

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2019**

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Eric Claman, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Kennerson to accept the minutes dated October 22, 2019; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

Operation Updates:

First Selectman Jerram presented operations updates to the Selectmen. Of note were the following: The Town Hall Employees union has voted to use their discretionary day on Thursday, December 26, 2019. Therefore, Town Hall will be closed that day.

The Senior Director, Diane Barrett has resigned her position and has accepted full time employment with the Board of Education. Mr. Jerram noted that he had offered to increase her part time hours to full time if she would remain in the position. He noted that she had done a tremendous job in her tenure as Senior Director and she would be difficult to replace. She had energy and enthusiasm and brought new life and increased participation to the programs. She declined the full time offer, stating that she had years of bookkeeping experience, and although she enjoyed her days as Senior Director, she felt more comfortable in a bookkeeping position as a long term commitment.

Preparations for Light New Hartford continue. It will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2019. It is the same weekend as Thanksgiving weekend, but that happens every few years. The tradition is for Light New Hartford to be on the first Sunday in December.

Work will begin on the redesign of the waterfront area at Brodie Park. The Boat Mooring area will have the pitched concrete steps removed and a cable system for mooring boats that are stored there will be utilized.

Rails to Trails continues to move forward. A walk along the proposed route was performed with the consulting engineers to familiarize them with the area.

Petricones Pharmacy, a long standing institution in Torrington, will be opening a second store here in New Hartford. Mr. Jerram noted that he has been involved in discussions with the Petricones for longer than a year and is thankful that this is coming to be a reality.

Continued discussion of de minimis value of assessments:

The Selectmen continued their discussion from the prior meeting regarding the assessment of personal property in matters when the value of the property is such that the revenue received is not worth the effort of filing. The Selectmen were in agreement that the Assessor should be the one to have

discretion when it comes to waiving the requirement. The Selectmen discussed that the Assessor is an appointed position and there is still the ability of the Board of Selectmen to offer guidance and make recommendations regarding de minimis value and in the event that there is reluctance when it comes to implementation of such a policy, there could be the consequence of not being reappointed. There needs to be agreement and working together to make the threshold reasonable.

MOTION: by Kennerson to recommend that the Assessor establish a de minimis value based on an assessed value of \$500.00; with the ultimate goal being that the number of personal property accounts that are not profitable for the town are reduced; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous

Update Re USDA request for relief of Grant repayment:

First Selectman Dan Jerram informed the Selectmen that the day following the last meeting of the Board of Selectmen, correspondence was received from George Krivda from the USDA in the form of a draft letter approving a request for relief of grant repayment. Jerram noted that the Selectmen had approved a motion requesting that the First Selectman write a letter to the USDA expressing frustration regarding not having a response to the request for forgiveness. Obviously, it was not necessary for Mr. Jerram to draft such a letter.

Ms. Kennerson expressed her pleasure that the USDA was moving forward on this matter.

Appointment of Assessor:

First Selectman Jerram stated that the internal candidate in Town Hall that had expressed an interest in the Assessor position was no longer interested in being trained for that position. Jerram noted that there will be a need to hire someone to provide some support in the tax assessor office. He stated that there is a need to have an appointed Assessor and he recommended that Michele be that individual. He stated that he is very pleased with her performance.

MOTION: by Kennerson to appoint Michele Da Silva as Assessor for the Town of New Hartford; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

MOTION: by Claman to reappoint Anne Hall to serve as a member of the Inland Wetlands Commission; term to expire December 31, 2022; seconded by Kennerson.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson to reappoint Jean Cronauer and William Michaud to serve as members on the Open Space Preservation Commission; terms to expire December 31, 2022; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous

MOTION: by Kennerson to reappoint Arnold Helt, Joe Petrarca, and Edward McCann to serve as members on the Recreation Commission; terms to expire December 31, 2024; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson to reappoint Hans Anderson to serve as a member of the Board at RRDD#1; term to expire December 31, 2022; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson to reappoint Mary Beth Greenwood, David Douyard, and Denton Butler to serve as members on the Water Pollution Control Authority; terms to expire December 31, 2022; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson to reappoint Shelly Lloyd and Donna LaPlante to serve as members on the Economic Development Commission; terms to expire December 31, 2024; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson to reappoint Dan Jerram to serve as the representative to the Farmington Valley Health District; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

MOTION: by Kennerson to appoint Michael Lehman to serve as a member of the Historic District Commission; term to expire December 31, 2024; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

Meeting Schedule 2020:

MOTION: by Kennerson to approve the 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule as presented; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

Holiday Schedule 2020:

MOTION: by Kennerson to approve the Holiday Schedule for 2020 as presented; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

Request for Refunds of Taxes:2018 Grand List:

Ari Fleet LTD	overpayment – motor vehicle	\$509.84
Richard or Gayle DiBella	overpayment – motor vehicle	\$160.39
Richaud Maust	overpayment – motor vehicle	\$136.79

Peter or Deborah Ventre	overpayment – motor vehicle	\$23.59
Peter or Deborah Ventre	overpayment – motor vehicle	\$14.82
2017 Grand List:		
Earl H May 4 th	overpayment – motor vehicle	\$14.42

MOTION: by Kennerson to approve the Requests for Refunds of Taxes as presented by the Tax Collector; seconded by Claman.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant