

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
February 25, 2020
MINUTES**

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman David Rosengren; Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

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

Operations Updates:

First Selectman Jerram stated that the budget process continues. He summarized changes that have been made to the draft budget thus far. The line item for teachers' retirement has been removed from the budget. There doesn't seem to be any mandate for Municipalities to pick up the funding for this expense at this time. The Conservation Commission line item has been increased to reflect the cost of Farmington River Watershed Association membership. The fees for Council of Small Town membership has increased by \$250.00.

Some changes to the Revenue page include removing the income from the Water Pollution Control Authority "split" towards the annual USDA loan payment. The WPCA has not been able to contribute to this expense and the Board of Selectmen had given the WPCA relief from this obligation at this time. Projected fees from Building and Zoning permits have been taken from the audit figures. Short term interest is budgeted at \$65,000.

Jerram proposed a budget workshop meeting for March 5, 2020 at 5:30. He asked that the Selectmen think about changing the use of the \$25,000 that has been earmarked for a wash bay study. Depending on what the Selectmen decide, the Board of Finance can address the request for change at their March 10, 2020 meeting.

The First Selectman informed the Board that contract negotiations are still underway.

The highway department has been busy with fixing potholes, cutting trees and regrading dirt roads. Painting will be done in the First Selectman's Outer Office area, bookkeeping and the Administrative Assistant's area.

Selectman Rosengren asked if he could quickly go back to the topic of budget. He would again like to request that there be consideration of funding for a grant writer. He stated that there are opportunities for funds and a grant writer could pursue them. Kennerson stated that there is a contingency line item and perhaps additional funds could be added to that line item and used for grant writing services if needed.

Mr. Jerram asked the Board to grant permission to sell the Animal Control Van and the police boat on the online auction site, GovDeals. He stated that the Animal Control Van is in need of repairs and is not worth the expense of fixing it. The current Animal Control Officer uses his own vehicle for calls; so a dedicated vehicle is not needed at this time. The Police Boat also needs repairs and there really is very little opportunity for the police officers to use the boat. West Hill Pond enforcement is under the jurisdiction of the DEEP, therefore there really is no need for local police to provide patrols on West Hill.

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board that the Highway Superintendent would like to use Capital funds remaining from the purchase of the approved loader to put towards the purchase of utility van for the highway department. The front loader came in under budget and there is a need to purchase a vehicle for the highway department that can store the various tools and supplies that are needed to perform various tasks around town. Mr. Jerram told the Selectmen to expect that recommendation to come forth at a future Board of Finance meeting. No objection was noted.

Appointments/Resignations to Boards and Commissions:

Mr. Jerram announced that Donna Howard has resigned her appointment as a member to the Commission on Aging. There is no current recommendation for a replacement to fill that vacancy. The Board thanked Ms. Howard for her service.

A request has been received to appoint Ann Gadwah to serve as a member on the Conservation Commission, filling a vacancy for a term that expires December 31, 2022.

MOTION: by Kennerson to appoint Ann Gadwah to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Commission, term to expire December 31, 2022; seconded by Rosengren.

Unanimous.

MIRA Update:

First Selectman Jerram updated the Board on the status of trash disposal and recycling contracts for Regional Refuse Disposal District #1. New Hartford currently delegates its trash to RRDD#1. RRDD#1 serves the towns of New Hartford, Barkhamsted and Winsted. RRDD takes the trash to the Hartford and currently has a contract with MIRA for trash disposal. The plant in Hartford that is used to convert trash to energy needs extensive renovations and has notified member towns that fees will need to increase substantially if the State does not provide some assistance with funding the renovations. This is an ongoing conversation between towns and MIRA. New Hartford does not contract directly with MIRA; RRDD1 is the entity that has the contract. If the trash to energy plant in Hartford does not get the funds needed to renovate it, there is the chance that trash from MIRA Members will need to be trucked out of state for disposal. This will be an ongoing topic for a while.

Request for Refunds of Taxes:

The tax collector has recommended the following refund requests:

Grand List 2017

Mylessia J Tkacs	25 South Street, Collinsville, CT 06019	132.77
Diane C. Podlesney	6 Bakerville Terrace, New Hartford, CT 06067	42.73

Grand List 2018

Ally Financial/Louisville PPC	P.O. Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40290-1951	\$344.79
Ally Financial/Louisville PPC	P.O. Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40290-1951	\$272.31
Ally Financial/Louisville PPC	P.O. Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40290-1951	\$47.19

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Ally Financial/Louisville PPC	P.O. Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40290-1951	\$104.79
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 1801-1057	\$67.07
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 1801-1057	\$230.96
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 1801-1057	\$65.77
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 1801-1057	\$303.38
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 1801-1057	\$41.96
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 1801-1057	\$436.42
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 1801-1057	\$268.16
Toyota Lease Trust	20 Commerce Way, Suite 800; Woburn, MA 1801-1057	\$79.11
Honda Lease Trust	600 Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA 0140-9681	\$26.78
Daimler Trust	13650 Heritage Pkwy, Fort Worth, TX 76177	\$574.91
Sharon Chaika	48 Southeast Rd, New Hartford, CT 06057	\$9.71
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage	1 Home Campus, MAC F2302-04D; Des Moines, IA 50328-0001	\$3,886.67
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage	1 Home Campus, MAC F2302-04D; Des Moines, IA 50328-0001	\$2,999.44
Wesley and Mona Zadora	480 East Cotton Hill Rd, New Hartford, CT 06057	\$5.65
Kate M and Curran P Orlowski	770 Litchfield Tpke, New Hartford, CT 06057	\$60.00

Unanimous

Other Business:

First Selectman Jerram informed the Selectmen that RRDD1 has an existing recycling ordinance that they would like to have approved by member towns. However, it is unclear as to how this would be enforced and who has the authority to enforce. Jerram gave a heads up that there may be a request to adopt some kind of recycling ordinance in the future.

A brief discussion regarding a blight ordinance ensued. Mr. Jerram stated that defining blight is a challenge. He would like to be able to have a discussion with someone who has dealt with a blight ordinance to see where the pitfalls may lie. Selectman Kennerson suggested that the ordinance could be written to deal with vacant properties only. First Selectman Jerram commented that perhaps the junk yard regulations could be expanded to include some areas of blight. He cautioned though, when formal action is taken against a property, it can take several years for the Courts to actually hear the case and render a decision. The Selectmen discussed inviting Land Use Attorney Mark Branse to a future meeting of the Board to discuss how to address blight.

Selectman Rosengren expressed his displeasure that the questions that have been posed to the Asset Evaluation Team by various residents have not been answered and posted to the website. He asked when the questions would be answered and posted. First Selectman Jerram replied that the answers will be developed and posted as time permits. He stated that he will work on assembling all of the questions and providing answers to them.

Mr. Rosengren then brought up the subject of Parliamentary Procedures for Board of Selectmen meetings. He asked if any consideration has been given to his request to formally adopt standard

procedures for meeting conduct. Mr. Jerram answered that there has not been a need to adopt meeting procedures. The Chairman is in control of the meetings; adding that it is his understanding that Town Meetings follow Roberts Rules.

Selectman Rosengren asked if the town garage has had a formal appraisal done on its value. He wanted to know if the property has ever been offered for sale. Jerram replied “only to the extent that the town has offered to co-market the property if a developer expresses an interest in the adjoining Hurley property.

Selectman Rosengren commented that he has had difficulty locating town documents that he feels should be available for public review. He offered to assist in document management. Jerram replied that there are only certain documents that are filed in the Town Clerk for public review and that if there are documents he would like to see, he needs to ask for them and allow for time to honor the request.

Resident Jay Bailey, present at the meeting, asked the First Selectman what connection Economic Development Commission has with Zoning. Mr. Jerram replied that, in his opinion, the Economic Development Commission should be working with the Zoning Commission to analyze some of the regulations to see what regulations might be impeding economic development and make recommendations for what might work best. Signage and parking regulations might be areas of concern for potential businesses and it might be beneficial to review these areas. Jerram stated that having people come forward and express their thoughts and opinions can effect change.

MOTION: by Kennerson to adjourn at 9:14 PM; seconded by Rosengren.

Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant

No attachments to these minutes