

**TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
SENIOR CENTER/MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL
APRIL 24, 2013**

First Selectman Dan Jerram called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:22PM. Selectman Jerram opened the floor to nominations for Moderator. Motion Alesia Kennerson, second Penny Miller to nominate Noel Gauthier as Moderator. Hearing no further nominations, Selectman Jerram called for a voice vote on the motion to elect Noel Gauthier Moderator. Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Noel Gauthier read the Call of the Meeting and the Return of Posting and publication.

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – APRIL 24, 2013
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM –MAY 7, 2013**

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of New Hartford, CT hereby notifies all electors and citizens entitled to vote in Town Meetings in said Town of New Hartford, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 immediately following the Annual Budget Meeting which begins at 7:00 PM in the Senior Center/Meeting Room of the New Hartford Town Hall, 530 Main Street, in New Hartford, CT for the following purposes:

1. To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the approval of the following resolution:

Be it resolved to: a.) authorize the establishment of a school building committee to coordinate/oversee, b.) authorize the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications, c.) authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for a School Construction Grant.
2. To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the election of members to the School Building Committee.
3. To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the election of two members to the Stanclift Cove Authority, terms to expire 6/30/2014 and 6/30/2016.
4. To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the acceptance of an easement agreement between the Licia and Mason Beekley Community Library, Inc. and

the Town of New Hartford for space to be used for an access driveway and parking area. The Easement Agreement is available for public inspection in the Office of the New Hartford Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut.

5. To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the approval of a lease agreement between the New Hartford Village Fire District, Inc. and the Town of New Hartford for use of space located at 5 Cottage Street for use as a town recreation area known as Callahan Park. The Lease Agreement is available for inspection in the Office of the New Hartford Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut.
6. To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the sale for the sum of \$8,700 to Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis of that certain piece or parcel of land located in the Town of New Hartford, County of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, shown as "PARCEL 3 AREA TO BE DEEDED FROM THE TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD TO ROBERT J. VASKALIS & SUSAN E. VASKALIS, 13,756 s.f.+/-," on a certain map or plan entitled "Property Survey Prepared for Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis, 325 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut, Hrica Associates LLC, 06/14/2012, Scale 1"=20'. Kenneth S. Hrica, P.E., L. S. Project # 07-0175." A copy of the survey is available for inspection in the Office of the New Hartford Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut.
7. To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the acceptance of a Recreation Trail Easement to be granted by Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis to the Town of New Hartford as shown on a certain map or plan entitled "Property Survey Prepared for Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis, 325 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut, Hrica Associates LLC, 06/14/2012, Scale 1"=20'. Kenneth S. Hrica, P.E., L. S. Project # 07-0175". A copy of the survey is available for inspection in the Office of the New Hartford Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, to take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$565,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing security equipment and improvements at the three (3) local school buildings.
9. Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, to adjourn the meeting at its conclusion and to submit Item number 8 on the call of this meeting to be voted upon using voting tabulators on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Electors residing in the Voting District #1 shall vote at the New Hartford Town Hall, 530 Main Street in New Hartford. Electors residing in the Voting District #2 shall vote at the South End Fire House, 20 Antolini Road in New Hartford. Voters qualified to vote at town meeting who are not electors shall vote at their respective polling places. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, CT and will be counted at their respective polling places. The question to be voted upon shall be placed on the ballots as:

“Shall the Town of New Hartford approve an additional appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$565,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing security equipment and improvements at the three (3) local school buildings?”

Voters approving the question will vote “Yes” and those opposing the question will vote “No.”

Dated at New Hartford, Connecticut this 11th day of April, 2013.

Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman
Alesia Kennerson, Selectman
John H. Casey, Selectman
Donna LaPlante, Town Clerk

**RETURN OF POSTING AND PUBLICATION
OF NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

I, Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman of the Town of New Hartford, Connecticut, hereby certify that I caused a copy of the foregoing Notice of the Annual Town Meeting/Notice of Referendum to be posted on the Town signpost on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 and also published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper published in Hartford, Connecticut and having a general circulation in the Town of New Hartford, on Thursday, April 18, 2013.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2013.

Daniel V. Jerram, First Selectman

ITEM NUMBER 1: To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the approval of the following resolution:

Be it resolved to: a.) authorize the establishment of a school building committee to coordinate/oversee, b.) authorize the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications, c.) authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for a School Construction Grant.

Moderator Gauthier requested a motion to authorize the establishment of a School Building Committee to coordinate and oversee a school building project; to

authorize the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the project; and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for a School Construction Grant for the project.

Motion Alesia Kennerson, second Penny Miller.

Moderator Gauthier asked for discussion.

William F. Baxter asked if this is required by state statute.

First Selectman Jerram responded that if Item 8 of this call is approved, we need a building committee to move forward.

Maria Moore suggest Item 1 be amended to relate more specifically to school security.

Mary Beth Greenwood asked if this committee is specifically for Item 8 or open ended.

First Selectman Jerram said this committee is for the security enhancements project.

Motion Daria Hart to amend the motion to specify the scope of the project as covering the doors and security upgrade for the schools. Second by Martha Busemeyer.

Polly Pobuda requested the original motion be reread. Moderator Noel Gauthier reread the original motion. The Town Clerk then repeated the amendment offered by Daria Hart.

Mary Ann Gunning asked if there will be qualifications/requirements for the building committee.

Dan Jerram explained there is a School Building Study Committee in place, appointed by the Board of Selectmen and mentioned the prior building projects that the volunteer members had also worked on. That group will become the committee. Jack Casey commented that the group contains BOE members.

Denton Butler provided the following information. The School Building Study Committee was appointed in November to analyze the need for structural improvements at Antolini School. After the Newtown School Tragedy occurred the Superintendent and Board of Education asked the committee to change their focus to security needs, but the wording was meant to be vague so the committee could eventually return to their original task once the security updates are completed and look at the roof, windows, etc. If the wording is changed another Town Meeting would be necessary in the future.

Following Denton's comments, Daria Hart withdrew her motion to amend and asked the seconder to do the same. Martha Busemeyer withdrew her second.

Paul Pobuda moved the question.

On a show of hands vote, the motion to authorize the establishment of a School Building Committee carried. Two nay votes.

ITEM NUMBER 2 To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the election of members to the School Building Committee.

Moderator Noel Gauthier opened the floor for nominations to the school building committee.

Dan Jerram nominated a slate of Bill Baxter, Denton Butler, Ken Krohner, Melissa Giaconia, and Roy Litchfield. Seconded by Penny Miller.

Paul Pobuda moved the question.

Moderator Noel Gauthier called for a voice vote on the slate for the school building committee. Unanimously approved.

ITEM NUMBER 3 To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the election of two members to the Stanclift Cove Authority, terms to expire 6/30/2014 and 6/30/2016.

Moderator Noel Gauthier opened the floor to nominations.

Bob Moore nominated Daria Hart. Dan Jerram seconded.

Dan Jerram nominated Melanie Dias. Seconded by Penny Miller.

First Selectman Jerram responded to a question from the floor by Mary Ann Gunning regarding the status of the Cove for the summer. Earlier in the day the MDC had notified him that they were putting off their project until fall so the Cove should have an adequate water level for the beach season.

First Selectman Dan Jerram clarified that Daria Hart's term would end 6/30/2016 and Melanie Dias' term would end 6/30/14.

Moderator Gauthier called for a vote to elect Daria Hart to a term ending 6/30/2016. Unanimously approved.

Moderator Gauthier called for a vote to elect Melanie Diaz to a term ending 6/30/2014. Unanimously approved.

ITEM NUMBER 4 To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the acceptance of an easement agreement between the Licia and Mason Beekley Community Library, Inc. and the Town of New Hartford for space to be used for an access driveway and parking area. The Easement Agreement is available for public inspection in the Office of the New Hartford Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut.

Moderator Gauthier announced that at the request of the library, this item will be removed from this agenda at this time and no action will be taken with respect to an easement at this meeting.

Maria Moore said she understood the library would prefer a Lease arrangement. Jack Casey said a great deal of progress has been made in the conversation with the library to acquire more parking for the town center area.

Motion to table, Reggie Smith. Second Penny Miller. Unanimously approved.

ITEM NUMBER 5 To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the approval of a lease agreement (Attachment 1) between the New Hartford Village Fire District, Inc. and the Town of New Hartford for use of space located at 5 Cottage Street for use as a town recreation area known as Callahan Park. The Lease Agreement is available for inspection in the Office of the New Hartford Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut.

Moderator Gauthier stated that in order to allow for discussion on the matter he will ask for a motion and a second and then open for discussion. Motion Alesia Kennerson, second Penny Miller to approve the lease agreement between the New Hartford Village Fire District, Inc. and the Town of New Hartford for Callahan Park.

Jack Casey says that this arrangement began in 1976 as a ten year lease with an option to renew for ten years, but has since lapsed.

Paul Pobuda questioned why so short a lease. He thought 99 years would be more appropriate.

Dan Jerram clarified this is a ten year lease with a ten year extension option. Jack Casey said since we had no lease for many years, he was happy to have a lease again, and twenty years was a substantial commitment from the Fire District.

Melissa Giaconia questioned who owned the property. She thought it was the Town. Dan Jerram responded the property belongs to the Village Fire District. The lease is necessary to ensure that the town insurance is in place in the event there was an injury at the park.

Bill Baxter thought Paul Pobuda's point re a longer term for the lease was well taken and this should be addressed at the time of next renewal.

Dan Jerram expressed appreciation to the Commissioners of the Fire District for making this possible as the property is a very nice amenity to have for the Town.

Daria Hart said it was a dollar well spent.

Reggie Smith moved the question. Alesia Kennerson seconded.

Unanimously approved.

ITEM NUMBER 6 To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the sale for the sum of \$8,700 to Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis of that certain piece or parcel of land located in the Town of New Hartford, County of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, shown as "PARCEL 3 AREA TO BE DEEDED FROM THE TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD TO ROBERT J. VASKALIS & SUSAN E. VASKALIS, 13,756 s.f.+/-,"on a certain map or plan entitled "Property Survey Prepared for Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis, 325 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut, Hrica Associates LLC, 06/14/2012, Scale 1"=20'. Kenneth S. Hrica, P.E., L. S. Project # 07-0175." A copy of the survey is available for inspection in the Office of the New Hartford Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut.

Moderator Noel Gauthier asked for a motion to approve the sale for the sum of \$8,700 to Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis of that certain piece or parcel of land located in the Town of New Hartford, County of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, shown as "PARCEL 3 AREA TO BE DEEDED FROM THE TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD TO ROBERT J. VASKALIS & SUSAN E. VASKALIS, 13,756 s.f.+/-,"on a certain map or plan entitled "Property Survey Prepared for Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis, 325 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut, Hrica Associates LLC, 06/14/2012, Scale 1"=20'. Kenneth S. Hrica, P.E., L. S. Project # 07-0175."

Motion Penny Miller, Alesia Kennerson seconded.

First Selectman Dan Jerram provided some history of this item. Mr. & Mrs. Vaskalis approached the town over a year ago about purchasing the property in question. Initially the sale was rejected by the Planning and Zoning Commission (under their 8-24 authority) because of concerns of losing public access which could be valuable should a rails to trails type of recreational path be developed in the future. After the initial denial, the Robert & Susan Vaskalis worked with their attorney and came up with a Recreation Trail Easement to offer to the town.

They also funded an appraisal of the property (Attachment 2) Dan referred to a letter from the Land Use officer confirming the 8-24 approval by the Planning & Zoning Commission (Attachment 3) and a letter from the Town Planner recommending approval for this transfer as it is in compliance with the Plan of Conservation and Development (Attachment 4). The Town will retain an easement for sewer and water lines and also for the drainage ditch.

The Vaskalis' Attorney Peter Herbst expressed his clients' gratitude in being able to come to this agreement, and appreciated the cooperation of all Town personnel involved to bring this matter to resolution.

Reggie Smith moved the question. Seconded by Alesia Kennerson. Bill Baxter noted a 2/3 vote needed to approve moving the question. By show of hands motion to move the question was approved.

Moderator Noel Gauthier called for a vote on the motion to approve the sale. Unanimously approved.

Robert Vaskalis thanked all parties concerned.

ITEM NUMBER 7 To take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the acceptance of a Recreation Trail Easement to be granted by Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E.Vaskalis to the Town of New Hartford as shown on a certain map or plan entitled "Property Survey Prepared for Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis, 325 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut, Hrica Associates LLC, 06/14/2012, Scale 1"=20'. Kenneth S. Hrica, P.E., L. S. Project # 07-0175". A copy of the survey is available for inspection in the Office of the New Hartford Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut.

Moderator Noel Gauthier asked for a motion to accept a Recreation Trail Easement to be granted by Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E.Vaskalis to the Town of New Hartford as shown on a certain map or plan entitled "Property Survey Prepared for Robert J. Vaskalis & Susan E. Vaskalis, 325 Main Street, New

Hartford, Connecticut, Hrica Associates LLC, 06/14/2012, Scale 1"=20'. Kenneth S. Hrica, P.E., L. S. Project # 07-0175".

Motion Penny Miller, second Jack Casey.

Polly Pobuda asked why we need an easement if we don't have a trail? Jack Casey said we need to correct past problems since the prior owner had constructed a shed on the Town property, and we need the easement to maintain the water and sewer lines. Dan Jerram commented that the recreational easement was necessary to obtain the 8-24 approval of Planning & Zoning.

Paul Pobuda question whether the fire hydrant was operational? Robert Vaskalis clarified that the hydrant to flush the end of the sewer line is not on this parcel, it is located a couple lots down.

Jack Casey commented that the Town is aware of the value of the easement and is reserving the right to go forward with a pedestrian pathway in the future.

Penny Miller moved the question. Second, Alesia Kennerson. Motion carried.

Moderator Noel Gauthier called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NUMBER 8 Upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance, to take such action as the voters deem best with respect to the appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$565,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing security equipment and improvements at the three (3) local school buildings.

Moderator Noel Gauthier announced that the Board of Selectmen, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 7-7, have removed item # 8 from the call of this meeting and adjourned such vote on the matter to a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 between the hours of 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

In accordance with section 7-6 of the Ct General Statutes, as amended, only an elector of the town or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, was liable to the town for taxes assessed against

him based on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last completed grand list of the town or who would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person or as a veteran or as a parent or surviving spouse of a veteran who would be entitled to vote at the meeting would be entitled to vote at the referendum.

Moderator Gauthier stated that since this item has been removed from the call of the meeting, there can be no action on this item; but asked for any discussion.

Daria Hart asked what are the improvements.

Denton Butler of the School Building Study Committee gave a brief overview of the project. The doors are to be replaced with steel doors with bullet resistant glass, there will be card readers, guest buzzers, cameras and a second set of doors at each entrance creating a secondary vestibule. The glass sidelights will be removed and replaced with brick. At Antolini the entrance will be moved to the west end of the school, a more hardened area, and the cost of the move is approximately the same as it would be to replace the wall of classroom windows near the current entrance with bulletproof glass.

Maria Moore requested a breakdown of costs. Denton Butler provided the costs per school. \$ 71,000 for Bakerville, \$131,900 for New Hartford Elementary, and \$362,000 for Antolini. Maria asked for more detail and Roy Litchfield replied that line items were not available, only estimates. Denton added they have architects estimates.

Martha Busemeyer asked what if project costs more than the \$565,000? Dan Jerram said that the building committee was not approved to do more work beyond this amount. Denton Butler said the bids would be rejected and project would be rescaled to keep costs within the approved budget.

Melissa Giaconia asked why this item was on the call of the meeting if the Selectmen have removed it from the call? Dan Jerram replied that the technical procedure to move this item to referendum requires it to be listed on the call. Melissa asked if the Board of Selectmen disagreed with the Board of Finance approval. Dan Jerram replied "Not at All", it must go to the voters.

Daria Hart clarified the Board of Selectmen are not forming an opinion, they are only sending the question to a machine vote. Dan Jerram indicated we were already having a referendum on May 7th, so adding this question was very cost effective.

Daria Hart asked why were we spending money on security enhancements on Bakerville School if it is closing. Kate Reiger, a member of the Consolidation Task Force, responded that no decision has been made at this time to close Bakerville school.

Mary Beth Greenwood asked how this project was being funded. Dan Jerram replied the money was coming from the fund balance, and would not effect the mill rate. Jack Casey indicated that lowering the fund balance could affect the mill rate in the future. Mary Beth asked what the fund balance was currently. Dan Jerram responded – around \$4,000,000. Mary Beth questioned if there would be any reimbursement from the school construction grant referenced in Item #1. Denton Butler said we will apply so we may get something. There is some money specific to security enhancements available from the State.

Martha Busemeyer said as a parent with children at Bakerville, she felt all three schools had to be included. Jack Casey said all schools that are in use will be included in the project.

Motion Penny Miller, second Alesia Kennerson to move the discussion to the next item. Unanimously approved.

ITEM NUMBER 9 Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, to adjourn the meeting at its conclusion and to submit Item number 8 on the call of this meeting to be voted upon using voting tabulators on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Electors residing in the Voting District #1 shall vote at the New Hartford Town Hall, 530 Main Street in New Hartford. Electors residing in the Voting District #2 shall vote at the South End Fire House, 20 Antolini Road in New Hartford. Voters qualified to vote at town meeting who are not electors shall vote at their respective polling places. Absentee ballots will be available

from the Town Clerk, 530 Main Street, New Hartford, CT and will be counted at their respective polling places. The question to be voted upon shall be placed on the ballots as:

“Shall the Town of New Hartford approve an additional appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$565,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing security equipment and improvements at the three (3) local school buildings?”

Voters approving the question will vote “Yes” and those opposing the question will vote “No.”

Motion Reggie Smith, second Roy Litchfield to waive the reading of the question. Motion carried.

Motion Reggie Smith, second Penny Miller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Mary Ann Gunning inquired if as a resident of the Town attending the Town Meeting she could raise an issue. Moderator Noel Gauthier indicated that he did not believe that an item could be added to the Agenda.

Motion Daria Hart, for the good of the order, to lay aside the improper motion to adjourn and motion to adjourn this meeting to the referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013. Second Jack Casey. Motion approved.

Moderator Noel Gauthier announced that the meeting is adjourned to referendum on May 7, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

A True Copy

Attest: *Donna N. LaPlante*

Town Clerk