

**Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
December 18, 2017**

**Minutes**

**Present:** First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Eric Claman; Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward; Member of the Press Kathryn Boughton (Republican American); Several members of the public including John Burdick, Joe Toro, Laura Garay.

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

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions:**

First Selectman Jerram stated that the Selectmen would be attending to the annual appointments to Boards and Commissions this evening. He noted that the Conservation Commission Ordinance dictates the number of members on the Commission and it may need to be revised to reduce the required number of members. There has been difficulty in filling the vacancies and vacant positions make it hard to obtain a quorum for meetings. That will be an item for discussion at a later date.

The Board of Selectmen proceeded with their annual appointments.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to reappoint Christine Ringuette to serve as a member of the Commission on Aging; term to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to reappoint Alison Murdock to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission; term to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Claman.

Mr. Jerram stated, for the record, that Ms. Murdock has served on this Board for over 30 years. He thanked her publicly for her dedication and service to this Commission.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to reappoint Jim Brett to serve as a member of the Economic Development Commission; term to expire 12/31/2022; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to reappoint Robin Buzzi to serve as an alternate member of the Economic Development Commission; term to expire 12/31/2022; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTON:** by Kennerson to reappoint Fran Stoffer to serve on the Historic District Commission; term to expire 12/31/2022; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to reappoint Lou Moscaritolo, Steve Unger, and Nancy Shroeder Perez to continue to serve as members of the Inland Wetlands Commission; all terms to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to appoint Gerald Tabaka to fill a vacancy and serve as a member of the Inland Wetlands Commission; term to expire 12/31/2018; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to reappoint Madeline McClave and Caren Ross to continue to serve as members of the Open Space Preservation Commission; terms to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to reappoint Terence Moreschi to continue to serve as an alternate on the Open Space Preservation Commission; term to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to appoint Jeremy Schaller to fill a vacancy and serve as a member of the Recreation Commission; term to expire 12/31/2021; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to appoint Linda Aquavia to serve as a member of the Recreation Commission; term to expire 12/31/2021; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to reappoint Bill Marchand to continue to serve as a member of the Board for the Regional Refuse Disposal District; term to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to reappoint Michael LeClaire and Joe Toro to continue to serve as members of the Water Pollution Control Authority; terms to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**Approval of 2018 Meeting Schedule:**

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting schedule as presented; noting that regular meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, with the exception of the December meeting which will be held on the third Tuesday of December; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

**Approval of 2018 Holiday Schedule:**

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to approve the 2018 Holiday Schedule as presented, seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous*

**Operations Updates:**

First Selectman Jerram informed the Selectman that budget preparations for the 2018-2019 fiscal year will begin at the January 2018 meeting by discussing the Capital plan. The Board will review and discuss capital projects/purchases which will be taken to the Capital Advisory Committee for additional review. The Capital Advisory Committee will have a new member, due to the fact that the Board of Education representative was Jen Zenuh who is no longer a member of the Board of Ed. The Board of Education will be reminded that they need to appoint a member to the Capital Advisory Committee.

A cursory review of the existing Capital Plan was done in order to provide the newest Board member, Eric Claman, with some background on the plan. Mr. Jerram explained the status of some of the items included on the plan. He discussed the fact that the 2017-2018 capital plan suffered from budget cuts and a lot of the items that has been approved by the Board of Selectmen to be included on the plan had been cut. Jerram also explained that there are 2 town owned roads that have challenging conditions that will need to be addressed at some point. Stedman Road has been closed to through traffic for a few years due to the fear of a collapse of a section of roadway. There are no homes in the closed section of the road, which has allowed for partial closure of the road without affecting direct access to houses. An alternative route for the road has been considered; however, the town does not own the land where the road could possibly be re-routed. Mr. Jerram stated that the closure of Stedman Road has a negative impact on the ability to reroute traffic off of Route 202 in the event of an emergency. Stedman Road did provide a valuable detour route when needed.

Another road of concern is Satan's Kingdom Road in the Pine Meadow section of New Hartford. This road is in need of repairs, yet the costs of the repairs may exceed the property values of the homes that are on this road. Recently during a snow storm, a plow truck slid into the guard rails that are located on a section of the roadway. The guardrails were pushed out of place and do need to be replaced. Jerram stated that he hoped the guardrail could be reinstalled.

Other areas of concern that need funding include the following:

Sewer extensions – Jerram noted that a sewer extension analysis had been completed by members of the WPCA outlining areas where sewers could be added. Methods of acquiring funding from the state for extensions has changed in the past few years which makes it more challenging.

Town Garage – The Selectmen had discussed setting aside some funds each year to put into a sinking fund for the replacement of the town garage, but it has been difficult to keep that in the capital plan each year. Jerram noted that there is a verbal agreement with the Hurley property owners that the town will sell the town garage property to a potential buyer if there is interest in the Hurley property.

Rails to Trails – this initiative has considerable support, but the funds were cut from the Capital plan due to forced cuts made by the Board of Finance.

Butler acquisition – although the intent is for this purchase to be paid using funds from the Land Preservation Fund, a loan will be needed from the general fund to cover the payment as a loan until there are sufficient funds in the account. Jerram informed the Board that Cam Weimar, from the State, has reaffirmed that the state funding is still available for this acquisition but the State is looking for a firm commitment from the Town that they are moving forward with this purchase. Jerram noted that the Board of Selectmen voted to move this acquisition forward but the Board of Finance did not want to move it along due to the uncertainty of the budget.

Jerram updated the Selectmen with regards to Carpenter Road Bridge project. He noted that the attorneys are continuing to do what they do best and they are in discussion with the contractor and DEEP. Mr. Claman questioned if the site can be “cleaned up;” to which Mr. Jerram replied that he would not have the town crew go into the site as the contractor has the responsibility for that site at this time. It was noted that representatives from MDC met with Mr. Jerram and they stated that they have no concerns with the site at this time.

Mr. Jerram informed the Board that Mr. Dave Hurley will be recognized for his achievements in Economic Development with his transformation of the Hurley Building.

Bids for the potential sale of the water and/or wastewater systems of the Town of New Hartford will be opened publicly on Thursday.

Mr. Jerram noted the passing of Former Resident Trooper Al Ringklib, stating that he was a “good guy” and “loved by all.”

**Other Business:**

Selectman Kennerson commented that she had attended a workshop at the CCM Convention that had to do with Economic Development. The topic was business retention and expansion. She found it to be an excellent presentation and will share it with the Board.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to adjourn at 8:20 PM; seconded by Claman.

*Unanimous.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*