

**New Hartford Board of Finance
Regular Meeting –Town Hall
December 11, 2012**

PRESENT: Chairman Ben Witte, Members Jim Fitzgerald, Kate Rieger, Dan Charest, Maria Moore, Alternates Joe Gareis & Bill Coates, Treasurer Gordon Ross, Selectwoman Alesia Kennerson, Recreation Commission Representative Dan Eddy, School Building Study Committee members Denton Butler & Roy Litchfield, and Penny Miller, Recording Secretary.

Chairman Witte called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Seating of Alternates: Bill Coates was seated for Reggie Smith (who arrived at 7:33 p.m.)

Adoption/Revision of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Rieger, second Fitzgerald to approve the minutes dated November 13, 2012.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions

Opportunity for the Public to Speak: none

School Building Study Committee Update – Denton Butler

Denton Butler of the School Building Study Committee along with Roy Litchfield presented this update. The Board of Education has sent a letter to the Board of Selectman to set up a meeting to discuss the roof, replacement of the windows, doors & air handlers at the Ann Antolini School. While there was the assumption they had a pending application for windows & doors – the state had cancelled it because of lack of communication. Because there isn't a pending application – nothing will happen in 2013 and doubtful that it will happen in 2014. It would take seven months to come off of the review pile even if they had the application ready today.

There are certain criteria for the doors. They must have a push bar on it to get out, there must be a window in the door and it must be 3/0 not 2/8. To do an analysis the cost would be around \$20,000 and take about 90 days. Seventeen architectural firms have looked at the RFP and the bids are due December 12th.

Facilities analysis includes many things. The successful bidder will be required for all triggers that will result in additional costs. There will be a placeholder. There will be a 75 day turn-around time.

One Board of Education member asked where the money was coming from and they were told that it wasn't in the scope of the school building committee.

There is nothing to stop the State of Connecticut from doing a spot audit of code compliance at the school.

The roof analysis was done prior to the 2010 storm when there were snow blowers up on the roof to remove all the snow. No one has made an analysis of the roof since then.

The RFP is out for facilities analysis. A facility plan costs around \$20,000. Once you get the numbers in – they will interview the qualified respondents and make a recommendation to the Board of Education.

Reports:

Bookkeeper's Report – Annie Witte:

Bookkeeper Witte was not present to give a verbal report. The Expenditures & Revenue reports had been sent out to all members and are filed with these minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Gordon Ross:

Treasurer Ross reported that the AP account at the Bank of America has been closed. Only some smaller accounts remain there –\$20,599.

First Selectman's Report – Dan Jerram:

Mr. Jerram was not present. He did ask that we talk about purchase of the new DPW plow truck – asking to move the money we were refunded from the RRDD line item to capital to pay for the purchase of this truck. The truck is just under \$150,000 and we have \$53,000 allocated to this purchase in the capital account. A copy of the letter regarding the refund is filed with these minutes. Also filed is an email from Chris King, Town Auditor & a letter from Roraback & Roraback, Town Attorneys regarding this transfer without town meeting approval.

MOTION: by Rieger, second Coates to transfer \$100,000 from the RRDD1 line item to the Capital Expenditure Account for the purchase of the new DPW plow truck.

Aye: All members present, Moore opposed, Smith abstained.

Election of Chair for 2013:

MOTION: by Charest, second Rieger to nominate Ben Witte as chairman for the upcoming 2013 year.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions

Other Items to come before the board:

1. Member Rieger updated the board on the school consolidation. Dattco Bus Company did a presentation at the Bakerville School for the committee. A newspaper account of that report is filed with these minutes. There will not be a school consolidation in the 2013/2014 fiscal year.
2. On November 28th there was a meeting with the Superintendent of Region 7, Chairman Witte, Mr. Jerram and others to talk about the upcoming budget. Starting with the 2016/17 freshman year students will need 25 credits to graduate. The current plan has this being done 2 years ahead of the deadline. This will add around \$250,000 to the budget for new teachers, books, etc. to implement this.

Adjournment:

MOTION: by Fitzgerald, second Moore to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Aye: All members present, no opposition, no abstentions

Respectfully submitted:

Penny Miller
Recording Secretary