

**Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Laura Garay, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

**Set Special Town Meeting Date for approval of resolution needed for TOD Grant ( note: this is NOT the Bakerville School Town Meeting):**

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board that part of the requirement for the Responsible Growth and Transit Oriented Grant recently submitted to the Department of Transportation for consideration of funding for a wildlife census and feasibility study is a Town approved resolution. He noted that although the application has already been submitted, there is the need for a Special Town Meeting to consider the resolution. This resolution has to be submitted to the State by February 25, 2016 and therefore cannot wait until the March Bakerville School Special Town Meeting.

First Selectman Jerram read the proposed Call of the Special Town Meeting into the record.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to approve the call as read; to schedule a Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Senior Center/Meeting Room of the New Hartford Town Hall; seconded by Garay.

A brief discussion concerning the fact that the Selectmen have a regular meeting scheduled for that same evening ensued and it was decided that the Selectmen will open their meeting and then recess to “attend” the Special Town Meeting; and will reconvene their meeting following the close of the Special Town Meeting.

*Unanimous.*

**Discussion/action re: resolution for NWConnect:**

The Selectmen decided to remove this item from the agenda.

**Budget 2016-2017:**

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the current 2015-2016 budget, trying to identify line items where savings might occur. Selectman Garay asked questions about many of the line items as this is her first budget season experience. This was an opportunity for her to become familiar with the line items and understand what they include. The Selectmen looked at salaries of town staff; with Mr. Jerram noting that union employees are the only staff where there is a contractual obligation to increase wages. Discussion ensued regarding wages for elected officials, part time and non-union staff and it was agreed

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to ask Bookkeeping to calculate those wages using 2% and 1% to see the total effect on overall budget. It was noted that historic practice has been to increase wages for all according to what union members receive.

The Selectmen also discussed that it might be wise to add a line item for maintenance for the Bakerville School due to the uncertainty of that issue. The present proposed Board of Education budget excludes those costs and they should be reflected somewhere as those costs do not 'disappear.'

The Selectmen reviewed the highway line items and shared thoughts about possibly increasing the maintenance equipment/ repair and the drainage line items.

Library requests were discussed.

The Selectmen expressed concern regarding the need to present a budget that addresses the needs of the town while trying to avoid a tax increase. Selectman Kennerson stated that the town budget cannot continue to be cut in order to fund the education budget, specifically the Regional budget.

The Selectmen took no action on any of the line items; but will meet again several times to prepare a proposed budget.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to adjourn at 4:30 PM; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*