

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – November 13, 2023 (Unapproved minutes)

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

Kate Anderson and Sean Moriarty were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda: Anderson made a motion to amend the Agenda to include the appointment of the Deputy Fire Marshall and set a Town Meeting date under New Business. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

October 10, 2023: Anderson made a motion to approve the October 10, 2023, minutes. No discussion. Moriarty abstained. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Baird, Peter: Commented that Marjorie Debold will not be running for office again and would like to know if the Town can do something to recognize all of her efforts with the Town.

Selectman's Update: Attached as Schedule I

Anderson: The Fall Festival was the last weekend of October. Thank you to everyone who volunteered this year. It takes a lot of work to put that event together.

Upcoming Events: Holiday Pop-Up Market starts on Saturday, November 18th and will go on for 4 weeks. The Tylerville Christmas Tree lighting will be on December 1st. The Economic Development Commission applied for the CT Main Street Grant and Haddam was selected to receive it. It is a 6-month program.

Moriarty: It has been a pleasure working with Robert McGarry, Kate Anderson and JoAnn Ricciardelli over the past 4 years.

Board of Education update: Attached as Schedule II.

HKYFS Update: Attached as Schedule III

Tax Refunds: Moriarty made a motion to accept the November 2023 Tax Refunds in the amount of \$5,071.48. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. (Attached as Schedule IV)

New Business:

Approval of Tylerville Business Interruption Loan Program Applications: Moriarty made a motion to approve the following Business Interruption Grant Applications with the terms and

conditions recommended at the November 8, 2023, Economic Development Commission meeting (Attached as Schedule V): No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Business	Amount	Month(s)
Oh Fudge	\$5,000	September
Subway/JK Bridge Group Inc.	\$5,000	September
Rivers Edge Home Center/J&L Milardo, LLC	\$10,000	June & September
Tony's Package Store	\$5,000	September
River Valley Provisions	\$5,000	September

Higganum Center Remediation Project Grant (Rossi Property): Anderson made a motion to accept the 1.5 million dollar grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development for the Brownfield cleanup of the Rossi property. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Deputy Fire Marshall: Moriarty made a motion to appoint Steve Lavaway as a Deputy Fire Marshall. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Set a Town Meeting: Anderson made a motion to set a Town Meeting on December 12th at 7pm at the Haddam Neck Fire Department. Brief Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Next Meeting date/place: The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 11, 2023, at 6:30 pm** and will be held at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438.

McGarry: Sean, thank you for your 4 years of service. You will be missed!

Adjournment: Moriarty made a motion to adjourn. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm. Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

BOS Meeting Selectman's Update 2023-11-13

Projects

- Rossi Property
 - Bill Warner and I met with the potential developer and reviewed his latest proposed plan. It includes some housing. He'll revise and we'll meet again.
- Scovil Hoe
 - Nothing to report.
- HES
 - RFP responses evaluated.
 - Roof work is done for this year.
- Swing Bridge
 - This will be a tough year for our Tylerville businesses. Please patronize them.
 - The 63-hour closures are done for this year. This week's closure was cancelled.
- Tylerville Water – Moving ahead with connecting 109 Little Meadow
- Higganum Cove – Overlook being constructed with granite from Quarry Hill. Impressive
- Private Projects
 - 105 Bridge Rd Apartments – Scheduled for spring '24 opening.
 - Phantom Brewery – Taino Smokehouse partnering with them. Aiming for Feb. opening.
 - 2 battery storage sites being planned – Boulder Dell & Ruddy Ferry Rds
 - Blueway Commons plans to start phase 2 1st Qtr CY 2024

Personnel

- Nothing to report

Other

- Elections (Reminder all elected officials need to be sworn in)
- Fall Festival
- Covid cases increasing
- Injun Hollow Rd information meeting 11/14, HNFD, 7:00 p.m.
- Town Clerk's office and Land Use/Building Dept can now accept credit cards

November 13, 2023 - Board of Selectmen's Meeting - Schedule II

Summary of October 2023 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

Student Representatives Report

Principal Hayward introduced Madison Moriarty and Michael Perry as the HKHS Student Representatives to the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.

Michael Perry reported to the Board on the events that took place in October for Spirit Week. He also noted that the sports teams have had a great beginning to the fall season.

Madison Moriarty spoke to the Board about the pep rally, which was the first since the 2020 school year. Madison also reported on the upcoming trip to the All-American High School Film Festival in October and also spoke about the new course "If you love it, teach it" which is geared toward potential future educators.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Wihbey reported to the Board that HKHS students have begun internships at local businesses and that HKYFS is again coordinating an HK Mentoring Program at BES, KES, and HKIMS this year.

Superintendent Wihbey gave an update on transportation - we are down several drivers but efforts have been made to ensure that all students arrive at school and back home as close to their normal times as possible. Also, some delays have occurred due to the swing bridge opening during transportation times.

The Finance Department has begun the preparation for the FY 24-25 budget cycle ahead of last year's schedule, and we are on track to be prepared for our 12/31 annual Federal audit.

HKHS Athletic Director Lynn Flint received the 2023 National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association State Award of Merit.

SPED Program Review

The Superintendent provided an update and summary of the review Process, in which the team will meet with various stakeholders throughout the district in areas such as individual observations, classroom observations, and focus groups. The dates currently are scheduled for November. The Superintendent will provide the Board with updates monthly and a more substantive report on the January agenda.

District Continuous Improvement Plan 2023-2024

Superintendent Wihbey and Curriculum Coordinators Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti presented the District Continuous Improvement Plan, which is driven by the District Strategic Plan. They shared various data showing student performance and how RSD17 compares to other districts and the state of CT. They also discussed areas where our students improved despite the pandemic and plan to work on areas with less growth.

ADM-Towns of Haddam and Killingworth

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board about the student population data for the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth as reported to the State Department of Education as of October 1, 2023. The total number of students for 2023/24 reported was:

1069 (60.33%) from Haddam and 703 (39.67%) from Killingworth, for a total of 1772 students.

Last year's (2022/23) numbers were:

1118 (61.5%) from Haddam and 701 (38.5%) from Killingworth, for a total of 1819 students.

Owner's Representative Selection

The Board unanimously voted to hire Arcadis as our Owner's Representative for the pre-referendum phase of the Master Plan, the cost of which is not to exceed \$35,000. We have since had two meetings with representatives from Arcadis to discuss the details of the plan along with plans for community input and education on the whole process.

BES Solar/Security Shades

The Board approved the purchase and installation of solar/security shades for Burr Elementary School. The project was previously added to the capital list for the 23/24 fiscal year and was tabled due to budget concerns but was revisited to be included in the current budget year and will cost \$12,104.18.

Communications/Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee is working to align goals to the Superintendent's priorities and the Strategic Plan, and they will be discussed in further detail at next month's meeting.

The Communications Committee has continued to discuss the budget calendar and communications as well as Master Plan communication.

Master Plan

We invite everyone to participate in the Community Conversation on Thursday, November 16, at 6 pm at the HKHS Auditorium. We will present several final options for the RSD17 Master Plan to repair, rebuild, or replace school buildings. There will be a live survey for community members to express preferences and priorities, and the survey will be available online after the presentation. If you cannot attend in person, information about the live stream can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/rsd17.org/masterplanproject/home?authuser=0>

November 13, 2023 - Board of Selectmen's Meeting - Schedule III

HKYFS November 2023 Update:

Over the past few months, HKYFS has been actively engaged in various community initiatives, and we're thrilled to provide you with an update on our recent endeavors.

In late August, we successfully orchestrated our annual School Supply Program, made possible through the generous donations from our community. This initiative supported 19 students by providing them with essential items such as backpacks, water bottles, school supplies, and lunchboxes, ensuring they kicked off the school year well-prepared.

Additionally, we hosted our annual free haircut event in August, thanks to the kindness of Dillon Zak, an HK graduate and community member. This event saw 26 children benefiting from complimentary haircuts.

During the same month, in collaboration with True Value Killingworth, Valley Bible Church, HK Health and Fitness, and Nutmeg Pharmacy, we collected donations for the HK Backpack Program. Together, we amassed 50 bags of food, contributing to the commendable efforts of the program as they embarked on another school year.

In October, we welcomed Alli Behnke as the new Director of Mental Health and Prevention. Alli, an HK community member, brings two decades of experience as a Social Worker dedicated to Connecticut Youth Service Bureaus. Her impressive track record and alignment with our organization's mission promise innovative ideas and fresh perspectives.

HKYFS invited Scott Driscoll, founder of Internet Safety Concepts, to address the crucial issue of internet safety and educate HK Middle and Intermediate school students. A subsequent virtual conversation for parents provided insights and strategies for safeguarding youth in the digital age, leveraging Scott's law enforcement and cybersecurity background.

RED RIBBON WEEK serves as a poignant reminder of the imperative to lead a drug-free life, offering a valuable opportunity for parents, educators, and communities to reinforce the anti-drug messages shared with children throughout the year. This pivotal week proved to be exceptionally impactful for HKYFS, marked by a series of engaging activities.

During Red Ribbon Week, therapy dogs visited the Intermediate School, Middle School, and the High School, creating a positive and comforting atmosphere. Additionally, students were provided with "Plant Your Promise" flowers, encouraging them to symbolize their commitment to a drug-free lifestyle by planting these flowers at home.

The culmination of Red Ribbon Week unfolded in a dynamic weekend of community involvement. Saturday morning saw the successful hosting of the DEA National Drug Take Back Day, in collaboration with CT State Police, Killingworth Pharmacy, and Nutmeg Pharmacy. This event achieved tremendous success, drawing in a significant number of visitors.

That evening, HKYFS joined forces with the Haddam Women's Club to organize a Kids Fair at the Trunk or Treat event at Grimm's Haunted House. HKHS volunteers played a vital role in creating a memorable night, engaging children in games, crafts, and distributing prizes. The subsequent morning marked the 30th annual Pumpkin Run, where despite a touch of rain, 249 5k runners and 30 fun run participants turned out, underscoring the event's enduring success. None of this would have been possible without the invaluable support of our local sponsors, whose generosity continues to make a significant impact on our community events.

Our Mentoring program has now matched 15 adults from our community with nominated students at four of our schools. Another adult mentoring training session is scheduled for January, with information to be coming on our website.

Finally, we recently concluded a partnership with RSD17 schools to collect Thanksgiving donations for the Haddam and Killingworth Food Pantries, reinforcing our commitment to supporting those in need in our community.

Coming Up Next for HKYFS

We are currently immersed in our Holiday Giving program, a heartwarming initiative that pairs families in need of assistance for holiday gift purchases with compassionate businesses, organizations, and community members. This year, the demand for assistance has surged, with approximately 50% more families reaching out for support compared to the previous year.

Two noteworthy contributors to our program are New Image Auto and Parmelee Farm, both graciously hosting Stuff-A-Cruiser events. New Image Auto's event, scheduled for November 26th from 10-2, promises hot chocolate, cookies, and a visit from Santa. On December 2nd, Parmelee Farm will focus on teens, aiming to collect gift cards and gifts for 13 to 18-year-olds from 2pm-4pm.

Mark your calendars for the 35th annual HK Craft Fair on December 2nd, from 9am-3pm, at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. With 80 crafters, five food trucks, a book fair, and a raffle, this event promises a delightful shopping experience. Admission is free, so we encourage everyone to come, shop, and support these talented craftsmen—details can be found on our website, hkyfs.org.

Responding to a request from the high school, HKYFS arranged to bring Mark Leinweaver, an MLB Agent representing over 75 professional players, to deliver a presentation on "Why Character Matters". Scheduled for November 21st, Mark will address various issues such as the hazards of social media, courageous behavior, the significance of student volunteerism, and the importance of anti-bullying.

As part of our commitment to engaging directly with youth to address community prevention needs, HKYFS will conduct the Youth Voices Count survey at HKHS in December. Partnering with RSD17 since 2006 to listen directly to students, this survey captures firsthand insights from students on their experiences, beliefs, perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors. The collected information guides the agency, school, and town in better understanding and supporting youth and families, identifying strengths, challenges, trends, and needs. Addressing concerns from previous surveys, HKYFS collaborated with HKHS administration to customize the Youth Voices Count survey, ensuring relevancy and effectiveness in gathering valuable data.

November 13, 2023 - Board of Selectmen's Meeting - Schedule IV

Last Name **Bill Number** **Amount** **Prior/Current**

Real Estate (01)

ireton, ryan	2020-01-3846	\$19.02	prior

Total: **\$19.02**

Personal Property (02)

SIERPINSKI - ANRG	2021-02-40949	\$34.40	PRIOR

Total: **\$34.40**

Motor Vehicle (03)			
JENSEN, ALLEN	2022-03-54532	\$9.41	current
keith, joshua	2022-03-54761	\$145.29	current
morrison, kenneth	2021-03-56349	\$169.28	prior
morrison, kenneth	2022-03-56524	\$192.49	current
lawrence, lorelei - anrg	2021-04-80841	\$39.34	prior
parker, daniel	2022-03-57151	\$115.20	current
toyota	2021-03-59130	\$660.83	prior
toyota	2021-03-59132	\$621.71	prior
toyota	2021-03-59131	\$410.11	prior
toyota	2022-03-59372	\$601.35	current
toyota	2021-03-59133	\$213.96	prior
finnigan peter	2022-03-53034	\$593.04	current
bouchard, denise	2022-03-51003	\$15.71	current
malloy, david	2021-03-55586	\$32.23	prior
ccap auto lease	2022-03-51653	\$562.37	current
tousignant, gregory	2022-03-59361	\$645.15	current

Total **\$5,018.06**

Motor Vehicle Supplement (04)

Total: **\$0.00**

Grand Total: **\$5,071.48**