

Board of Selectmen

Special Meeting

November 14, 2017

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Laura Garay, Selectman Alesia Kennerson via telephone conferencing; Town Clerk Donna LaPlante, Bookkeeper Annie Witte, Reporter Kathryn Boughton, Substitute Recording Secretary Jill Healey

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 4:10PM.

2017-2018 Budget:

First Selectman Jerram stated that with the State having passed their budget projected State Revenues for New Hartford are as follows:

Town Aid Roads	\$269,713.00
LOCIP	\$115,666.00
Adult Education	\$2,845.00
PEQUOT Grant	\$18,753.00
Grants for Municipal Projects	\$139,174.00
ECS	\$2,957,511.00
Special Education	\$83,845.00

He noted that a vote to approve the revenue included in the State budget would result in a .95% tax increase. Selectman Kennerson asked if the revenue was on target and First Selectman Jerram stated that Bookkeeper Annie Witte has verified that it is on target.

First Selectman Jerram proposed two changes in Town revenues. First, he stated as previously adopted the BOS voted to suspend the 8/1 and 11/1 debt service payments to the Town from the Water Pollution Control Authority and therefore the revenue figure should be \$33,075.00. Second, the Surplus Fund Balance should be increased from \$200,000 to \$250,000.

Selectman Garay asked if it was possible to eliminate a tax increase and First Selectman Jerram stated no.

Selectman Kennerson asked that the Board focus on expenditures.

First Selectman Jerram explained that union employees received a 2 ½ % contract increase and therefore he proposed a 1% increase for non-union employees and elected officials. In General Administration, the salaries would increase to; Bookkeeper's Assistant \$13,949.11, O.T.-Substitutes \$3,000.00, Tax Collector \$55,096.51, Tax Collector Assistant \$19,060.72, Treasurer \$7,222.51, Town Clerk \$63,107.83, and \$1000 restored to Supplies & Exp. And Vital Stats for a total of \$36,976.00. It should be noted that both the First Selectman and Administrative Assistant will not be taking raises.

First Selectman Jerram proposed that Snow Sand be restored to \$70,000.00, Snow Salt/Liquid Calcium be restored to \$80,000.00 and Pavement be restored to \$415,000.00.

In Parks & Recreation a 1% increase for the Recreation Program Director would increase the salary to \$25,404.53 and in the Commissions and Other Agencies, the Senior Director's salary would increase to \$26079.21. It was also proposed that the line items for both Economic Development and West Hill Lake each be \$8,000.00.

In Capital Expenditures, First Selectman Jerram proposed \$35,000.00 for Garage Equipment (lift system), \$18,000.00 for the Land Use Vehicle, \$25,000.00 for the WPCA (Pine Meadow Well-Rehab) and \$40,000.00 for the WPCA (Black Bridge Well-Rehab). Both Selectman Garay and Selectman Kennerson agreed that the wells are a priority.

Selectman Garay asked Selectman Kennerson if she had any further suggestions. Selectman Kennerson stated that she would like to do more however, "Let's put it to bed." She further stated that tax bills need to go out. Selectman Garay stated that she felt the budget was short on increases in town services. She stated that services are her priority and that she would like an additional \$2000.00 to Foothills VNA, more money to the EDC, Rails to Trails, the Town Garage, and the libraries. First Selectman proposed a 5% reduction of funding to both of the libraries instead of 10%. Selectman Kennerson stated that she agreed with the increases to Foothills VNA and the libraries however, she stated it was too nebulous for money to Rails to Trails. First Selectman Jerram explained that there is money in the town budget for startup costs. He also stated that with a potential industrial project, there would be a need for a sewer line and a garage is not warranted at this time. Selectman Garay stated that the garage cannot be ignored. Selectman Kennerson added that the Town cannot afford it at this time. Selectman Garay added that she would like the total line item for the EDC to be \$10,000.00. Selectman Kennerson felt that the EDC can do a lot with \$8000.00.

First Selectman Jerram noted that Resident Trooper Hazen has been promoted and will no longer be serving the Town of New Hartford. It is uncertain at this time the anticipated cost of his replacement. The line item was funded at 100% town share. Selectman Kennerson suggested a \$10,000.00 reduction to the Resident State Trooper line.

Motion: by Kennerson made a motion to implement the 1% raises to nonunion employees and elected officials, \$3000.00 for O.T. subs, restore moneys to the Town Clerk's Supplies & Expenses, Snow Sand, Snow Salt/Liquid Calcium, Pavement, Economic Development Commission, West Hill Lake, Foothills VNA,

EDC, and the two libraries, the proposed changes in Capital Expenditures including the lift system, Land Use Vehicle, Black Bridge and Pine Meadow Bridges, the reduction to the Resident State Trooper line, and finally, the two changes in revenue as outlined; seconded by Garay.

Unanimous

Motion: by Garay to adjourn at 4:45PM; seconded by Jerram.

Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Healey, Substitute Recording Secretary

