

Selectmen's Meeting – January 7, 2015

Schlag opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M. at the TH. Duval and Donlan were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2014: Donlan moved to approve the minutes as submitted.
Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: None at this time.

Reports – Animal Control Officer for December, 2014: Schlag reported that the ACO now has a new lime green jacket and hat so that people can see her on the road in the evenings. Once again Daun continues to be diligent in her job and has dealt with horses, goats, cats and dogs this month. Schlag stated there are students who will need community service and it was suggested that if students call that we can have them help the ACO.

Municipal Agent for the Elderly for December, 2014: There were several events that took place in December as follows; A Christmas sing-a-long, the HK Middle School's Wind Section played seasonal music, the UkaLadies played and lead a sing-a-long, Tai Chi continues as well as bingo, Club 60, Committee on Aging, and knitting. The Senior Center is a Warming Center. In the event of a storm and large portions of Town does not have power, the center will be open for recharging of battery operated devices if they have power.

Resident Troopers Report for December 2014: There was a hunting accident where a hunter was accidentally shot in the leg. The annual Stuff the Cruiser event took place which was a big success once again. Many toys were collected and were distributed to families in need in the Haddam area. The bi-annual Trooper Pancake Breakfast took place to help support Youth and Family Services. It was very successful with it being the second highest amount raised since the event was started years ago. There were no fatalities in the month.

Tax Refunds: Duval moved to approve the following tax refunds.
Whitney Ridge Stables, LLC - \$949.86 for personal property – excess payment.
Whitney Ridge Stables, LLC - \$478.34 for personal property – excess payment.
Donna Zanelli - \$7.00 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
Peter or Diane Digioia - \$16.25 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
Anthony Cacace - \$9.90 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
Raymond or Amelia White - \$21.76 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
Rigoberto or Ledys Melgar - \$38.96 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
Donna Drouin - \$12.98 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
All of the above were approved unanimously.

Old Business – Road Discussion Continues (Ancient Highway off Maynard Road): A couple from England had bought property off Maynard Road and moved here in hopes to build a house on this 5 acre parcel. Schlag stated she has old data that states this is not a town road from Surveyor Jeff Sanborn. In 2005, then First Selectman Bondi wrote up an agreement with the owner of that property, Martin Smith, which states that Mr. Smith could use what he called an ancient highway. Schlag stated she spoke with Attorney Wells about two issues. The first issue is that even if it was a town road, the First Selectman does not have the authority to sign an agreement for an easement without the authority of the BOS, P&Z and a town meeting. Schlag stated she wanted to bring this to the board but that there is nothing

that has to be done at this time. The town attorney stated the onus is on the applicant to prove this is a town road since our research does not conclude it a town road. Donlan stated that even though Selectman Bondi did not have the authority to sign this agreement, to give away a right-of-way or easement, Bondi made a statement in the agreement the town will maintain the property. Donlan would like to get an opinion from the town attorney what the town's liability is with the agreement. The questions Schlag asked Attorney Wells were: is it a town road, and does the First Selectman have the authority to sign an agreement allowing this? Donlan asked Schlag to ask the Town Attorney if the town is contractually obligated. Schlag stated she discussed that and the agreement complicates it but doesn't allow for the town to give away rights to property we don't own. Schlag also corrected Donlan's statement about maintenance and stated the agreement says the town will not maintain the so called roadway.

New Business – Old European Beech Tree at the Jail: There was a brief discussion about taking down the Beech Tree at the jail. A report was received from Bartlett Tree Experts Tree Risk Assessment and Recommendations. The results found were the tree has lost a large main leader several years ago. This area has significant decay which will get worse over time. The tree is unbalanced and hanging over the Jail building. The overall risk rating for this tree is considered high. Schlag will discuss this issue further with the Asst. Director of Public Works.

CCAP Ride through Haddam: Schlag received a request from Austin Charles, representative of CCAP, asking permission to use town roads for their annual CCAP Breakaway Benefit '15 ride. The event will take place on April 25, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on various roads around town. This benefit is the biggest fundraiser of the CCAP and is in an integral part of their vision to bring more youth into the sport of cycling. Each school participating in this fundraiser will receive a portion of the funds they've raised. This is a non-profit organization. Schlag moved to approve the request of using town roads. Approved unanimously.

Accident at Family Fun Night in September 2014: In September of 2014 there was an accident at the Community Center on Candlewood Hill Road. This event was sponsored by the Park & Recreation Commission. A young boy fell off an inflatable slide and was taken by ambulance and it was not reported to our office and paperwork was not completed. Schlag stated she sent emails to two members of Park & Rec and never got a response. This is unacceptable according to Schlag, so she did the paperwork herself because her assistant was away and sent it to the town's insurance so that the mother could get her bills paid. Schlag has scheduled a mandatory accident reporting class for all committees and departments who should participate on January 21, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. at the Town Hall administered by CIRMA to teach the proper procedure when an accident or incident occurs.

Littering Around Town: Schlag has received several complaints about littering in town, along Route 154 on weekends when residents take their trash to the transfer station and it is blowing all over the road and people throwing their fast food trash out the windows of their cars. She has spoken to the troopers about this. It was also noted that Dunkin Donuts might not have an outside trash can for people to discard their trash. Schlag will investigate further.

Public Comments: Ed Munster stated he was looking over the list of candidates that need to be reelected in November and one position BOF Alt Jim Bucko was appointed in the middle of a term. He said, according to the town Charter, this position should terminate at the end of the term he filled which would be November 22, 2017. The other position in question is P&Z Alt. Robert Braren. There was an issue in the last municipal election, where no one knew this position was available. There was a mix-up in the Town Clerk's Office with the previous town clerk. Munster stated the person that should have run, didn't because the town clerk never notified him. Munster said the letter that was sent to

Mr. Braren, from the First Selectman, stated his term is up in 2015, when in fact it is not up until November 22, 2017. Schlag stated she would check into it. Munster stated the Town Charter does not address what to do if no one was elected to a position. Schlag stated that if our Charter does not address an issue, then the town goes by the State Statutes. Schlag stated she did check with the Secretary of State and would check her notes to see what the determination was. After a discussion with Scott Brookes and Ann Riebold in the Town Clerk's Office, it was decided to have the Town Clerk keep track of all the termination dates and reappointments. Traditionally, the chairs of the committees and boards should have been sending forward the reappointments to the First Selectman, but some have fallen off the wayside.

Duval moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 P.M. Before the meeting ended the BOS spoke highly of Paul DeStefano and how much he will be missed. Donlan stated Paul was friendly, lightened things up with jokes, worked very hard and was a genuine good guy. Duval stated he was sincere in doing things for the town, not politically. He worked very hard on the Tylerville water situation, really cared about the town with enthusiasm. Schlag stated Paul was an amazing man and it is painful not to see him around. Schlag thanked Sgt. Calvo for standing at the wake and thanked our resident troopers for leading the procession to the cemetery. Paul will not be forgotten. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli