

**New Milford Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2018
Lillis Administration Building – Room 2**

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairman Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. J.T. Schemm
Absent:	Mr. Bill Dahl Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Also Present:	Dr. Stephen Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Director Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Human Resources Director
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1.	Call to Order	Call to Order
A.	Pledge of Allegiance The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Mr. Lawson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action	Discussion and Possible Action
A.	Discussion and possible action regarding the removal and replacement of the oil tanks at Hill & Plain Elementary School, Sarah Noble Intermediate School and the Lillis Administration Building Mr. McCauley moved that the Board approve funding for unanticipated additional costs associated with the oil tank project at Hill and Plain School and to make a	A. Discussion and possible action regarding the removal and replacement of the oil tanks at Hill & Plain Elementary School, Sarah Noble Intermediate School and the Lillis Administration Building Motion made that the Board approve funding for unanticipated additional costs associated with the oil tank project at Hill and Plain

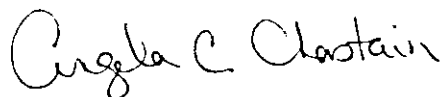
	request to the Town to take those funds from capital reserve, seconded by Mrs. McInerney. • Mr. Lawson referenced the Board minutes of September 18, 2018 and subsequent letter to the Town requesting \$92,000 from capital reserve to fund the Hill and Plain oil tank project. He said that is still valid and they hope the request will be on next Tuesday night's Town Council agenda. He said additional unanticipated difficulties have arisen with the project and additional funds are needed. The suggestion is that they too be taken from capital reserve. • Dr. Tracy said there were several surprises and there is urgency to complete the project with heating season upon us. • Mr. Munrett distributed a bullet point summary of the project so far and the difficulties encountered. He said there were no records of the tank so they were flying blind at excavation when they discovered that the building's transformer sat on top of the existing underground tank. This is resulting in changes to the scope of the project and unanticipated expenses. • Mrs. Chastain said the original project was discussed in January right after budget and asked why the tank was not ordered in February for summer installation. She suggested the ball was dropped on this project and didn't understand why checks were not done before digging started. She said it was unacceptable to add this expense to this year's tight budget. • Mr. Munrett said when the project was approved in May, and the tank ordered, there was a 12 week lead time for delivery. They did call "Call Before You Dig" and the professional opinion was that the tank was not facing the building so there would not be a problem. This turned out not to be the case. • Mr. Lawson said regardless of the conflicting opinions of how we got to this situation, the fact remains that we are here and action is needed.	School and to make a request to the Town to take those funds from capital reserve.
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- Mrs. McInerney asked if the tank that would now be shifted to the Lillis Building would be covered by the Town and reimbursement given to the BOE. Mr. Munrett said the BOE will receive a credit.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if the Town was aware of the problem and Dr. Tracy said he had spoken to the Mayor. He said the Town will “purchase” the HPS tank and credit the HPS project.
- Mr. Lawson asked what the price was now for the HPS project. Dr. Tracy said the additional expense is currently \$62,434. They are asking for up to \$70,000 in funding so as to not have to come back to the Board for more should additional costs arise.
- Mrs. McInerney asked about disruption to students and staff. Mr. Munrett said there would be slight excavation noise but that is all.
- Mr. Lawson asked what the timetable is for the new tank to be online. Mr. Munrett said by mid-November. They will use a temporary tank for heat until then.
- Mr. Schemm referenced the propane tank that was discovered underground and asked if the Board was required to remove it. Mr. Munrett said it was. Mr. Schemm said he was floored that there were no markings or records that would have uncovered these issues.
- Mr. Schemm asked if an auxiliary power line could be used instead of a new above ground tank. Mr. Munrett said it would not provide enough power and to move the transformer is prohibitively expensive.
- Mrs. Chastain asked what the capital reserve balance will be after additional funding is approved. Dr. Tracy said there will be approximately \$743,000 after last year’s year-end balance is added in.
- Mrs. Chastain asked for confirmation that the capital expenses included in the budget are accounted for. Mr. Munrett confirmed that they are already reflected in the balance.
- Mr. Schemm asked about the footprint of the above ground tank. Mr. Munrett said it would

	be about the size of a car. It is double walled and would be placed behind a privacy fence. • Mr. Schemm asked if the permitting is in order for the new plan and Mr. Munrett said it is. Mr. McCauley withdrew his first and Mrs. McInerney withdrew her second. The motion was withdrawn. Mr. Schemm moved that the Board approve funding for unanticipated additional costs associated with the oil tank project at Hill and Plain School, not to exceed \$70,000, and to make a request to the Town to take those funds from capital reserve, seconded by Mr. McCauley. The motion passed unanimously. • Dr. Tracy thanked the Board for their support in keeping the project moving forward.	
B. NES Grade 2 teacher appointment	Mrs. McInerney moved to approve the appointment of the candidate for the NES Grade 2 teacher as recommended by the Interim Superintendent at salary step 8J, 6th year, prorated for expected start date of on or about October 3, 2018 seconded by Mr. McCauley. • Mr. McInerney asked how many applicants there were and if any of them were below the \$60,000 previously approved. Ms. Baldelli said there were about 60 applicants and some were below the \$60,000. Mrs. McInerney asked why one of them was not chosen. • Mr. Lawson said the emphasis is on the quality of the teacher. They need someone who can step in midstream and be successful without a learning curve. • Mr. Schemm said the Board also has to be careful not to discriminate against a candidate solely based on cost, because their years of experience make them more expensive. • Dr. Tracy said this is a very good candidate who has extensive experience.	Original motion withdrawn. Motion made and passed unanimously that the Board approve funding for unanticipated additional costs associated with the oil tank project at Hill and Plain School, not to exceed \$70,000, and to make a request to the Town to take those funds from capital reserve. B. NES Grade 2 teacher appointment Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the appointment of the candidate for the NES Grade 2 teacher as recommended by the Interim Superintendent at salary step 8J, 6th year, prorated for expected start date of on or about October 3, 2018.

	• Mrs. McInerney asked what the salary is and Ms. Baldelli said it is \$67,485. • Mrs. Chastain said she was pleased with the quality of the candidate and said if the Board was making the move, they should do it right. • Mr. McCauley said he agreed that it was important to have an experienced teacher who can jump into the school year. • Mrs. McInerney asked about the start date. Ms. Baldelli said the plan was to have transition days this week with the actual class starting next week once Mrs. Murray has officially notified parents. The motion passed unanimously.	
4.	Adjourn Mrs. Chastain moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m., seconded by Mr. Schemm and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Angela C. Chastain
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education