

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2015**

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Jack Casey, Member of the Public Troy Lamere; Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Discussion and action regarding recommendations to award contract for Antolini School Roof repairs:

First Selectman Jerram informed the Selectmen that the Antolini Roof bids have been received. The bid opening was delayed due to a technicality and following the opening of the bids, one contractor challenged the bid; but it has been determined that the bidder read the bid form incorrectly and the protest is not valid.

Mr. Jerram stated that bid was below what was anticipated and commented that this leaves some room for any unanticipated expenses that may arise. Selectman Casey remarked that this was a good thing and he was pleased with the results. Selectman Kennerson agreed.

MOTION: by Casey to approve the recommendation of the School Building Committee and award the contract for the Antolini School Roof project to Greenwood Industries, Inc, for Alternate 1 – TPO roof replacement with 30 year warranty in the amount of \$840,500.00, seconded by Kennerson.

Selectman Jerram remarked that he was “glad this is finally going to happen.”

Unanimous.

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board as an aside that the ADA, windows, doors portion of the project will not occur this summer due to the fact that a delay has occurred at the State Level. The State is doing some reorganization and has not set up any meeting dates to discuss any additional projects at this time; therefore approvals needed to move forward have not been granted.

Discussion of contamination of waste oil at RRDD#1 and potential consequences:

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board of an incident of contamination of the recycled waste oil at the transfer station (Regional Refuse Disposal District #1) that could have a financial impact on all of the member towns. There will be costs associated with a clean –up of the

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contaminated tank and if insurance does not cover this, there may be need for a special assessment. This is just a “heads up.”

Discussion of Parcel of Land – F.B. New Hartford – gift to the Town of New Hartford:

First Selectman Jerram updated the Board on the status of a parcel of land located at 1550 Litchfield Turnpike whose owners have reached out to the town and would like to “gift” this parcel to the Town. Jerram explained where this parcel is located; which is next to the detention pond that is for Home Depot. The current owners have completed the due diligence that the Town requires when accepting gifts of land –environmental, title search and legal work to prepare a deed. Jerram noted that this parcel currently has a conservation easement on it but noted that the Town has the right to release that deed restriction if there ever were a need to do so. The Selectmen discussed that there is no tax revenue being earned from this parcel and noted that due diligence has been done at the expense of the owner, so accepting such a parcel would not have risk.

MOTION: by Kennerson to refer the potential gift of land located at 1550 Litchfield Turnpike to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a review in accordance with CT General Statutes 8-24 and further recommend that this parcel be forwarded to Town Meeting for discussion and action; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

Status of 507 Main Street:

First Selectman Jerram informed the Selectman that he had received a technical submission from an agent of the owner of 507 Main Street on the afternoon of April 6, 2015. The contract with Mr. Griffin was due to expire on April 10, 2015. Mr. Jerram was interested in extending the contract to allow for time to complete all of the necessary approvals that were needed in order to close the deal. The property owners requested an additional \$2,500 to extend the contract. Jerram sent a reply through the Town attorney that the Town was still interested in moving this purchase forward to a Special Town Meeting, but did not want to incur any additional fees. The Town Attorney received a reply from the owner’s attorney that he would not have an answer until the following Monday; therefore, the contract was terminated due to a technicality.

Mr. Jerram asked the Selectmen if it was their intent to continue to negotiate with Mr. Griffin. Both Mr. Casey and Ms. Kennerson were in favor of trying to get a new contract in place.

MOTION: by Kennerson to pursue the negotiation of a new contract for purchase of 507 Main Street; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

Budget Review:

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. He also noted that the Carpenter Road Bridge project is moving forward and that the expenses associated thus far are in –line with the Task Order. On another note, with respect to the budget, Mr. Jerram has been notified by Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy that Special Education costs may be over-expended by \$138,000 and there may be a need to seek an additional appropriation from the Board of Finance to cover this overage. Mr. Jerram stated that there may be a need to call a Special Town Meeting in June if the Board of Finance approves a request from the Board of Ed for additional funding. Ms. Kennerson remarked that while she understands that Special Education costs are very difficult to project and while she realizes that "things happen; as a taxpayer, it hurts."

Mr. Jerram agreed with her sentiments and stated that "I'd like to give credit to Jean LaFave (former New Hartford representative on the Board of Education for Regional 7 who passed away this year) who used to go to Washington DC and testify as often as she could, hoping to increase funding for Special Education.... She was very devoted to that."

Mr. Jerram noted that the Selectmen may need to call a special meeting of the Board to call a Special Town Meeting and said he would keep the Selectmen notified of where things stand.

Request for Tax Refund:

MOTION: by Kennerson to approve request for motor vehicle tax refund as presented by the Tax Collector; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson to adjourn at 7:49 PM; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant