

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
March 9, 2020**

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman David Rosengren, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Highway Superintendent Dave Helt, Member of the Press Kathryn Boughton (Republican- American); Member of the Public Jay Bailey, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

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

Review and Possible Action on Fiscal 2020/2021 Budget (both Operations and Capital):

The Selectmen reviewed the proposed budget. The Board of Finance will be reviewing the Capital Budget on March 10, 2020 and the Saturday budget workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2020.

Jerram stated that the school budget and Special Education budget will be the driving factors in the budget. The local school Board of Education has added a Social Worker position. Special Education costs are high and contractual obligations all contribute to an increase in the budget.

Negotiations for town employees (town hall, highway and police) are still underway.

The First Selectman told the Board that the Senior Citizens line item includes the wage for the Van Driver. The Van is being used a lot. Jerram asked the Selectmen if they would like to separate the wages from the Senior Center Supplies line. There is an old line item set up for LARC Transportation which is no longer needed and Jerram stated that this line could be changed to Senior Van Driver. The Selectmen agreed to making this change.

Mr. Jerram reviewed some of the capital needs for the highway department. He stated that highway superintendent Dave Helt has looked into financing the big truck as a way to catch up with needed equipment needs yet keep the budget request fairly level. However, Jerram stated that agreeing to financing over a period of a couple of years may impede other capital purchases in the next year due to an already committed expenditure. Therefore, this type of approval requires some planning. The roadside mower is 18 years old and needs to be replaced. The highway department is also in need of a mini excavator.

A discussion was held regarding the funds that have been set aside for a wash bay study. Jerram stated that since there does not seem to be consensus of the Board of Finance to fund a wash bay and therefore a study would not be good use of funds. He stated that there are other needs that could use the funds. The Steele Road Bridge will need some work done; the concrete is chipping and cracking and the piles are deteriorating. Cedar Lane Bridge has joints that are subject to scour. Selectman Rosengren stated that he would like to see some funding for an engineering study for the town garage. He would like to see an engineered plan of a new building that could be placed on any site. He also would like to have some testing done to see that the present site is environmentally sound.

Ms. Kennerson stated that she would like to fund bridge repairs. She said that the town garage has had some remediation work done to it and is a functioning facility.

The Selectmen made no decision regarding reclassifying the wash bay study funding.

Review and Possible action on previously approved (but unexpended) Capital Appropriations for Possible Reallocation:

Jerram asked the Selectmen to consider approving recommendations to forward to the Board of Finance for use of unexpended capital appropriations.

He stated that the highway department has requested funding to purchase a utility van to replace the utility truck that was recently decommissioned due to age and condition.

MOTION: by Kennerson to request consideration by the Board of Finance to reallocate \$22,608.56 of unexpended loader funds to purchase a van to replace the utility truck, seconded by Jerram.

Unanimous.

Mr. Jerram informed the Selectmen that there is a need to upgrade the software used by the Assessor. There are funds remaining from the revaluation and it is his recommendation that these be used to fund the software upgrade.

MOTION: by Kennerson to request consideration by the Board of Finance to reallocate \$6,828.89 using \$3,512.88 from unexpended EDC Pavilion, \$541.01 from unexpended Superintendent Truck and \$2775.00 from unexpended Senior Van, to cover Vision appraisal software upgrade; seconded by Jerram.

Unanimous.

Review and Possible Action on Possible Department Transfer for Senior Citizens (van expenses):

First Selectman Jerram informed the Selectmen that there may be a need to transfer funds from a different department to cover wages for the Van Driver. The Van usage has increased and the driver has been putting in additional hours. He will keep the Selectmen apprised of this line item.

Appointment to Western Regional Tourism District:

First Selectman Jerram told the Selectmen that a request has been received from the Western Regional Tourism District to appoint someone to replace Patrick Casey who had served on the Board. Mr. Casey has relocated and therefore cannot serve in this capacity anymore. Debbie Ventre, Assistant Town Clerk has volunteered to be appointed to this Board.

MOTION: by Kennerson to appoint Deborah Ventre to serve as New Hartford's representative on the Western Regional Tourism District; term to expire December 31, 2020.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant