

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – January 14, 2019 (Approved Minutes)

Lizz Milardo called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. at Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438

Larry Maggi and Melissa Schlag were present

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Clifford Potter: Is offended that Schlag still kneels during the pledge.

Maurice Adams: Made a comment stating the City of Waterbury had an old abandoned factory building. A ten-million-dollar investment over a 5-year period. There was a need for a water treatment facility. They didn't need a sewage system; the City gave them a tax break. We need a sewage system.

Heather Pach: Was a school psychologist until 2017. Stated she has 2 children in school, moved here in 2002 and has had consistent concerns in Regional School District 17 since. She has seen several good teachers leave the district because they are unhappy. Heather asked if those teachers were given an exit interview and she was told no. Class sizes are too big. There are not enough school psychologists for the amount of students in these buildings. Let's not let HES or any more of our amazing teachers leave without putting up a fight. The Board of Education is voted in to be the voice of our community. Schlag: asked Heather if that was read to the Board of Education. Heather replied, it was similar and will send a copy to her.

Stew Gilmore: asked a question to the Heather Pond regarding her comment, how many people took the survey? Heather Pach: 13 people.

Andy Becker: He is a former Haddam resident and stated he would like to see Haddam Elementary School stay open. He stated he is an Attorney and represents Ted Rossi, who owns the property that is next door to the school and from their standpoint, they have development plans, both residential and commercial for that property. They would also like to see the school stay open. Stated he supports the efforts of keeping the school open. Schlag: Asked if he told the Board of Education his thoughts. Becker replied he would.

Brenda Buzzi (Board of Education Liaison): There is a Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, January 22nd at 7 pm. She informed the Selectmen that there are good projects that are going on and coming in under budget. The restructuring is still happening. She stated she is on the personnel sub-committee, and will not let personnel issues go by the wayside. There are two former RSD17 employees on the Board of Education who have had similar experiences as Heather.

Neal Perron, Haddam Neck: Commented that the Board of Education is separate from the town. He requested that Joanne Nesti resign from the Board of Education. Asks that all three selectmen work together on other issues.

Dave Barren: 35 year Higganum resident who moved here for the education. Stated there is no way they will save 1 million dollars. Taxes have gone up and its worth keeping open.

Charlie Parmelee: Stated the town paid for the school for year, it's like buying a house and someone steals it. He wishes the Board of Ed would listen to the towns people.

Melissa Moore: is a teacher in Plainville and expressed that the value of her home went down.

Linda Flemming: stated her children went to school at Haddam Elementary School, it is the life of Higganum Center.

Milardo: regarding Mr. Parmelee's comment: The Regional School statutes are made by the State of Connecticut. There isn't much the Town has control over except coming together. Parmelee stated the Town's people should be able to vote.

Milardo: regarding Higganum Center stated that Economic Development Commission and Infrastructure Committee along with the business owners are doing a lot for the community. Citizens Bank never told the town they were closing. They do not want to rent to a bank. On January 24th there will be a meeting of all committees so we can discuss what types of things are needed and what we want the center to be. We need to have a professional opinions and will have a facilities study done this year.

Neal Perron: Can towns file an injunction with the court? Milardo: No, we have no legal control.

Dave Barren: stated he is all for sewers, he came from the North End of Meriden and once the sewers came in, so did a ton of houses. We will not get anything big in the Village if we don't get the sewers.

Sally Jordan: stated Christine Palm will be at The Nook to hear the concerns of the people.

Schlag: Stated we should be prepared if the Board of Education says no. We can combine Town Offices in that building, there would be a cost but it could stay with the Town.

Maggi made a motion to approve the November 13, 2018 minutes. There was a brief discussion. Approved unanimously.

Maggi made a motion to approve the December 17, 2018 minutes. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Tax Refunds:

| Last Name | Amount |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Real Estate (01) | |
| McWilliams, Mark | \$598.10 |
| McWilliams, Mark | \$607.50 |
| Total: | \$1,205.60 |
| Motor Vehicle (03) | |
| Eckert, Karen | \$77.64 |
| JP Morgan Chase Bank | \$356.58 |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mandolfo James | \$226.90 |
| Nissan Infiniti | \$99.09 |
| Nissan Infiniti | \$205.45 |
| Nissan Infiniti | \$213.81 |
| Nissan Infiniti | \$390.90 |
| Total | \$1,570.37 |

Maggi made a motion to approve the Tax Refunds. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Friends of HES: Made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

Schlag made a motion to have the Board of Selectmen sign a resolution to ask the Board of Education to revote on the closure of Haddam Elementary. Milardo & Maggi Nay; Schlag Yay.

Milardo made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Education asking to see the numbers to support the closing? Can we see the data of what the population numbers are? What is the population of that school going to look like in the next 5-10 years? As for as the Board of Selectmen, I will ask them to pause their decision on moving forward. I will send it to the Board of Education, cc: Susan Sack and Howard Thiery. Approved Unanimously.

Milardo made a motion to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 8:38 pm
Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli