

## Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting – March 12, 2018 (Approved Minutes)

Lizz Milardo called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438

Larry Maggi and Melissa Schlag were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes:** Maggi made a Motion to accept the February 26, 2018. Corrections: Approval of January 9, 2018 minutes: Registrar of Voters: Milardo & Maggi voted “no” after Town Clerk: insert a colon. February 5, 2018: 2<sup>nd</sup> line (Culture & Recreation) added “to the total” Motion approved unanimously.

### Public Comment:

Moriarty, Sean: commented that although he was not at the last meeting, he listened to the tape and was concerned that while the selectmen were discussing business the public should not chime in.

Milardo responded: she agrees and order was kept and asked if she should control what residents say.

Buzzi, Brenda: Board of Education liaison: The Strategic Capital Planning Committee proposed to have their restructuring had their meeting to have two K-3 Primary Schools, one in Killingworth Elementary and one at Burr Elementary, and to close one Elementary School in Haddam. It would also create a new Intermediate Program, Grades 4 and 5, to be housed at the current Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, along with a Middle School Program, Grades 6-7-8 and the High School would be unchanged. The votes were 10 yes, 1 no and 2 were absent. This would happen in the 2019-2020 school year.

Moriarty, Tanja: encouraged the board to give as many details as possible in the minutes and try to find middle ground. There are 2 Republicans and 1 Democrat on the board and have Ms. Schlag do her checks and balances as she is the only Democrat and move forward.

Chase-Wells, Margo: Commented that the minutes were covered well and should continue to do them the way they are done. It is not to be a transcript.

Moriarty, Sean: Asked to be appointed to the EDC.

Schwing, Ed: Commented that he has not seen such unprofessional behavior on a Board of Selectmen as he has over the past year and stated that the bullying should stop. Personal attacks should not be allowed.

Maggi, Larry: Agreed the bullying should stop and not just at meetings but all over town including social media.

Maggi, Lori: Is there a social media policy for any of the administration in the Town of Haddam?

Milardo: It is being worked on.

Schlag: Letter from Sue Costa 90 Walkley Hill Rd:

***I am writing this in hopes that you might read it and have it entered into tomorrow night's BOS meeting minutes. We are here in Florida, and our only connection with the wrath and havoc Storm Ella wreaked upon Haddam was via the internet. We were so very concerned about our home and the effect of days without power. Thankfully, the temps were warm enough to not have to worry too much about freezing pipes etc.***

***We were also very concerned about our town and the neighbors and friends we hold dear and for their safety and comfort. We were very saddened to see what seemed to be the unpreparedness in our town for this storm...and of course the horrible job Eversource did in the management of power outages. Being in Florida, where disaster plans are strong and followed when necessary, we heard several days before the storm about what was in store for our area and we were shocked when it seemed many were left in the dark and confused as to where to go for water, showers and charging for devices.***

***We are on HaddamNow feed, Town of Haddam feed and also Town pages for Higganum and Haddam...all our info came through these sources and we were quite surprised there was very***

*little updating being done from Town Hall.*

*This seems unacceptable. People were genuinely in need of warmth and words of comfort and reassurance. Yes, we are all adults, but we regress at times and look to our leaders to lead us, to guide us and to comfort us. It is my hope that in the future there is more disaster planning in place for these storms. My neighborhood was one of the last to be restored on late Sunday. Some had elderly at their homes and many had young children and very little information from Town Hall and less from Eversource which only fed incorrect information giving all false hope...this was totally unacceptable. Eversource needs to be called out by our Board of Selectman for continually overcharging and not getting the job done when it is needed! The First Selectman of Essex Norm Needleman, who is a personal friend, wrote a wonderful letter to Eversource on behalf of his constituents which was posted on Facebook for all to read. I would hope that Liz Milardo, our hard working First Selectman, might do the same. I would think the power of the pen, position and the power of numbers might get a point across, I hope so. Thank you for your time and attention.*

Schlag suggested that the Board send a letter to Eversource as 5 days without power is too much.

Milardo: The Town had its own Eversource liaison. An Emergency Operations Center was opened on Thursday morning at 8:00 am. We were to provide a list of blocked roads and downed wires to Eversource. Because of the severity of the storm we had to prioritize a list of 5 roads to Eversource, one was Walkley Hill, which was a disaster. We were in constant contact with residents. I did an update twice a day. We had signage up for a charging/warming/water station at the firehouse on Thursday. Red Cross opened a shelter on Friday at our Middle School in conjunction with Killingworth and Clinton. There were calls that went out through the school district. The shut-ins were all called. Jessica and Eleanor went to High Meadow to check on the residents. We live in New England. On Thursday Eversource had 94% of Haddam out of power. By Sunday at 5:30pm everyone had power back.

Haase, Sally: Commented that her house was without power and living in New England it is expected and you should be able to care for yourself.

Moriarty, Tanja: (on behalf of the Board at High Meadow) Asked if High Meadow be a priority as there are elderly who live there and there is not a generator there.

Milardo responded: Eversource was asked if High Meadow could be put on a "priority list" Eversource informed the town that since High Meadow is privately owned the Property Manager at High Meadow needs to call the outage in to Eversource. Once the outage is reported I can call in and make it a priority.

Moriarty, Sean: asked if there would be a meeting after the storm to discuss how to better prepare and/or respond to a similar situation.

Milardo responded there would be a meeting once all departments are available.

Gaimei, Tony, Silver Springs: Commented that he's lived here in Haddam for 22 years and saw the worst damage to his property since he's lived here.

Milardo, Lou: Commented that his complaint with Eversource is that there were power lines and they were not marked or labeled for safety of residents.

Crete, Myles: Commented on the Board of Education passing the vote to close Haddam Elementary and asked how residents could fight that decision.

Milardo commented that he could continue to go to the Board of Education meetings, write letters

Schlag commented that he can go to the Town Clerk's office and ask for a copy of the Petition / Petition language and you can get a certain number of signatures, present that and force a referendum.

#### **Tax Refunds:**

Motor Vehicle

Chlodnicki Debra \$137.19

Pytlík Christopher \$8.74

Papoosha Bonnie \$53.35

**Total \$199.28**

Maggi made a motion to accept the March 12, 2018 Tax Refunds. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

**Animal Control Officer:** There were 23 incidents. There were some repeat offenders within the month. People need to take responsibilities for their pets.

**Municipal Agent for the Elderly:** She assisted 26 people, 4 for Energy assistance, she helped quite a few at High Meadow. She is CHOICE certified so she can help people with their Medicare applications.

**Social Services Coordinator:** Many donations were made in February to the food and fuel bank. The Emergency Fuel Bank serviced 5 families for emergency oil and the Food Bank serviced 36 adults and 18 children. The Clothing Bank serviced 6 adults and 7 children. Jessica will hold the Women's Empowerment Group on March 22, 2018 from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

**Resident Trooper:** There were 558 calls, 7 motor vehicle, 1 DWI, Criminal mischief & disturbance calls were 0, narcotic 2, domestic disturbances 3, 30 traffic warnings, 14 residential/commercial alarms and 2 medical assists.

- Majority of the month was spent on heightened security / visibility at all HK schools (in Haddam) since event in Florida. When feasible, high visibility will continue as District 17 Does Not have an SRO.
- Attended HKHS (Florida incident) question & answer sessions with students and school officials on 2-28-18.
- Stolen car theft investigations that began April 2017 are now officially closed. DNA confirmation hits came back from the forensic lab and matched suspect arrested in the cases.
- Saybrook Road screws: Minimal complaints to our office, but resident, Pat Morrell states she keeps finding hundreds of them in area of Saybrook Rd and Walkley Hill, and up by Debs Restaurant. \*Surveillance cameras have been re-strategically deployed in those areas recently.
- Swastika vandalism Liberty Bank (Tylerville) Suspect arrested.
- Deep River resident arrested at Exit 8 commuter lot with 100 bags of heroin and paraphernalia.

#### **Appointments:**

**Fire Marshal:** There was a brief discussion regarding Chris Gamache. Maggi made a motion to appoint Chris Gamache as the Fire Marshal. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

**Infrastructure Committee:** There was a brief discussion regarding Mike O'Brien. Schlag made a motion to appoint Mike O'Brien to the Infrastructure Committee. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

**Economic Development Committee:** There was a brief discussion regarding Prem Aithal. Maggi made a motion to appoint Prem Aithal to the Economic Development Committee. No further discussion. Approved Unanimously.

Schlag made a motion to appoint Sean Moriarty to the Economic Development Commission. There was a brief discussion regarding Sean Moriarty. Milardo asked to table this motion until the May meeting because of the representation of the minority party per the Charter. Schlag approved. Maggi and Milardo opposed.

**Haddam Parks & Recreation Commission:** There was a brief discussion regarding Dan Belanger. Maggi made a motion to appoint Dan Belanger to the Haddam Parks & Recreation Commission. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

Maggi made a motion to adjourn at 6:52 pm. No discussion. Approved unanimously.  
Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli