

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – February 18, 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 – February 4, 2015:** Schlag moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Donlan moved to amend the agenda to add the Brainerd Memorial Library Board of Trustees after public comments. Approved unanimously.

**Public Comments:** None at this time.

**Brainerd Memorial Library:** Betsy Clifford and several members of the Board of Trustees were present to discuss their budget for 2015 – 2016. The BOS approved their proposed budget in the amount of \$340,000. The Board of Trustees had originally asked for \$383,849. The BOS approved \$6,724 in November 2014 for raises. Therefore, the Board of Trustees feels their budget should be at least \$346,724. Schlag stated the \$6,724 was approved and the library will receive up to that amount depending on what the actual salary line from last year. What she and Georgia, Finance Coordinator, were waiting for was the actual payroll amount spent. Betsy Clifford gave the BOS a list of their mid-year accounting for the 2014-2015 budget. After a brief discussion, it was decided the BOS will revisit the raise issue for the upcoming budget year. Donlan stated there is a step removed by comparing the library staff with the TOB employees. Donlan stated the town has no control of the library and there is a huge moat to jump over. There is a lack of control over the library's spending. He suggested the Trustees and the BOS should sit down and work the problems out.

Clifford stated other libraries part-time people get sick time, vacations and insurances paid by the town. Schlag stated that part-time people working for the town do not get any benefits. The BOS will be meeting one more time for other budget issues and will discuss this further at that time. Raul deBrigard stated that there is an option and that is for the town to make the library a municipal library. In order to do this, the process would have to go to probate. Schlag is not advocating making the library a municipal library.

**Resignations – Economic Development Commission:** The BOS received a letter from the Chair of EDC asking to accept the resignations of Peter Gillespie and Barbara Fernandez, whose terms expired on June 30, 2014. Their request for resignation was inadvertently not submitted at that time. Donlan moved to accept the resignations. Approved unanimously.

**Appointments – Wetlands Commission – Reappointments:** The BOS received a letter from the Wetland's Commission to reappoint Dan Iwanicki, Thomas Worthley and Mark Stephens for another three-year term to expire May 1, 2017. Their terms expired on May 1, 2014. The reappointment was inadvertently not submitted at that time. Donlan moved the reappointments. Approved unanimously.

**EDC Reappointment:** The BOS received a letter from the EDC to reappoint Edward Vynalek for another three-year term, to expire June 1, 2017. His term expired June 1, 2014. The reappointment was inadvertently not submitted at that time. Donlan moved the reappointment. Approved unanimously.

**Brainerd Memorial Library Appointment:** The BOS received a request from the Library Board of Trustees asking to appoint James Simpson of Haddam Neck to the board for a one-year term 2014-2015. Schlag stated the BOS may want to interview some of the board members before appointment. Donlan

asked how many board members the library has. After a brief discussion, it was decided to table this request until more information is received.

**Tax Refunds:** Donlan moved to approve the following refunds.

Thomas Twomey & Saralyn Damato - \$126.91 – real estate – excess payment.

Cynthia D. Murphy - \$55.98 for a 1995 Nissan – BAA change.

Steven D. Kulmacz - \$6.00 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.

ARI Fleet LT - \$229.29 for a 2010 Dodge – vehicle sold.

Kathleen A. Stakey - \$32.51 for a 1997 Pontiac – vehicle totaled.

All of the above approved unanimously.

**Old Business – Letter from Haddam Veterans Museum Chairman:** Schlag received the following letter from Ronald Annino, Chairman of the Haddam Veterans Museum. “On Memorial Day 2001 we opened the Haddam Veteran’s Museum. Since that day we continue to receive items donated to us. We receive uniforms, photographs, books, magazines, weapons, flags, and radios to name just a few. After thirteen and a half years we are just about out of room to display new items. This is both floor space and wall space. To that end, if any part of the Community Center becomes available for use, we would like to be considered. Either the hall or the truck bays where the Little League stores their baseball gear would be fine. If it were to be the bay area, we would share it with the VFW Post 10690. They would also like to Get the standby generator in the bay area back on line. They feel that getting the generator running would benefit the town in any emergencies. The committee would also be willing to provide man power to bring the buildings back to a presentable condition (cleaning, painting, ceilings and floors). They would like to meet with First Selectman Schlag to discuss further. Schlag stated there is a young man who be doing an Eagle Scout project and is considering making one of the bathrooms handicapped compliant. Schlag stated she will be meeting with the Boy Scout after the capital plan is received.

**New Business:** None at this time.

**Public Comments:** There was a lengthy conversation regarding the library. Schlag stated she feels the library, public health, Haddam Ambulance, etc. are similar to contractual services where the town would decide what type of services to offer and ask what we want to provide to town residents. Donlan feels the Board of Trustees for the Library should have a financial audit done. Donlan stated that at some point, the library has to be fiscally responsible. Meghan Bowden asked if the library had an audit, would it affect first amendment rights by telling the library what kinds of books they are to purchase. Donlan and Schlag stated this wasn’t the type of audit we were discussing. Donlan explained it was a financial audit of their books and accounts. Ed Schwing stated the BOS should interview the people that want to volunteer to see if they have qualifications to run a library. It was suggested that the BOS go to the Board of Trustees for the library meetings, and discuss further, some of their concerns.

Duval moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 P.M. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli