of vehicle; \$221.85 to Law Office of Franklin G. Pilicy PC due to overpayment of taxes due on 28 Davis Road; \$75.81 to David P. Garfield due to sale of vehicle; \$49.67 to Blair D. Anderson due to BAA reduction; \$124.56 to Bruce Delaini due to veterans exemption omitted in 2013; \$112.28 to Bruce Delaini due to Veterans Exemption omitted in 2012; \$108.00 to Bruce Delaini due to veterans exemption omitted in 2009; \$108.90 to Bruce Delaini due to veterans exemption omitted in 2010; \$111.60 to Bruce Delaini due to veterans exemption omitted in 2011.

Unanimous.

Pat Keener Memorial:

First Selectman Jerram informed the Selectmen that six years ago, efforts were begun to raise funds to create a memorial to honor New Hartford Resident Pat Keener who had been an advocate for and “long time friend” of the Farmington River. The funds were collected and a sculpture has been made in her honor. The folks responsible for this memorial notified the First Selectman a few weeks ago that they are ready to install this piece along the River. Mr. Jerram has met with them and advised them that there are approvals that need to be gained prior to the installation of the sculpture. They will need Inland-Wetlands Approval and Zoning Approval which will take some time.

Executive Session: re: pending legal: Minor versus Town of New Hartford and pending real estate re: Open Space:

MOTION: by Jerram to enter into Executive Session at 6:50 PM for the discussion of matters related to pending legal and pending real estate; seconded by Kennerson.

Mr. Jerram invited Selectman –elect Laura Garay to attend the session so that she will have background knowledge of these items as she takes her term of office in December.

(Jerram, Kennerson, Casey and Garay entered into Executive Session)

No action taken regarding Executive Session discussion.

MOTION: by Kennerson to adjourn at 7:09 PM; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant