

## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting – January 8, 2024 (Approved 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 Peter Baird were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda:** Anderson made a motion to approve the Agenda. Anderson made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion of the Budget Review Meeting Schedule. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**December 11, 2023:** Anderson made a motion to approve the December 11, 2023, minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment: Lundgren, Mark – 41: Hickory Lane:** Commented on the Affordable Housing plan and referenced page 39, #7 *After the plan has been approved and during the 2023-24 budget cycle the Town should establish and fund an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Section 7-148(c)(2)(k) of the General Statutes Municipal Powers allows the creation of Housing Turst Funds.*

Commented that it could be funded it with covid money. Supports Aging in Place. People being forced to sell their house because they cannot maintain it. 43 of advocating for elderly housing support the idea of starting this in this budget year.

**Selectman's Update:** Attached as Schedule I

**Anderson:** Tylerville merchants had their tree lighting. Successful Pop-up market was a success. EDC has a 4 point main street – created a sub-committee group.

**Board of Education update:** Attached as Schedule II.

**Tax Refunds:** Baird made a motion to accept the January 2024 Tax Refunds in the amount of \$2596.34. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. (Attached as Schedule III)

### **New Business:**

**Brainerd Memorial Library waiver of permit fees:** Anderson made a motion to waive the permit fees as presented. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation of Higganum Center:** Bill Warner, Town Planner, made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen regarding Higganum Center.

**Set a Town Meeting:** Anderson made a motion to set a Town Meeting for Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Firehouse Community Room. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Hire Tax Clerk:** Baird made a motion to hire Kristin Battistoni as the Tax Clerk. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discuss Budget Review Meeting Schedule:** January 17, 2024 Budget Review at 6:30 pm.

**Old business:** October 15, 2024 Meeting. Anerson made a motion to change the October 15, 2024 meeting to Monday, October 7, 2024. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Date & Location of next meeting:** February 12, 2024, at 6:30pm at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438.

**Adjournment:** Baird made a motion to adjourn. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

## **BOS Meeting Selectman's Update 2024-01-08**

### **Projects**

- Rossi Property
  - On this agenda
- Scovil Hoe
  - Nothing to report
- HES
  - On this agenda
- Swing Bridge
  - This will be a tough year for our Tylerville businesses. Please patronize them.
  - Cracking was discovered grid deck/stringer interface. The bridge can't open to vessel traffic while this is being repaired. DOT proposed 3 options for scheduling the repairs and is seeking input from the boating community. I've asked how this will impact vehicular traffic and am awaiting a reply.
- Roundabouts – Scheduled to start this spring. I'll be attending the Preconstruction meeting on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Tylerville Water – No report
- Higganum Cove – No report
- Private Projects – No report

### **Personnel**

- Margo Chase-Wells resigned from ZBA effective 1/2/24. The Republican party was notified to nominate a replacement.

### **Other**

- Motion to rename Injun Hollow Road failed, (12/12 Town Meeting)

## **Summary of December 2023 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting**

### **Cougar Pride**

Burr Elementary School Principal Whidden and Music Teacher Adrienne Foret introduced the BES Chorus, who performed God Bless America and You'll Sing a Song and I'll Sing a Song by Ella Jenkins for the Board and a large audience.

Superintendent Wihbey also presented the new RSD17 logo, designed by HKHS students in their career tech education class.

### **Welcome New Board Members**

Board Chair Sack officially welcomed new BoE members Heather Pach from Haddam and Jennifer Voegtli from Killingworth on behalf of the full Board. Both members introduced themselves to the Board and the public.

### **Election of Executive Board Officers**

The Board elected its new Executive Board as follows:

Chair - Suzanne Sack

Vice Chair - Jennifer Favalora

Treasurer - Prem Aithal

Secretary - Kathy Zandi

### **Student Representatives Report**

Madison Moriarty and Michael Perry reported on events happening at the High School. Madison shared about Alumni Day, where graduates from last year come to talk to seniors about life after high school. The remaining student body attended an elective fair at the second event, where they heard about elective courses from fellow students before making course selections. Michael spoke to the Board first about the December concert and the 35th Annual Holiday Telethon that took place the day before the winter break. The charity chosen by the students this year is Kindness Over Muscular Dystrophy.

Board Chair Sack spoke about a recent HK News article about Madison Moriarty, whose cross-country coach called her "one of the most positive, upbeat, and encouraging athletes to come through our program."

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Reading Waiver**

The State Department of Education approved the District's reading waiver request in a letter received on December 1st. RSD17 was one of only 17 districts that were approved by the State Department of Education. Superintendent Wihbey thanked Jennifer Beermuender and Judy Nacca for all of their work and leadership during the process.

### **Kindergarten Entry Legislative Change**

Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, children must turn 5 on or before September 1st to enter kindergarten in CT for any given school year. Parents of students with birth dates ranging from September 1st to December 31st are allowed (per state language) to request early entry to kindergarten. The waiver process requires an assessment to determine readiness.

### **Master Plan Update**

Jack Butkus from Arcadis presented an updated report on the Master Plan project. He discussed where the district is in the process, with four options being explored in further fiscal detail. The Board of Education will meet with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance from both towns on January 18th to present the progress to date.

Prem Aithal provided information on the two most recent surveys conducted to allow the public to share their priorities and preferences for the future of RSD17 properties. The BoE would like to thank the community members who participated in the surveys.

### **On Our Website**

The RSD 17 Master Plan Information is available on the website under the District Facilities menu option [RSD 17 Facilities Study and Master Planning Website](#). Email [masterplan@rsd17.org](mailto:masterplan@rsd17.org) with any questions regarding RSD17's Master Plan project.

January 8, 2024 - Board of Selectmen Meeting - Schedule III

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Prior/Current</u>
<b>Real Estate (01)</b>			

<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	

**Personal Property (02)**

<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	

<b>Motor Vehicle (03)</b>			
granados, carilyn	2022-03-53609	\$70.08	current
ccap auto lease	2022-03-51650	\$627.03	current
kanaras, theodore	2022-03-54671	\$711.14	current
acar	2022-03-50025	\$537.57	current
digioia, peter	2022-03-52488	\$39.18	current
anrg	2021-03-55086	\$72.22	prior

**Total** **\$2,057.22**

**Motor Vehicle Supplement (04)**

anrg	2022-04-80476	\$45.88	current
casillo, joseph	2022-04-80186	\$386.47	current
mittchell, richard	2022-04-80867	\$16.82	current
williams, thomas	2022-04-81413	\$89.95	current

**Total:** **\$539.12**

**Grand Total:** **\$2,596.34**