

**Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting**

**April 6, 2016**

**Minutes**

**Present:** First Selectman Dan Jerrram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Laura Garay; School Building Committee Chairman Denton (Bud ) Butler; Open Space Preservation Commission Members Jean Cronauer (Chairman) and Rusty Warner; Conservation Commission Chairman Alison Murdock; Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

**Minutes:**

In the interest of time, First Selectman Jerrram suggested that this agenda item be moved to the end of the agenda and acted upon at that time, if time remains to do so; all Selectman agreed.

**Antolini School Project – Phase 2: Contract approval; authorization to sign:**

Denton Butler, Chairman of the School Building Committee was present to give information to the Selectmen regarding the results of the recent bid opening for Phase 2 of the School Building project – ADA, Doors, Windows, Air-handlers; The low bid was received from Scope Construction in the amount of \$1,563,800. Additional costs related to architects fees and potential abatement issues raise the cost of this phase of the project to \$2,427,850. This total is below the original estimate for this phase. The committee has endorsed the bid and now requests that the Board of Selectmen follow their recommendation and authorize the First Selectman to sign a contract with Scope Construction. Mr. Butler noted that the completion of phase 1 of the project – the roof—was delayed due to the addition of roof guards that will prevent some icing issues that were noted during the winter months. This work, when completed should not raise the total of the roof project above \$1,010,745.00. Therefore, it is anticipated that both phases of the project will result in a project that will be a little more than \$1,000,000 under budget. Butler noted that the School Building Committee had approved a motion that all remaining funds appropriated for this project remain unexpended.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to approve the recommendation of the School Building committee to accept the bid from Scope Construction in the amount of \$1,563,800 for the windows, ADA, HVAC project identified as State Project No. 092-0038 and further to authorize First Selectman Daniel Jerrram to execute any contracts for the project; seconded by Garay.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Butler for his report and for his continued service to this project.

*Unanimous.*

**Budget request from Open Space Preservation and Conservation Commission:**

First Selectman Jerram noted that the Chairman of both the Open Space Preservation Commission and the Conservation Commission were present to discuss additional funding to the line items established for their respective commissions. It was noted that an e-mail had been sent to the members of the Board of Selectmen expressing disappointment that the line items had been cut for the 2016-2017 budget year (attached).

Mrs. Cronauer, Chairman of the Open Space Preservation Commission introduced Rusty Warner, a member of the Commission and offered him the opportunity to address the Selectmen. Mr. Warner informed the Selectmen that he has vast experience and knowledge related to Conservation and Land Management practices. He urged the Selectmen to recognize the importance to communities that preservation and conservation of land has. He stated the importance of embracing a philosophy of protection and proper utilization of natural resources.

Mrs. Cronauer commented that the Open Space plan shows that the Town has a goal of 30% of its land being designated as Open Space. She noted the difficulty of being able to predict what funding level will be needed in any given year for the Commission. This is due to the unpredictability of when there is a project that needs specific funds for things such as appraisals.

Mrs. Cronauer noted that she has learned that the Selectmen intend to increase the frequency of town wide mailings to residents and asked if it would be possible for the Open Space Commission to take advantage of any space in the mailing for their news. Mr. Jerram replied that if there was some specific news that the Commission would like to share with the town, that it would be possible to include their information in the mailing.

Mrs. Cronauer asked if the Selectmen would be willing to consider an ordinance that allows for a tax abatement for property owners who intend to preserve their land. She noted that there are property owners in town who are "land rich, but tax dollar poor," and that such an abatement might help them. First Selectman Jerram said that the Board would look at any ordinance brought before them, but he could not make any promises without having all of the information to consider. Jerram stated that there is still a balance due from the Open Space Fund to General Fund for the purchase of the Phillips Farm. He was pleased to report, however, that due to recent sales of some properties in some subdivisions, it may not be much longer before that debt can be paid off.

Regarding the line items for the commissions, Mr. Jerram stated that the three year rolling average is what is used to assist in determining budgets for line items. Jerram noted that \$600.00 is the average expenditures for the Commissions and that the current proposed level is \$2,000.00. Jerram stated that there are other avenues that can be used for funding if there is a specific need the commission has. For example, professional services could be used for appraiser's fees or the communications line item for approved mailings. The First Selectman explained that it is difficult to have a line item have excess funds in it year after year due to the fact that taxpayers then feel as if they have been overtaxed.

Ms. Murdock informed the Board that the Conservation Commission has plans to work on completion of trails on the Phillips Farm property and also plans to complete a Natural Resources Inventory, but as of this time, they "have not figured out what we need to do."

**2016-2017 Budget :**

First Selectman Jerram stated to the Selectmen that , due to the Board of Education's decision to include the \$90,000 in Bakerville School maintenance costs back into the proposed BOE 2016-2017 budget, it was necessary for the Board of Selectmen to adjust their budget and remove that cost. Since the budget has changed, it is now necessary for the Selectmen to approve the revised budget that will be presented to the public at the Public Budget hearing later this evening.

**MOTION:** by Garay to approve the removal of the \$90,000 in costs associated with Bakerville School and approve a proposed budget of \$24,254,608.12.; seconded by Kennerson.

*Unanimous.*

First Selectman Jerram informed the Selectmen that there are 6 things that he would like to ask the Board of Finance to reconsider and look at prior to approving a proposed budget to take to referendum. He explained to the Selectmen the following:

Shared Service no longer rents space from the local Board of Education. There is currently an anticipated revenue in the amount of \$17,431.00 listed for next year and this should be removed.

Oak Hill rental fee is not correct; it is shown as \$53,992.00 when it is actually \$66,419.00; this should properly be reflected on the anticipated revenues sheet.

Jerram would like the Board of Finance to consider a request to purchase a new Town Vehicle (JEEP) using unexpended highway overtime funds; he would ask that funds be transferred from the operating budget to the capital budget this year to finance the purchase of the vehicle.

The purchase of the vehicle would afford the opportunity to reduce the request for a vehicle from next year's capital and would reduce capital request by \$35,000.

After consultation with the Town Auditor, Jerram would like to increase the revenue from surplus. It is currently stated as \$200,000 and Jerram would like to see this increased to \$245,000.; this would then bring the general fund to just a little over \$3 million.

The Tax Collector is planning to hold another tax sale in July. One property alone owes more than \$150,000 and it is anticipated that this property will sell and the town will recoup the back taxes. Therefore, Jerram would like to see the prior taxes line increased on the revenue sheet.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson, to approve the recommendations made by the First Selectman and recommend that Mr. Jerram refer these items to the Board of Finance for discussion and possible action; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

**Opportunity for Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:**

No comments

**Request for Tax Refunds:**

First Selectman Jerram announced that he had received 6 requests for refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector. He read them aloud.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to approve the requests for refunds of taxes as recommended by the Tax Collector (\$183.10 to William H. Harriss III & Teresa Pezzano-Harris for 2013 Subaru Impresza due to Prorated – moved out of state; \$85.01 to William H. Harriss III & Teresa Pezzano-Harris for 2000 Jeep Cherokee due to prorated – moved out of state; \$32.70 to William H. Harriss III & Teresa Pezzano-Harris for 1995 Ford Mustang - due to Prorated – moved out of state;\$160.57 William H. Harriss III & Teresa Pezzano-Harris for 2004 Merz C320 due to Prorated – moved out of state;\$75.37 William H. Harriss III & Teresa Pezzano-Harris for 2013 Chev KTA due to Prorated – moved out of state; \$4,022.45 to Cramer & Anderson LLP for Dawson due to duplicate payment by buyer.); seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

**Correspondence:**

No Correspondence noted

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to adjourn at 6:50 PM; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*