

**Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, May 26, 2015**

**Present:** First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Jack Casey; Republican-American Reporter Kathryn Boughton; Member of the Public Mary Lou Rayno; Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting as presented; seconded by Casey. *Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2015 Special Board of Selectmen meeting as presented; seconded by Casey. *Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Casey to make the following corrections to the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen meeting dated April 13, 2015: correct typographical error on page 1 (year listed as 2104 should be 2014); correct typographical error on page 2 (year listed as 2105 should be 2015) and correct typographical error on page 3 (year listed as 2015-2015 and should be 2015-2016); seconded by Kennerson. *Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to accept the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen meeting dated April 13, 2015 as amended; seconded by Casey. *Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to modify the wording in the section of the Special Board of Selectmen meeting dated May 7, 2015 under "Budget Review" from *"First Selectman Jerram reviewed the status of the current budget with the Selectmen, noting that he was pleased that the Town Meeting approved the 'refund' of \$58,500 into the Highway Department to* "First Selectman Jerram reviewed the status of the current budget with the Selectmen, noting that he was pleased that the Town Meeting approved the **additional funding** of \$58,500 into the Highway Department AND also to add to the minutes under the agenda item "Discussion and action regarding recommendations to award contract for Antolini School Roof repairs" the following clarification: The base bid for the TPO roof replacement came in at \$840,500. However, there is the understanding that once work is begun on the roof, there are alternates in place to cover the costs of extra work; therefore it should not be assumed that the total cost of the project is going to be capped at \$840,500 – that is the base bid only; seconded by Casey.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to accept the minutes dated May 7, 2015 as amended; seconded by Casey. *Unanimous*

**Opportunity for Public Comment/Concerns:**

Town Resident Mary Lou Rayno was present and stated that she would like to provide comment during the agenda item “priorities, projects.” Mr. Jerram told her she was welcome to comment now rather than wait. She asked about the item “community picnic” – wondering if this was going to be the same as the one that was held a couple of years back and she offered her services as a volunteer. The First Selectman replied that the picnic held two years ago was in honor of Founders Day and celebrated the 275<sup>th</sup> ‘birthday’ of New Hartford. This picnic will be held by the Recreation Department as a combination of an “end of camp and end of summer” event. Jerram noted that historically Camp Brodie holds a family gathering on the last day of camp, but that feedback received has indicated that it is difficult for some parents to get time off from work to attend the carnival with their children and then the children feel “left out” Camp serves as daycare for many parents and asking them to be present at an event held during the workweek is contrary to their needs. Mrs. Tellier, the current Recreation Director, thought that a weekend event opened to not just camp families, but the entire community, would be a good alternative to a ‘end of camp’ event. Mrs. Rayno stated that she thought this was a good idea.

**Current Operations Updates:**

*Maple Hollow Bridge:*

Mr. Jerram informed the Selectmen that he is in conversation with Schultz Corporation regarding repairing the pavement on the Maple Hollow Bridge. Jerram stated that the Town withheld final payment last year due to the fact that this was an unresolved issue.

*Carpenter Road Bridge:*

The design and specifications are nearly complete. The bridge will be wider than it currently is due to bridge standards that need to be met. During construction, water will need to be diverted; therefore temporary construction easements have been obtained by the abutting property owners.

*Memorial Day:*

Memorial Day Ceremonies were held at Chapin Park ( Pine Meadow Green) and at Town Hill Memorial Bell on Hoppen Road.

*Stop Sign replacement:*

The State of Connecticut received a Federal highway safety grant to replace existing stop signs with new highly reflective signs and posts. There are no local tax dollars being used for the sign replacement. This is a State Project.

*CT Main Street – Vibrant downtowns:*

The Economic Development Commission is hosting a presentation by CT MAIN STREET, a non-profit organization whose leaders will discuss how New Hartford can benefit from membership in this organization. They have worked with many municipalities to help their downtowns become vibrant

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centers. Jerram noted that this is a step in the right direction to bring people together to have a discussion about what they want their downtown to be. This discussion is timely as it fits right into the recent updating of the Downtown Plan – currently in draft form and being presented to Boards and Commissions for comments. He noted that CT MAIN STREET membership is not new to New Hartford; the town has been a member in the past – however, at that time, continued membership required financial commitment that the Town was not able to provide. CT MAIN STREET has recently undergone some changes in how they operate and they have programs available that may be beneficial to the town. John Burdick of the Economic Development Commission has taken the lead with setting up the event on June 18 to be held in the Senior Center/Meeting room.

*Board of Education – additional appropriation:*

Jerram informed the Board of Selectmen that the Board of Education will be requesting an additional appropriation to cover unforeseen and unbudgeted special education costs incurred during the year. He noted that the Board of Finance meets on June 9 and if they grant this request, there will be the need to call a Special Town Meeting for the towns people to consider the request. Administrative Assistant Hayward commented that the timeline is tight – “all the ducks will need to be in a row” in order to call a Special Town Meeting before the end of the fiscal year, noting that there are events going on in June that can interfere with setting a convenient date and there are public noticing timelines.

*Brodie Park :*

Selectman Casey asked if he could address the Board regarding a couple of things at Brodie Park. The Selectmen agreed that this could fall under operations. Mr. Casey first commented on the health of the Norwegian Spruce Trees that were pruned a couple of years back. He stated that the removal of the vines that were restricting them and pruning the lower branches was the “right thing to do despite all of the ‘hullaballo’ it created.” “They look beautiful” he said. Mr. Casey then went on to ask Mr. Jerram to please have someone walk the blue trail and remove a tree that has fallen along the trail. He noted that there is evidence of horse use on the trail and wondered if anything should be done to restrict that. Another concern he had is that there is a footbridge that needs repair along the trail. Mr. Jerram will alert the parks maintainer to these concerns.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to add to the agenda the following item: LCD Contract; seconded by Casey. *Unanimous.*

**LCD Contract:**

First Selectman Jerram announced that he had received the contract for services provided by Litchfield County Dispatch. Noting that this is a per capita assessment and that the fee has been included in the 2015-2016 budget, he asked the Selectmen for their approval to sign the contract.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to authorized the First Selectman to execute the contract for services with Litchfield County Dispatch in the amount of \$75,856.94; seconded by Casey.

*Unanimous.*

**Priorities– projects ( newsletter, road work, community picnic)**

*Newsletter:*

First Selectman Jerram notified the Selectman that at this time, thanks to the reallocation of \$58,500 to the Highway Department, there are no overages within any department. There are line item transfers within departments that will need to be done, but departments are within budget. Having money restored to the highway department allows for funds in other departments to be available for use for some things that were put on hold due to uncertainty.

Jerram noted that he would like to draft a simple newsletter for distribution in the early summer. The Commission on Aging has recently completed a senior services advisory guide and it would be good to pair this with a brief newsletter. Within the newsletter, he would like to include information to residents regarding “subscribe to news” on the town website. He noted that many residents have asked how they can become informed regarding town events and it would be beneficial to let them know that they can sign up to receive news via the website.

*Road work:*

The First Selectman stated that the number 1 roadwork priority right now is West Road. A section of the road will be realigned which will make this road more conducive for snowplowing in the winter. A crosspipe on this road needs to be repaired. This repair was reviewed by Inland Wetlands and is deemed to be a repair, so no permitting will be required. Jerram noted that there is a crosspipe on Ramstein Road that has collapsed; this may need to be outsourced.

*Capital Planning:*

The police are working on getting the order for the new police car all set so that action can be taken as soon as possible in the new fiscal year. Jerram stated that he did research regarding the State bid contract for trucks. The current vendor is Freightliner in East Hartford and there is only a minor difference in the cost between the state contract price and the price quoted by Marola Motors for an International. Jerram noted that the service by Marola for this corner of the state has always been exceptional and the location is convenient and that those things seem to outweigh saving a couple of thousand dollars on a major purchase. Traveling back and forth to East Hartford for service and towing costs associated with the distance can negate the savings over time.

The Pavilion Project needs to have a site plan prior to being presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Reporter Kathryn Boughton questioned the status of the Griffin Parcel. Mr. Jerram replied that he has talked with the realtor for that parcel and has expressed the Selectmen’s interest in continuing negotiations.

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions ( if needed)**

No appointments.

**Correspondence:**

First Selectman Jerram stated that he had received a letter of resignation from WPCA member Rob Fulton. Mr. Fulton recognized the progress that is being made with that Board and felt that it would not be fair to remain a member since he does not have the time needed to devote to it at this time.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to accept, with regret and thanks for his time and effort put forth as a member of the Water Pollution Control Authority, the resignation of Robert Fulton as a member on the WPCA; seconded by Casey.

*Unanimous.*

**Any Other Business:**

First Selectman Jerram circled back to Operations and noted that he had overlooked mentioning that Board of Education Chairman Joshua Adams had met with Mr. Jerrram to inform him that the Board of Education facilities committee is revisiting their discussion of school consolidation. Mr. Adams has indicated that the School Board is being responsive to declining enrollment. Mr. Adams has asked that the Board of Selectmen consider if the town would be willing to “take back” a vacant school building for some other purpose. There was no discussion on this matter.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to adjourn at 8:15 PM; seconded by Casey.

*Unanimous.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*