

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
April 3, 2013**

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Jack Casey, New Hartford Independent Maria Moore, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Board agreed to move the agenda items in order to take care of "housekeeping items" (resignations and appointments) prior to turning their attention to discussion of the proposed budget.

Resignation of Emergency Management Director/Appointment of Replacement:

Mr. Jerram informed the Board that Emergency Management Director James Farkas had submitted a letter resigning his position. In the letter, Jim noted that he and his family have completed their move to Virginia and that it was time for him to resign so that a replacement could be appointed. Jim recommended that his assistant, Kevin Parsell be appointed to take over this position. The First Selectman noted that Kevin has been volunteering his services for a couple of years and has been at Town Hall during several of the major storm events. He participated in the Statewide Emergency Drill last July. Mr. Jerram commented that Kevin has been an asset during Jim's time of transition.

MOTION: by Casey, second Kennerson to accept, with regret, the resignation of Emergency Management Director James (Jim) Farkas.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson, second Casey to appoint Kevin Parsell as Emergency Management Director for a term of one year, expiring March 31, 2014.

Selectman Casey agreed that Kevin Parsell is an excellent choice for this position due to the fact that he has had some experience working alongside of Jim. The Selectmen agreed that it seems wise to have individuals serve in the capacity of Deputy Director prior to assuming the role of the Director. The Board will solicit candidates for deputies by asking for recommendations from the Emergency Services Providers.

First Selectman Jerram announced that Mike Dezzani, a member of the School Building Study Committee had resigned from the committee, with an effective date of April 1, 2013. Mike stated that he would continue to work on the Main Street Sewer project, along with his fellow BOC (Building Oversight Committee) members, for the spring; but he was also resigning as a member of that committee as well.

MOTION: by Casey, second Kennerson to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mike Dezzani as a member of the School Building Study Committee and as a member of the Building Oversight Committee.

Mr. Jerram commented that Mr. Dezzani had spent an enormous amount of time working on the wastewater treatment plant upgrade. That project involved countless number of volunteer hours to oversee the construction, review and approve change orders, and review invoices for approval. He publicly thanked Mike for all of his work.

Unanimous.

Budget Discussion – cuts, timeline, etc.

The Selectmen discussed the fact that the Board of Finance had requested that their budget proposal be cut by \$20,000. It was noted that the Regional School District had made a slight change in their budget due to the fact that they were made aware of a Hold Harmless Grant they are scheduled to receive and therefore there was an adjustment to their revenues. This results in a lower assessment to the town.

The Selectmen reviewed their budget document and searched through line items to see where reductions might be able to occur without causing any real hardship to any one department. Jerram commented that the Public Safety – Resident Troopers line item has shown significant increases during the past few years. He noted that when he was first elected, the cost of a resident trooper was at roughly \$80,000; whereas today it sits at \$110,000. Jerram asked the Selectman if they would want to change the current system of having 2 resident troopers. Selectman Kennerson replied that she thought it might be worthwhile to look at reducing to 1 resident trooper and replacing that position with an additional constable, noting that there currently was funding for a part time officer in the proposed in the budget. The Selectmen agreed that the Resident Trooper line item should be reduced by \$5,000. Selectman Casey asked how much of the libraries operating budgets are supplied by the Town. It appears that 74% of the funding for the Licia and Mason Beekley Library comes from the town budget and that 77% of Bakerville's funding is supplied by the town. The Selectman agreed to adjust the current proposed allocations to the libraries. The selectmen adjusted the Beekley appropriation by \$1928, leaving an overall increase to their line item at an even \$3,000 over 2012-2013 and they then adjusted the Bakerville Library by reducing the proposed appropriation by \$1,000 reduction; leaving an overall increase of \$1,000 over 2012-2013. The town engineer and the Town attorney line items were each reduced by \$2,000. The Selectmen reviewed the Tax Collector Assistant line item and asked Mr. Jerram if there was a cap on the number of hours the assistant could work. Jerram replied that the line item is generously funded in order to allow for additional help if needed during tax time. The Assistant is limited to less than 1,000 hours per year so that retirement benefits do not come into play. The Selectmen adjusted the tax collector line item by \$2,000.

Mr. Casey reviewed the election workers and supplies line item and felt that it, too, was generously funded. He suggested reducing that line item by \$2,000. Selectman Kennerson suggested that \$5,000 be taken from the Capitol Bridge Improvements line item.

MOTION: by Casey, second Kennerson to approve the line item reductions as discussed; resulting in an overall deduction of \$20,198 of the formerly approved budget presented to the Board of Finance.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Casey, second Kennerson to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion related to Real Estate at 6:57 pm.

Unanimous.

(Jerram, Kennerson, Casey, Hayward entered into Executive Session)

MOTION: by Kennerson, second Casey to exit from Executive Session at 7:30 PM.

No action was taken on the discussion that occurred during Executive Session.

MOTION: by Kennerson, second Casey to adjourn at 7:30 PM.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant