

**Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
Thursday, January 28, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman Laura Garay, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward;

Also in attendance were the Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy and several members of the Board of Education. Member of the Press Kathryn Boughton (Republican American) was also present. Additionally, 100+ members of the public attended this public meeting held in the Multi-purpose room of Ann Antolini School.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He stated that the meeting had 5 items on the agenda; with the first 3 having to do with the Bakerville School issue and the remaining 2 items were "housekeeping items."

He addressed the public setting his expectations for the conduct of the meeting, specifically asking that dignity and respect be the guidelines for the evening. He noted that "not everyone will agree on specifics" but requested that there be kindness and further requested that everyone hear what each other has to say.

**Acknowledgement /discussion of receipt of petition to keep Bakerville School open:**

First Selectman Jerram acknowledged that the Board of Selectmen were in receipt of a petition that had been presented to the Town Clerk. He read the language of the petition into the record and noted that the petition was received on January 18, 2016. A cover letter written by New Hartford resident Thomas Buzzi accompanies the petition and the letter indicates that 411 individuals signed the petition. Mr. Jerram stated that Town Clerk Donna LaPlante has opined that the petition is not a valid legal petition, due to the fact that it is not prepared according to State Statutes. There are specific guidelines as to what constitutes a legal petition; specifically that each page needs to have signatures attested to by the circulator of that page of the petition. This petition is also lacking the formal request for a town meeting/referendum. Mr. Jerram stated that even though the petition is not legal, he did ask the Town Clerk to go through the signature verification process; which resulted in 299 signatures being "verified." Jerram commented that although the petition is not valid, the value of the petition should not be negated. "People from all over town have signed the document, it is far reaching," he said. Selectman Kennerson agreed that this issue is something that needs to be considered and she would like to hear more from the public regarding this. Selectman Garay echoed both Mr. Jerram and Ms. Kennerson; reiterating that the Board needs to hear from the people of the town. She stated that she welcomed all comments.

**Opportunity for Public Comment regarding BOE decision to close Bakerville School:**

First Selectman Jerram opened the floor to public comment.

**Tom Buzzi of Niles Road:**

Mr. Buzzi thanked the Board for holding this meeting. He wanted to clarify for the public, that, although the petition was deemed to be invalid, the Board of Selectmen still have the ability to call a Town Meeting/referendum. He indicated that he could get 20 signatures on a valid petition to call a Town Meeting without any difficulty. "People are upset..." he said. He expressed his frustration with the Board of Education's decision making process; reading aloud sections of the minutes from the October 6, 2015 Board of Ed meeting where it seemed that the Board of Ed had "largely dismissed" the possibility of closing Bakerville School. Meetings in November 2015 had no discussion related to closing the school and there was no indication that action in that direction was being considered. He asked, "how do you go from taking no action to deciding to close?" Mr. Buzzi stated that "people want a voice" and noted that there is a lot of anxiety regarding the decision that has been made to close Bakerville. He urged the Selectmen to take the issue to a town vote.

First Selectman Jerram responded to Mr. Buzzi. He noted that those who serve on the Board of Education are volunteers who try hard for the Town. In fairness, he had asked Superintendent of Schools Brian Murphy to review how many times the subject of the possible closure was on the agenda during the past year. Mr. Murphy had indicated that number to be 5 times; (former Board of Ed Chairman Joshua Adams interjected that he believed the number to be 6). Jerram noted that the Board of Selectmen were formally informed of the decision to close the school via written correspondence received in December. There is currently no viable long term solution for use of the school. Jerram noted that Recreation has been one suggested use, however, the town currently has Berkshire Hall at Brodie Park. The Commission on Aging has also indicated that the building may make a good Senior Center.

**Karl Hermanot of Cedar Lane:**

Mr. Hermanot stated that he has addressed the Board previously at a Board of Finance meeting and he also attended the most recent Board of Education meeting. His commentary included his concerns regarding impact on the neighborhood environment if the school is closed. Another concern is the impact on future classroom size. He indicated he may not be opposed to the closing if he felt that there would be adequate room for growth once consolidation occurs; but he doesn't feel that has been proven. His issue was that there doesn't appear to be any long-term planning. He noted that the sewer plant was increased base due to projections that didn't pan out. He urged caution when basing decisions on projections.

First Selectman Jerram responded to Mr. Hermanot, informing him that there is some information available depicting a classroom breakout for the 2 schools. He stated that he would see if this information can get posted to the website. He agreed with Mr. Hermanot that the Wastewater

Treatment Plant Upgrade was based on projections and noted how difficult the decision that was made based on those projections has been on both the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance.

*Kate D'Angelo Radano of 46B Gibson Lane:*

Ms. Radano stated that she was a parent of a Bakerville School student and added that she grew up here. She was concerned about the possible displacement of staff members and the negative impact it might have on learning. She urged for reconsideration.

Mr. Jerram thanked her for her input and reiterated that the Selectmen would be reviewing the input received this evening to decide if this issue should be brought to a public vote, again stating that any vote would be advisory.

*Kelly O'Dell Longhi of O'Keefe Lane:*

Ms. Longhi responded to comments made earlier in the evening regarding the fact that the topic of Bakerville School closing had been on the agenda of Board of Ed meetings 6 times. She took that to imply that residents had "missed the boat." She defended the townspeople, commenting that when an agenda item is repeated several times and there is nothing to lead anyone to believe that action may be taken, one becomes "numb" to that item. She added that a topic of such importance (school closing) should have been "more than a blurb on an agenda." She stated that she felt blindsided that such a decision was made; noting that she moved to New Hartford based on the school her daughter would attend – and that school was Bakerville.

Mr. Jerram replied that he was very understanding of the fact that it is very hard to attend meetings. He stated that there are many meetings held where no one comes; but the fact that there was little attendance at those meetings does not diminish the value of ones' opinion this evening. The Board strives to seek input from residents and many times does not get any; therefore they are here seeking that input tonight. He stated that there are many issues that the town currently has to confront and the Board of Selectmen takes "their marching orders from the public."

*Roxanne Helt of East Cotton Hill Road:*

Ms. Helt informed the Board that she was one of the members who had served on the Consolidation Task Force Committee that had been formed a couple of years back. She stated that the group had put in a lot of hours and hard work and noted that the task force had issued a finding that there was not enough documentation at the time to support the closing of Bakerville School. Ms. Helt commented that she had met someone who indicated that concerns have been expressed regarding too many transitions between kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; children who attend kindergarten at Antolini would be transitioned to New Hartford Elementary for one year and then back to Antolini the following year. She has heard that due to this possibility, some are considering attending Magnet schools. Ms. Helt noted that it is "sad that our kids are going to another town and may not come back here because of too many transitions."

*Minutes – Board of Selectmen – January 28, 2016 p. 4*

Mr. Jerram noted that there are 17 students currently attending Magnet Schools. The local Board of Education gets billed for these students and they need to pay this tuition from the local school budget. He also commented that the Governor has just flat lined the Education Cost Sharing Grants to local schools and it may get cut again.

At this point in the meeting, a local businessman from Harwinton, CT by the name of Ed Peruta addressed the crowd; stating that he was present to videotape the proceedings of the meeting and noted that the tape would be uploaded to “YouTube” for public viewing. He stated that he worked with Attorney Rachel M. Baird and that she had been approached by two residents concerning this school closure issue. Mr. Peruta indicated that this topic was one of interest and that his intent was to attend future Board of Selectmen and Board of Education meetings as a follow up to this meeting.

*Linda Goff of Maple Hollow Road:*

Ms. Goff spoke publicly to the Selectmen, stating “Shame on me for not going to some meetings” noting that she had been very active in serving the Town over the past 25 years; but noted that it is hard to make very meeting. She went on to say, “ but shame on the Board of Education for coming to a decision without properly notifying the townspeople.” She felt that for a decision as big as this one was, there should have been public outreach. She noted that there was an election in November and questioned why consideration was not given to having this as an item to vote on at that time. She also questioned the timing of making this decision right after new representatives were elected to the Board of Education. Ms. Goff also commented on the most recent Board of Education meeting where she felt that the public was treated poorly and without respect. She then stated rhetorically, “we are the taxpayers, do we stand a chance?”

First Selectman Jerram responded to Ms. Goff; stating once again his acknowledgement that attending meetings can be difficult to do. He encouraged those present to take advantage of the Town of New Hartford Website for meeting agendas and minutes; adding that he would recommend signing up for e-mail blasts. He noted that getting press coverage is very difficult; stating that the Republican-American is the only local paper that provides consistent coverage of New Hartford.

*Lorena Helt of Birdsvie Avenue:*

Ms. Helt stated that voters elect representatives to serve on Boards, trusting that they will look out “for our best interests.” She stated that the recent action taken by the Board of Education has “poked a sleeping bear.... more people will start to pay more attention.” Ms. Helt commented that one recourse the public has when they feel helpless is to vote down a budget. She asked that the School Board reconsider their position; so that cooler heads can prevail.

Mr. Jerram commented that the show of people at recent meetings shows that there are questions and concerns about our town. He stated, “we are all vested and we all hope for a good outcome.”

*Minutes – Board of Selectmen – January 28, 2016 p. 5.*

*Maria Moore of Town Hill Road:*

Ms. Moore announced that she was a member of the Board of Finance until recently and noted that she served on the same Consolidation Task Force that Roxanne (Ms. Helt) had referenced earlier. Ms. Moore noted that during that time, she published the local newspaper, the Independent which provided coverage of town meetings. There was one parent that attended the task force meetings and he expressed surprise that no one was showing up to the meetings. While on the consolidation task force committee, Ms. Moore had suggested to that committee that they engage the services of a consultant from Education Connection, Jonathan Costa, to perform a study and then present the findings in a manner that could be understood. The cost of such a study was about \$2,500 and her suggestion was turned down. She asked that the public stop blaming the Board of Education for their decision; the Consolidation Committee should have made a decision to engage the consultant. Ms. Moore noted that some parents make educational choices for their children to attend alternative schools due to the education type that they will receive. She reminded all present to separate the educational component of the issue from the 'beautiful building.' She urged all to ask "What is best for the children?" and to consider "What would be the best use of the building?"

First Selectman Jerram thanked Ms. Moore for her comments and added that perhaps contacting Mr. Costa now might be beneficial to the process.

*Kerry Guilfoyle of Cedar Lane:*

Ms. Guilfoyle remarked that the number one reason why she moved to New Hartford was because of the schools. She is concerned that consolidation will lead to overcrowding in classrooms. She indicated that she had looked into the possibility of sending her children (one in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and the other in 6<sup>th</sup>) to Magnet Schools, but had shied away from that due to the fact that she did not get a 'sense of community' within a magnet school. She questioned the premise that transportation costs will not be increased if consolidation occurs. She feels that those costs are underestimated and that there will be a negative impact on the projected savings.

*Kevin Longhi of O'Keefe Lane:*

Mr. Longhi stated that he would like to see New Hartford model after Colebrook; explaining that there had been consideration that Colebrook and Norfolk merge and regionalize their schools. However, the townspeople of Colebrook decided to keep Colebrook Schools despite increased costs. He asked that the Board of Selectmen urge the Board of Education to put things on hold until there is a plan for the use of the building.

Mr. Jerram replied that he has kept abreast of the Colebrook situation and noted again that the Selectmen cannot overrule a decision made by the Board of Education; they can only provide input.

*Bonnie Marsh – Winchester Road:*

Ms. Marsh expressed her fondness for the New Hartford School System. She stated that she is a 44 year resident of New Hartford and has no children or grandchildren in the current school system; but remains

supportive of the Bakerville School due to the fact that she had a daughter who was in Special Education and was able to remain in the regular classroom due to the staff.

*Amy Damboise of Barberrry Drive:*

Ms. Damboise stated that she was concerned that consolidation would lead to increased class sizes. This is of great concern to her due to the fact that she has a child who currently has a “504 plan” and is able to receive the support he needs in a regular classroom due to small class size. A larger class size for her child might be the difference between having a formal IEP or not. Ms. Damboise is of the opinion that there could be a significant increase in special education expenses if class sizes increase. This increase in special education costs could offset the potential savings of consolidation.

*Erica Mumm of Steele Road:*

Ms. Mumm expressed her appreciation to the Board of Selectmen for having this meeting. She stated that, unlike others present, she has attended the majority of Board of Education meetings. She felt that the topic of the potential closing of Bakerville was “devalued” at most meetings. She expressed her frustration when speaking at the meetings as it seemed to her that “comments don’t matter.” She stated that no one provides any commentary or elicits additional information. She is concerned that the Board of Education is not following their own mission or vision. She noted that the pre-school program has been modified over the past few years and the program is not being portrayed as it was intended. She ended her commentary by stating that she would like to see “advocacy for the child over advocacy of the line item.”

*Robert Boyan of Country Lane:*

Mr. Boyan stated that his daughter had attended Bakerville School. Mr. Boyan said that there is trust placed in elected officials to make day to day decisions, but when something important comes up, there is an expectation that people will be informed so that they can participate. He commented that when school is called off early due to inclement weather, he will get text messages, voice mail and e-mails yet “there was nothing when they voted to close Bakerville School.” Mr. Boyan told those present that he grew up in New Hampshire in a town where the residents voted to spend money to keep two schools open. He said that the general public needs to be included in the decision and further stated that “if it costs me a few extra dollars to keep it open, I’ll pay it.” (note; this remark was met with applause and a chorus of “me, too” from several in the audience).

*Arnie Helt of Birdsvievw Avenue:*

Mr. Helt stated that “if this were about closing New Hartford Elementary, I would still be here.” He said that this town has had a “3 school system” for over 50 years, adding “if it’s not broke, don’t fix it.” He added that if there’s an imbalance in the class sizes between the schools, that should be addressed differently, not through consolidation. He expressed his concern with relying on estimates and projections.

*Margaret Koester of Marsh Road:*

Ms. Koester admitted that she had not been to any of the meetings that addressed consolidation. She expressed concerns with adding to the student population at both schools. She asked what kind of long term planning had been done and questioned if the septic systems and water supply had been evaluated and if reconfiguration of classrooms had been explored? She stated her concern with adding 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to Ann Antolini, noting that the cafeteria is already “jammed” and questioned how lunch and recess would work.

First Selectman Jerram replied that there are some reconfiguration plans available and reiterated his earlier response that he will try to make those available.

*Alicia Boucher of Niles Road:*

Ms. Boucher stated that her son currently attends New Hartford Elementary School. She said that she has no nostalgia regarding closing of Bakerville School due to the fact that she has not lived here that long. She would like to see more children of his age attend New Hartford Elementary, but not at the expense of that school becoming overcrowded. His Kindergarten class is currently at 21 children and he has a 45 minute bus ride each way, each day. If closing Bakerville School will have a negative impact on her son, then she'd like those students to stay at Bakerville.

*Tom Buzzi of Niles Road:*

Mr. Buzzi readdressed the assembly. He reiterated his earlier comments that the minutes of the October 2015 Board of Education meeting show that the closing of Bakerville School was not recommended at that time due to the fact that it was anticipated that New Hartford Elementary would be at capacity, with no room for growth. Mr. Buzzi noted that several members of the Board of Education were present in the audience at this meeting and he asked if they would consider changing their vote?

*John (Jack) Casey of Cedar Lane:*

Mr. Casey asked, “what will the value of my property be if the school is closed?” He noted that he has a large home in the Bakerville School district with many bedrooms and bathrooms and wondered if there would be a negative effect on his property if the local school was closed and the closest school was now farther away. He also noted that right now, he has no school aged children in that home, but he would anticipate that if he were to sell, it would be to a family with young children who would like a school close by.

*Bill Baxter of Steele Road:*

Mr. Baxter, a former First Selectman, stated that he has 47 years of student participation in the local schools – his children and now his grandchildren. He cautioned against using projections to make decisions, stating that “twelve years ago, it was projected that there would be 150 more children in our schools during that next decade and it was anticipated that there would be a need to add on to Antolini School.” He stated that in 2007, things changed and now we have 120 less students than 10 years ago.

He doesn't think that overcrowding will be an issue as it will take several years to get back to where things were. Baxter commented that he came to the meeting leaning toward closing the school, but after listening to the comments, he has changed his mind. He stated that the town has bigger issues, but he would suggest that an advisory vote be taken and he would ask that the Board of Education take a step back, slow down the process and take time to make the decision.

*Donna LaPlante of Old Steele Road:*

Ms. LaPlante stated that her 2 sons went to Bakerville School. She noted that it was the teachers and the Board of Education that made it a positive experience. She trusted and still does trust the Board of Education to have the best interests of all students in mind when they make a decision. Ms. LaPlante noted that she had reviewed the signatures on the petition and recognizes that there are many reasons why those who signed did so. She stated that she has heard parents say this evening that they want smaller classes. She noted that it was unfortunate that the Board of Education did not state a few years back that they would consider closing a school when demographics supported such a change. Ms. LaPlante noted that she has read that towns that embrace change do well, whereas towns that don't embrace change don't.

Ms. LaPlante also commented that being leaders does not always mean being popular. There are those that need to make decisions but they also need to be forthcoming with information.

First Selectman Jerram thanked Ms. LaPlante for her comments and stated that it was his opinion that the Board of Education knew that this was going to be a "tough one" and he commented that it "says a lot that there are many members here tonight."

*Anita Baxter of Steele Road:*

Ms. Baxter informed those present that she has been involved with the local system on many levels; as a mother, grandmother, former member of the Board of Education and as a former First Selectwoman. She hoped that the Board of Education would reconsider its action and hold a joint meeting with the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to discuss this issue. She noted that it is not easy to make the decision of what to do with Bakerville School and it is a decision that should have input from various stakeholders. She ended her commentary with a message to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen, stating, "be careful of blind adherence to the concept of no new taxes..... this will lead us in one direction – "Winsted."

Mr. Jerram stated that there has been some possible interest in use of Bakerville School—by the Historical Society and by the Seniors; but those are just ideas and nothing more at this point. He agreed with Ms. Baxter that blind adherence to no new taxes can lead to pitfalls.

*Robyn Buzzi of Niles Road:*

Ms. Buzzi addressed the crowd, saying that everyone wants what is in the best interest of their child. She is concerned that there isn't any planning being done. Overcrowding of classrooms in New Hartford will lead to some of the problems experienced by schools in Torrington, where she experience since she has worked there as a paraprofessional. She has heard that 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders would act as mentors to



the younger children at Antolini. She was opposed to this. She wants everyone to work together and find a viable solution.

*Glenn Phillips of East Cotton Hill Road:*

Mr. Phillips expressed his concern with transportation; both time and costs. He does not think that the information being distributed regarding length of bus routes is accurate. He also could not understand how the bus contract would not go back out to bid. He was leery that the current contract would be honored. He said that he would expect the costs to increase.

*Kurt Damboise of Barberry Drive:*

Mr. Damboise noted that his wife had spoken earlier, but he felt the issue was important enough for him to speak to, as well. He stated that they have 4 children in the local schools, one of which is at Regional. He stated that he and his wife chose to live in New Hartford due to the quality of education. He said that his concern is an increase in class size and if that happens, he would leave New Hartford and find a school system “worthy of my children.”

*Damon Bean of Cedar Lane:*

Mr. Bean stated that he has had conversations with his neighbors who would support closing Bakerville if it was proven that it would save money. He said that the schools are an asset to this community and it is very short sighted to close the school without thinking about the long term effects. He asked “how much per household in taxes will it cost to keep the school open?” It is his opinion that a decision to close a school is destroying something that makes New Hartford valuable --- education. He feels that Charter and Magnet Schools put pressure on our schools to do better so that education stays local; but a decision to close a school does the reverse and forces people to consider going to a Magnet School.

*Tim Goff of Birdsvie Avenue:*

Mr. Goff informed those present that he moved back into town for Bakerville School. He grew up in Bakerville and after a short time in Torrington has come back to New Hartford. He applauded the Board of Selectmen for “taking this on.” He recognized that some of the reasons to save Bakerville School are emotional, but there are other reasons, too. He believes that some of the information is contradictory and referred back to the October 6 Board of Education meeting where closing Bakerville School was not recommended due to potential of overcrowding at New Hartford Elementary. Then, in the December 14, 2015 informational meeting, Mr. Goff indicated that Mr. Murphy stated that the information was incorrect and that there was room for 100 students. Mr. Goff asked that information be made available for the public to view. He also asked for documentation to show that there would be a savings of \$200,000. Mr. Goff stated that if it could be proven that \$500,000 per year would be saved, then he might consider being in favor of closing. He asked that the Selectmen take this to an advisory vote.

First Selectman Jerram noted that there appears to be a recurring theme from the public requesting that information be made available for public review.

*Laura Polakow of Cedar Lane:*

Ms. Polakow addressed the room, stating that she didn't plan to speak, but "found it hard to hold my tongue." She hoped that the members of the Board of Education who were present at the meeting had come to the meeting tonight with their ears and eyes open and would hope that they would take a vote to rescind their decision. Ms. Polakow stated that going to vote as an advisory vote doesn't do any good unless they are willing to listen.

*Marsha Jones of Ramstein Road:*

Ms. Jones commented that she had 7 children and 1 grandchild attend Bakerville School. She is very concerned about what may happen if enrollment figures go up in a few years. She is offended that the Board of Education made such a decision without sending the issue to a public vote.

*Christine Sullivan of High Street:*

Ms. Sullivan commented that this is a time for everyone (Boards and residents) to come together and listen to each other.

*Robyn Buzzi of Niles Road:*

Ms. Buzzi came forward to ask an additional question of the Board. She stated that she had heard of the possibility of condominium growth in the downtown area of New Hartford. She wondered what impact this kind of development might have on the school system.

First Selectman Jerram replied that there have been some "feelers" regarding potential development along Greenwood Road, but nothing definite has been proposed.

**Discussion of Public Commentary:**

Following the conclusion of the public commentary, the Selectmen expressed their views on the subject. Selectman Alesia Kennerson thanked the members of the public for taking the opportunity to attend the meeting and voice their opinions. She stated that it was apparent that the people present this evening are strongly in favor of keeping the school open.

Selectman Laura Garay also thanked the public for attending. She felt it was a productive 2.5 hours of dialogue and was impressed with the level of passion for Bakerville School and the community as a whole.

First Selectman Jerram agreed that he was pleased with the attendance and the level of civility maintained throughout the meeting. He stated that the Board of Selectmen are elected to listen and to provide a path forward when faced with issues. He said that he heard the people ask to be allowed to vote on the matter and asked his fellow Selectmen if anyone would entertain a motion to take this issue to an advisory referendum.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to schedule an advisory referendum to address the question of whether Bakerville School will remain open and to schedule this as soon as possible; seconded by Garay.

First Selectman questioned the “as soon as possible” stating that there needs to be a pause in the process in order to be able to work with the Board of Education to assemble information and get that information out to every household in New Hartford. Jerram stressed the importance of making sure that voters have the opportunity to make an informed decision. He further stated that he appreciates the emotion of the topic, but the facts need to be gathered. He felt that a timeline of at least a month would be needed.

Selectman Garay agreed, stating that due diligence needs to be undertaken and that it makes sense “to get the facts out to those who could not be here tonight.”

Resident Linda Goff questioned if the Board of Selectmen would be meeting with the Board of Education to sit and discuss the situation and get them to rescind their vote. She stated that she felt a vote would be wasted if the Board of Education is not willing to change their mind regarding this issue.

Mr. Jerram countered that he “would like to think that they would listen.”

There were several attendees who agreed that they would like to see the Board of Education rescind their vote prior to holding an advisory referendum. The Board of Selectmen repeated that it is not within their authority to require the Board of Ed to take that step. The Selectmen felt that an advisory referendum would provide the Board of Education with input and it would be a matter of public record as to how the public felt.

Following the discussion, Selectman Kennerson stated that she wished to “remove as soon as possible” from her motion and modify it as follows:

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to schedule an advisory referendum with the question of whether Bakerville School will remain open; to occur on or before March 15, 2016; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

Resident Laura Wearne stated her concern with the type of information that will be distributed. She indicated that if it were the same info that was used by the Board of Education to make the initial decision, why bother?

Harwinton Businessman Edward Perruta asked that the minutes of the meeting reflect that the video of the entire meeting will be uploaded to YouTube and will be available under the heading SJTalkshow.com.

Town Clerk Donna LaPlante offered the information that if any group wanted to form a PAC in order to do a mailing, they should contact her for the guidelines.

Resident Ann Austin asked who was going to be responsible for putting together the public mailing, and more specifically wondered who would choose what information was going to be included.

*Minutes – Board of Selectmen – January 28, 2016 p. 12.*

Mr. Jerram replied that he hoped to work with the Board of Education to distribute factual information which would lead to an informed voter process.

Hearing no other comments, the First Selectmen announced to the public that the Board of Selectmen would continue on with the rest of their meeting as they had a few “housekeeping” items to attend to. He noted that the business with respect to Bakerville School had been addressed and there would be no more discussion of that topic.

At this point, the majority of those in attendance exited from the room, with several small groups remaining and engaging in small group discussion in several areas of the room. The Selectmen continued to the next agenda item.

**Boards and Commissions – resignations, appointments**

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board that a letter of resignation had been received from Board of Assessment Appeals member Robert (Bob) Guiheen. Mr. Guiheen has moved out of New Hartford and is no longer able to serve in this capacity.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to accept, with regret, the resignation of Robert (Bob ) Guiheen as a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals and thanked him for his years of service; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

First Selectman Jerram stated that a letter of resignation has been received from David Childs. He has resigned his position as a full member of the Economic Development Commission, however, has agreed to be appointed as an alternate member.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to accept, with thanks for his years of service as Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, the resignation of David Childs; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board that he had met personally with Bill Baxter to discuss his request to be seated as an alternate member of the Economic Development and recommends that this request be honored.

**MOTION:** by Garay to appoint William (Bill) Baxter to serve as an alternate on the Economic Development Commission, term to expire December 31, 2020 and to also appoint David Childs to serve as an alternate on the Economic Development Commission, term to expire December 31, 2018; seconded by Kennerson.

*Unanimous.*

*Minutes – Board of Selectmen – January 28, 2016 p. 13*

**Requests for Refund of Taxes:**

First Selectman Jerram stated that the Tax Collector has presented the Board with 3 requests for Tax Refunds.

**MOTION:** By Garay to approve 3 requests for Tax Refunds of Motor Vehicle Property Taxes as presented by the Tax Collector (\$225.79 to Ally Financial Inc. due to sale of vehicle; \$69.75 to Hyundai Leasing due to adjustment after payment; \$250.13 to Hyundai Leasing due to adjustment after payment); seconded by Kennerson.

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to adjourn at 9:59 PM; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*