

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Thursday, June 18, 2015**

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Deputy Fire Marshal Bob Upson, Member of the Press Kathryn Boughton (Republican-American), Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

NOTE: Selectman Jack Casey participated by speakerphone.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

The First Selectman asked if there would be any objection to moving item number 2 on the agenda up to number 1 on the agenda to allow Mr. Upson the opportunity to leave the meeting following his presentation, if he chose to do so. No objections were stated.

Request from resident to be appointed to International Code Council

First Selectman Jerram welcomed Mr. Upson to the meeting and asked him to explain what the International Code Council is and why he wished to be appointed as a voting member. Mr. Upson, deputy Fire Marshal for the Town of New Hartford is considered to be an appointed code official for the Town. Mr. Upson's employment is in the field of sprinkler systems review and installation. He has working knowledge of fire codes and their application to the Building Code. He explained that Building Codes are constantly being changed and reviewed and that it is important to have "a voice" when it comes to the acceptance and voting on the revisions. Every Municipality has the right to appoint representatives to become voting members of the International Code Council. Mr. Upson stated that it used to be that a physical presence at the hearings was needed in order to cast a vote; noting that it was almost impossible for New Hartford to have representation in the past due to the travel expenses. However, technology has made it possible for electronic voting and now that it is available, it is important to have representation. Mr. Upson volunteered to be that representation and asked the Selectmen for their support of his endeavor.

MOTION: by Kennerson to appoint Robert Upson to serve as a Town of New Hartford representative to the International Code Council with a term to expire December 31, 2015; seconded by Casey.

It was noted that this appointment will follow the course of all other appointed positions; with a term to expire at the end of the calendar year with reappointment considered at that time.

Unanimous.

Set time, date, manner of Special Town Meeting

First Selectman Jerram informed the Selectman that the Board of Finance had approved a request from the Board of Education to seek an additional appropriation not to exceed \$72,000 to cover unanticipated Special Education costs. This needs to be approved at a Town Meeting. An additional item ready for consideration at a Town Meeting is the acceptance of a parcel of land in the vicinity of Home Depot on Litchfield Turnpike. This parcel is adjacent to the parcel that contains the detention pond for Home Depot stormwater runoff. The parcel is currently owned by a real estate holding company who wishes to transfer the property to the town. The current owner has done the due diligence required by the town – title search, limited environmental, and drafted the deed. Mr. Jerram read aloud the prepared Call of the Special Town Meeting .

MOTION: by Kennerson, to accept the Call of the Special Town Meeting as read and hold a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 as stated in the call; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

Approval of Police Union Contract

First Selectman Jerram reminded the Board that the New Hartford Police have decided to unionize and meetings have been held to draft a contract acceptable to both the police and the Town. The contract is ready for formal acceptance. Jerram explained that the terms and conditions for the police contract mirror the terms of the Town Hall Employees. The police have historically been given the same rights and benefits as outlined in the town hall employees contract; so essentially there will be no change to the current practice. The police decided to become an organized workforce so as not to be ‘passed over’ for highway overtime (special duty assignments) along the state highways that pass through New Hartford. Being part of an organized work force will hopefully give them the right of first refusal for assignments within New Hartford.

MOTION: by Casey to accept the Municipal Police Union contract as presented; seconded by Kennerson.

Selectman Kennerson questioned the accrual of vacation time; noting that one section indicates that a maximum of 60 unused vacation days can be accrued while another section states that 5 days can be carried over each year. Jerram explained that in addition to the 5 carried over, unused days within a fiscal year above that limit can be ‘banked’ to a grand total of 60 unused days which can then be paid out when severing service with the Town.

Kennerson requested that language be added to reflect “unused vacation days not carried over to the next year may accrue to a maximum of 60 days” to Article 10 (vacation time) Section 2.

Kennerson also questioned when longevity pay is adjusted and Jerram explained that it is 5 year increments.

Unanimous.

Operations Update – re: Truck, etc.

First Selectmen Jerram informed the Selectman that the order for the new Plow truck has been placed with Marola Motors. There are 2 options for financing; one through a financing company through Marola Motors and the other through Northwest Community Bank. The rates are very similar and Treasurer Gordon Ross has been given the information and will make the decision regarding which way to go.

Mr. Jerram reviewed the results of the Tax Sale held by the Tax Collector on June 10, 2015. He stated that the Town took possession of a parcel on Marsh Road that is in the vicinity of Brodie Park as it did not sell at the Tax Sale and has value to the Town due to its location.

Another parcel that was sold at the Tax Sale has been returned to the Town. This parcel is located off of Ramp Road/Litchfield Turnpike. The buyer has decided not to go through with the purchase as he had some questions regarding the access to this parcel. The buyer does forfeit his deposit which will be used to pay the legal fees incurred by having a Tax Sale. Tax Collector Linda Sheffield indicates that there are different avenues which can be taken with respect to the status of this parcel since the sale was negated. Although, the taxes owed will continue to accrue due to non-payment, her recommendation is to cancel the sale which makes the parcel revert back to the original owner. At this time, there is a question regarding access; however, there is legislation pending for possible adoption in October that may make access a moot point. The parcel could then be considered for tax sale at a later date.

Two additional parcels (one on Blackbridge Road and a second on Stub Hollow) were sold. It was noted that sales do not take effect for six months to allow for properties to be redeemed by owners.

Jerram noted that it was time to get ready to attend the presentation put on by CT MAIN STREET being sponsored by the Economic Development Commission in the Senior Center. Jerram asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: by Kennerson to adjourn at 6:25 PM; seconded by Casey.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant