

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Thursday, March 10, 2016**

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Laura DiFelice Garay, Bookkeeper Annie Witte, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

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

He asked that a Moment of Silence be observed in honor of David Childs, former Chairman of the Economic Development Commission who passed away earlier in the week. Following this tribute, Mr. Jerram commented that "David's death is a huge loss to New Hartford; David was the biggest fan of Economic Development who worked tirelessly on behalf of New Hartford seeking ways to promote Economic Development. He will be sorely missed –there's no one else like him."

MOTION: by Jerram to move the budget portion of the meeting to item number 1; seconded by Kennerson.

Jerram noted that Bookkeeper Annie Witte was present to answer any questions regarding specific line items and will also be able to implement changes to the document as they are approved.

Unanimous.

First Selectman Jerram began the budget discussion by reviewing the Capital Plan. He stated that the Recreation Commission had a very productive meeting the night before and had approved to move forward several projects. They have approved \$20,000 in funds to be used toward improvements at Callahan Park. Repaving of the Basketball court, new backboards and some fencing for the park are top on the list. There was some discussion regarding lights for the park, but the Commission questioned the need for lights. They are not interested in relocating the skating rink to the Park in the near future, and daylight is at peak during the summer when basketball would be most popular; therefore, lighting is not a priority at this time.

Selectman Garay applauded the Recreation Commission for addressing improvements to this downtown park. She commented that beautification of a Park goes along with the whole concept of downtown revitalization. Selectman Kennerson agreed.

Administrative Assistant Hayward informed the Board that quotes for a new telephone system for Town Hall have exceeded the \$15,000 capital allocation. She continues to be in discussion with two vendors , but does not have final number yet. The Selectmen decided to make adjustments to the Capital plan, by increasing the phone system to \$20,000 and reducing sidewalk funding to \$70,000.

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The Selectmen moved on to review the General Government Budget line by line. Mr. Jerram presented the request he had received from the Ambulance Association. They are requesting a significant increase in their allocation. They are suffering from a reduction in revenues and have the expense of a new ambulance in their future. Selectman Kennerson stated that she would like additional data from the Association, especially projected revenue sources and expense detail. She commented that “she supports their cause, but wants more data.”

The Selectmen discussed where to place the expenses associated with Bakerville School maintenance. They decided to place it as a stand -alone expense rather than attach it to a specific department.

Concern regarding expenses associated with drainage was expressed by Selectman Garay who encouraged the Board to increase that line item by \$10,000.

Allocations to the libraries were discussed and the Board agreed that the town cannot continue to afford to increase the allocations each year. It was decided not to fully fund at the requested levels. A 1% increase was budgeted for each library.

Conservation Commission, Open Space Planning , Economic Development and Assessment Appeals Board were discussed and the Board decided to reduce these line items.

The First Selectman noted that as it now stands, the increase in the taxes associated with the budget will be 1.65%.

MOTION: by Kennerson to approve the DRAFT BUDGET DATED MARCH 10, 2016 to be presented to the Board of Finance; the total General Administration Budget stands at \$24,126,875.12; seconded by Garay.

Unanimous.

Minutes:

MOTION: by Kennerson to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen dated February 23, 2016 as presented; seconded by Garay.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson to accept the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Selectmen dated February 29, 2016 as presented; seconded by Garay.

Unanimous.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

First Selectman Jerram announced that the candidate for the Economic Development Commission that needed to seek approval from his employer regarding his desire to serve as a member of the

commission has received that approval. Therefore, Mr. Jerram recommended that the Board appoint Robert Boyan to the EDC.

MOTION: by Kennerson to appoint Robert Boyan to fill a vacancy and serve as a member of the Economic Development Commission, term to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Garay.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion related to pending litigation; Minor versus the Town of New Hartford at 10:00 PM; seconded by Garay.

Jerram, Kennerson, and Garay entered into Executive Session.

Jerram, Kennerson and Garay exited from Executive Session at 10:22 PM.

MOTION: by Kennerson to approve the agreement between Dennis Minor and the Town of New Hartford as proposed and to authorize the First Selectman to sign on behalf of the Town; seconded by Garay.

Mr. Jerram commented that this approval has been recommended by CIRMA, the Town's insurance agent, and has also been recommended by the Attorney acting on behalf of the Town.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Jerram to adjourn at 10:25 PM, seconded by Garay.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant