

**Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
May 12, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** First Selectman Daniel Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman David Rosengren; Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 5:35

Mr. Jerram stated that there is one primary function of the meeting this evening and that is to honor the request made by the Board of Finance at their last meeting to make some adjustments to the budget proposal.

**Discussion/action regarding proposed cuts to proposed 2020-2021 General Government Budget:**

Mr. Jerram informed the Board that he has some recommendations to discuss with the Board that total roughly \$71,243.35.

The First Selectman stated that he has spoken with the various unions and he is confident that they are willing to forego raises for the 2020-2021 year. He would suggest zeroing out all raises for employees and elected officials. This would be roughly a \$40,000 reduction.

The Animal Control line item could be reduced by \$3000.00 Planning and Zoning legal fees could be reduced by \$2000. The stipends given to the libraries could be reduced by 2%, noting that the Town Budget is being reduced and salaries are being frozen; therefore, it does not seem appropriate to be increasing stipends at this point in time. The Town is asking all departments to lower their budgets and the libraries should be reduced.

Stanclift Cove allocation could be dependent on whether or not they open for the season. If they remain closed due to COVID, there would be no need for funds.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed changes.

A discussion of proposed revenues followed the discussion of expenditures.

Mr. Jerram expressed his concern that revenues may be reduced due to the current pandemic.

Selectman Rosengren expressed his concern that tax payments may be lower than anticipated due to lost wages experienced by residents. Mr. Rosengren stated that since there is so much uncertainty with how things are going to be with revenues; it might be best to hold off making decisions about the budget. He stated that there is a healthy fund balance that could be used if need be to fund expenses and fill holes in revenues.

Mr. Rosengren stated that the proposed cuts can have a negative impact on operations.

Jerram summarized the proposed changes to the budget:

Reduce Animal Control Officer by \$3000

Zoning Legal and Professional by \$2,000

Reduce Libraries by \$13,200

Reduce Stanclift Cove by \$3,000

Reduce West Hill Pond by \$1500

Reduce Paving by \$15,00

Reduce Capital by \$10,000 (remove electric charging station)

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to amend the proposed March 14, 2020 budget in operations by \$37,700 as summarized, as well as a \$10,000 capital reduction; seconded by Rosengren.

Mr. Rosengren commented that he did not think that paving should be cut and did not think that Libraries should be cut. He does not agree with the Board of Finance asking for the Board of Selectmen to make cuts to the budget. There is a healthy surplus that could be used to fund the budget. Selectman Kennerson stated that she felt that the Board of Selectmen is trying to be prudent on behalf of the taxpayers.

*In favor: Jerram, Kennerson*  
*Motion carries*

*Opposed: Rosengren*

First Selectman Jerram stated that he would bring forth the revised proposed budget to the Board of Finance at the meeting that is scheduled for tonight.

**Appointment to Boards and Commissions (Inland Wetlands):**

Mr. Jerram informed the Selectmen that a former member of the Inland Wetlands Commission, Mr. Wayne Ryznar has moved back to New Hartford after having moved away for a few years. He expressed an interest in serving on the Inland Wetlands Commission again and Chairman Hall was more than happy to recommend this appointment.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to appoint Mr. Wayne Ryznar to serve as an alternate member on the Inland Wetlands Commission; seconded by Jerram

Mr. Rosengren stated that he was in a difficult position because he does not know this individual and was not given any information about this person prior to the meeting, therefore he would have to abstain

*In Favor: Kennerson, Jerram*

*Abstain: Rosengren*

**Appointment of Animal Control Office – change in status:**

Mr. Jerram explained that there has been a change in the position of Animal Control Officer. The prior appointed Animal Control Officer resigned his position and the Assistant Animal Control has stepped up and taken the calls for service that have come in.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to appoint Daniel LaPlante as Animal Control Officer for the Town of New Hartford for a term that expires on December 31, 2021; seconded by Jerram.

*Unanimous.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*

*No attachments*