

Selectmen's Meeting – November 5, 2014

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acceptance of Minutes – Sept. 3, Special Mtg., Sept. 12, regular mtg., October 8 and Special Mtg. October 31, 2014: Schlag moved to approve all of the above-mentioned meetings as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: Ed Munster questioned the beginning time of the selectmen's meetings. Schlag stated the meetings begin at 6:00 P.M.

Don Giboski questioned why the town road crew is working on the roads that are being paved by Tilcon. He does not feel the road crew should be working as flagmen for private companies. This is cost prohibitive. Schlag stated the road crew replaces culverts and does other work. She will check with the Asst. Director of Public Works to see what the procedure is when paving is being done.

Schlag moved to add Reports to the agenda. Approved unanimously.

Reports – Municipal Agent for the Elderly and Animal Control for the month of October:

Mark Lundgren was present and gave his report to the BOS regarding renter's rebate program, State program for heating assistance, Operation Fuel, maintenance that needs to be done at the building and his concerns regarding the Senior Resources Agency on Aging and the meal-site program.

Daun Kowalski, the town's ACO, continues to do great work and is very diligent with her duties. She gives extensive reports monthly.

Correspondence – Request to close a portion of Candlewood Hill Road for the "Christmas in the Country" Event on December 6, 2014: Schlag received a letter from Cindy Sola, Higganum Vision Group, to ask permission to close down a portion of Candlewood Hill Road from the blue home just past the pharmacy to the cut thru to Route 154. This is to keep the children safe at the time they will be running from the town green to the Community Center to see Santa. Schlag moved to allow the road closure and to have Cindy Sola contact the Troopers and the Fire Dept. of the closure. Approved unanimously.

Brainerd Memorial Library Letters: Schlag received two letters regarding the library. The first one is from Dave Matthews who is concerned about the money being spent for books and DVD's and adult books. He listed many suggestions to save money by reducing expenditures in several areas for the upcoming budget season. The other letter was from "A Friend of Brainerd Memorial Library" who asked the BOS to look into what has happened to the library in the last several years. He/she would like the BOS to look into the operation of the library and bring it back to the shining star it used to be – but right now is not, due to the lack of leadership by the librarian and the customer service by some of the staff. Both of these letters are on file in the First Selectman's Office. There was a lengthy discussion of these letters. Schlag plans on meeting with the Board of Trustees at their next meeting to discuss further.

Additions/Transfers – Request from Brainerd Memorial Library: The BOS received a request from Betsy Clifford, Treasurer of Brainerd Memorial Library, to transfer \$6,724.75 to give the Library staff a 2.5% pay increase, which is comparable to the raises the town employees received. Schlag moved to transfer the money from Salary Contingency line item #84-80001 to the Brainerd Memorial Library line item #86-53500. Schlag stated money was set aside in the Library’s budget by the BOF for pay increases. Donlan stated the town pays almost 90% of the library’s budget and the town doesn’t even own the building. The taxpayers have no control over the library or their property. The BOS has no control over who they hire. It’s a mistake for the town not to run the library. Schlag stated she will attend a Board of Trustees meeting the end of this month and discuss this issue further. Donlan stated he would support what was agreed upon by the BOF. Approved unanimously.

Tax Refunds: Schlag moved to approve the following tax refunds.

- David or SaraJane Barrett - \$10.00 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
 - Bleak Rock Inc. - \$269.76 – personal property – motor vehicle registered.
 - Patricia L. or Edward Mathews - \$49.53 – motor vehicle – excess payment.
 - Elizabeth S. Muir - \$179.21 – motor vehicle – excess payment.
 - Bleak Rock - \$434.24 – personal property – excess payment.
 - Gaetana L. Barbagallo - \$30.21 – motor vehicle – excess payment.
 - James Petrillo - \$18.84 – motor vehicle – excess payment.
 - Hyundai Lease Titling - \$265.34 – motor vehicle – excess payment.
 - Charlise Roper - \$102.57 – motor vehicle – excess payment.
 - Louis D’Amico, Jr. - \$19.57 – motor vehicle – excess payment.
- All of the above approved unanimously.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business – Dish Mill Road Bridge – Permanent Easement from the CT DEEP to the Town of Haddam: First Selectman Schlag received a letter from Eric D. Ott, PE, Director, Engineering & Field Support Services of the CT. Dept. of energy & Environmental Protection regarding the Dish Mill Bridge. In the letter Mr. Ott wrote “this letter is to confirm that the engineering and Field Support Services Division does not have the funding or additional resources to address the repairs required for the dish Mill Road Bridge. This bridge provides access to an undeveloped piece of DEEP property and is a low priority compared to the 100-plus other bridges that serve developed parks and forest.” He also wrote “it is his understanding that the town of Haddam is interested in owning this bridge since it serves many private properties. If this interest did not exist the Dept. would look to restrict access and eventually close the bridge as conditions deteriorated.” Schlag stated there is grant money to help with this project. This information was sent to the P&ZC for an 8-24. At a P&ZC meeting on January 16, 2014, a motion was made by Raul deBrigard as follows: “to support the land transfer of 25,065 s.f. of roadway right-of-way and a 10,969 s.f. proposed permanent easement from CT DEEP to the Town of Haddam for the purpose of continued access on Dish Mill road, across Ponset Brook. Said land transfer is in conformance with the Town of Haddam POCD with regard to the standards established in CGS

8-24. Approved unanimously". After a brief discussion, Schlag moved to set a Town Meeting date to vote to approve the transfer of property. Approved unanimously.

Sale of Town Equipment from a Recent Auction: The Towns of Haddam and Killingworth recently had a Public Works Auction bid for old equipment. A bid was received from Stanley Burr for a 40 cu. Open top roll-off container in the amount of \$835.00; a 5 ton 6x6 dump truck - \$2,315.00; an 11' snow plow - \$115.00 and another 11' snow plow - \$115.00. Donlan moved to sell the equipment to Mr. Burr in the amount of \$3,380.00. Approved unanimously.

Disposition of Piano and Television from Senior Center: Lundgren stated the piano never belonged to the Senior Center. It was donated from a church to Club 60. He would like to get rid of the piano because it doesn't work and it would cost \$350.00 to tune it. The television is obsolete. He recently purchased a 55" smart television for the center. After a brief discussion, Schlag stated she would put the piano on Craig's list and see if the town can get anything for it for one month. Donlan moved, after a month, if the piano is not sold, it will be donated to the shed at the transfer station for recycling. Approved unanimously.

Time Sheets for Elected Officials: Schlag stated the elected officials will need to fill out time sheets to make sure they work the appropriate hours a year to qualify for the town's pension plan, health plan and worker's compensation. If the officials leave the building and get injured, do they qualify for worker's comp because we have no way of telling if they are on town time or not. The Tax Collector asked why now? Schlag stated she recently met with the worker's comp people and they suggested the time sheets. You have to work at least 1,500 hours a year to qualify for the pension plan.

Public Comments: Ed Munster asked for copies of the letters that were sent to the First Selectman regarding the library. He will pick up copies at the office. Munster stated the BOF put money aside for salary increases because the union contract had not been signed until Sept. They needed to wait and see what union members would receive. The union members received a 2.5% increase. The BOS supported the decision of the BOF to put the money aside. Munster does not feel the BOS should get involved in raises or the purchasing of materials for the library. Schlag stated she has an issue after receiving the letters because it's a bad reflection of the town. Schlag stated she will meet with the Board of Trustees to discuss further. Donlan stated he has a problem with the town paying for repairs to the library because it is not a town building. Once you give money to an agency, the town loses control over how the money is spent.

Duval moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 P.M. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli