

**Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 27, 2018  
MINUTES**

**Present:** First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Eric Claman, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Mr. Jerram stated that this would be a quick meeting due to the fact that the Board of Finance scheduled a Special Meeting for the same evening and he would like to be present at that meeting in case there is action regarding the budget. He noted that the Budget Public Hearing will be held next Tuesday, April 3 in the Senior Center/Meeting Room.

**Operations Update:**

Mr. Jerram informed the Board that interviews for the replacement Resident Trooper have been completed and an announcement would be forthcoming from Troop B regarding the successful candidate.

The Asset Evaluation Team for the potential sale of the water and/or wastewater assets of the Town of New Hartford is close to identifying the bidder that they feel would act in the best interest of the town. There are still some negotiations to complete, but things are moving forward.

The Highway Department is undergoing some staffing changes. One maintainer left in November due to relocation. Two additional employees have stated verbally that they intend to resign. Official notification will follow. Mr. Jerram stated that it is his desire to consult with a staffing agency to assist in reviewing the applications. He noted that there will most likely be an abundance of applicants and having an objective third party review the applications may be the best way to proceed.

Mr. Jerram noted that he has received approximately 20 emails from residents supporting additional funding for the library. Many indicate that they do not want the budgets reduced. Jerram noted that the current draft budget shows an increase in funds over the prior year. He further indicated that he is not opposed to an increase in the line items as long as the basic needs of the Town of New Hartford are met. He would not want to see reductions in line items that are necessary for operations of the town in order to supply additional funds for the libraries. Selectman Claman questioned the revenue sources of the library, stating that he still would like additional information from them regarding that issue. First Selectman Jerram commented that the library markets themselves as a community center in addition to being a library and they may need to find other sources of revenue to support that use; i.e. fees for programs or rental income for use of space.

A quick review of the draft budget showed that the Debt Service increase is the “driver” of the proposed increase in expenses. Jerram encouraged attendance at the Budget Hearing on April 3, 2018.

To complete the operations update, the First Selectman noted that Tuesday, April 3 is “boat mooring and canoe/kayak registration day.” He noted that this is a busy morning at town hall as there is generally a line outside of the town hall early in the morning (prior to the opening of town hall) with residents eager to secure a boat mooring or one of the coveted rack spaces.

Of final note, Jerram reminded all that there will be a presentation regarding the Freedom of Information Act in the Senior Center/Meeting room on April 4. Town Clerk Donna LaPlante has arranged for a speaker to come and present information to the public regarding FOIA.

**Review of Ordinances:**

First Selectman Jerram stated that Attorney Roraback had been consulted regarding some changes to existing ordinances and has submitted some samples for review by the Board.

The Board discussed the Ordinance creating the New Hartford Land Preservation Fund and the Open Space Preservation Commission and agreed with Attorney Roraback’s recommendation to define land as “unimproved land.” They also discussed that there should be language added that outlines that any proceeds of the sale of town owned unimproved land would be used to pay off any debt owed on the land before being subject to deposit in the land acquisition fund. They agreed that there should be explanatory text outlining “net of debt” regarding the proceeds, but would seek advice from town counsel as to how best handle this.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to amend the Open Space ordinance upon approval of the town attorney to include clarification of town owned unimproved land and to add a paragraph to include explanation of “net of debt” regarding use of the proceeds of any sale and include its adoption as an agenda item on the Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

The Selectmen also reviewed the Right to Farm proposed ordinance, with Mr. Jerram noting that this ordinance is used in Goshen and Harwinton and it satisfies the right to farm Statute.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to approve the Right to Farm proposed ordinance and take it to the Annual Town Meeting for consideration, seconded by Claman.

First Selectman Jerram commented that adoption of such an ordinance has been requested by the Planning and Zoning commission and adoption of the ordinance would satisfy a recommendation outlined in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

*Unanimous.*

Mr. Jerram stated that the attorney has reviewed the existing peddlers ordinance and agrees that there needs to be updating and clarification of that ordinance. Jerram noted that a town cannot legally prohibit businesses from going door to door, but they have a right to regulate it. Most towns charge a permit fee and have rules and guidelines established to keep control of who is going door to door.

*Minutes – Board of Selectmen March 27, 2018 p. 3.*

It was noted that New Hartford is a rural town and residents feel uncomfortable having people knock on their doors due to safety concerns; therefore it seems prudent to be able to have guidelines in place. Jerram stated that there is more work to be done on a proposed ordinance and therefore such an ordinance will have to wait before being an item on a Town Meeting.

**Discussion of Town Meeting Items:**

First Selectman Jerram stated that the Annual Town Meeting (to be scheduled for April 24, 2018) will include the budget (which goes to referendum), consideration of purchase of the Butler Farm (which goes to referendum), acceptance of some open space parcels in the Evergreen Crossing subdivision, possible acceptance of a road (if all conditions have been met) and the adoption of the ordinances.

**Request for Tax Refunds:**

The Tax Collector has presented 2 real estate and 2 motor vehicle request for refunds to be considered. (\$275.06 to Debra Therrien for motor vehicle taxes due to proration after payment received; \$62.74 to Renae Ferguson for motor vehicle taxes due to overpayment; \$27.78 to Corelogic Tax Services for real estate property taxes due to taxpayer making the payment; \$72.78 to Corelogic Tax Services for real estate property taxes due to taxpayer making the payment.)

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to approve the Requests for Refunds of Taxes as presented by the Tax Collector; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**Opportunity for Public Comment:**

No public present

**Any Other Business to Come Before the Board:**

Selectman Claman asked to speak to the Board regarding a concern he had with respect to the First Selectman appearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission recently and providing an update on The Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Plan. Claman stated that he had read a statement in the minutes of that meeting that implied that all of the Selectmen were aware of the commentary provided by the First Selectman and he asked for clarification of what commentary was delivered as he did not feel that he knew what was being discussed and therefore could not say for certainty that he was “on board” with what was presented. First Selectman Jerram replied that he did not speak on behalf of the Board; he spoke as First Selectman and the comments made should have been attributed directly to him, not the board. He noted that he gave an update on what items have and have not been addressed by the Selectmen as outlined in the Implementation Plan, noting that since the make-up of the Board changed in December, any reference to accomplishments made to date would be attributed to the former members of the Board. He asked Mr. Claman if he was familiar with the plan, to which Selectman Claman replied that he had general knowledge but not specifics. Jerram explained that there are items outlined that are specific to the Board of Selectmen for completion. There are a few of them that can be considered to be completed or in progress, and the update was just

*Minutes – Board of Selectmen March 27, 2018 p. 4*

that – an update as to where items stand. This Board will continue to carry out recommendations made in the plan. The plan is a guide for the direction the town should move in as approved by the general public when they approved the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Mr. Claman clarified that he just wanted to be sure that he is included in discussion when things are attributed to the Board, as a whole. Jerram replied that he intends to keep Mr. Claman informed and explained that he cannot meet with Mr. Claman on a one to one basis unless it is a posted meeting, but advised Mr. Claman to reach out to the Administrative Assistant if he has questions or needs additional information and it would be provided to him.

**MOTION:** by Claman to adjourn at 7:45 PM; seconded by Kennerson.

*Unanimous.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*