

## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting – December 14, 2020 (Approved minutes)**

Robert McGarry called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm Via GoToMeeting

Kate Anderson and Sean Moriarty were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda:** McGarry added public comment in the beginning of the meeting be limited to items on the Agenda and add an additional public comment after new business or any non-agenda related items. Under new business at County Equivalent Proposal of Endorsement and delete the Connecticut Water Service Contract. Moriarty made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Anderson made a motion to approve the November 9, 2020 as amended changing “honest” to “on it” no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Selectman's Update:**

Tylerville Water: Connecticut Water Installation and Service Agreement will be sent to my office this week. We have 2 options. We take the operation which means were responsible for repairs, billing etc... or we can go into an agreement with Connecticut Water and provide that service for us. It will be a five (5) year renewable contract.

Road work: done for the season

Financial: Tax Collections: same percent to date as last year. Revaluations are complete. Notices have gone out to property owners. Homeowners have a period of time to contact the revaluation company to file an appeal.

Budget: Budget requests will be going out by the end of the week.

COVID-19: Total of 151 Covid-19 cases in Haddam. The first shipment of vaccines have arrived to Connecticut.

Swing Bridge: swing bridge repairs will start Spring 2022 – Fall 2024. Haddam & East Haddam have been applying to get a “Build Grant” to build sidewalks on each side of the Bridge ~ 17 million dollars. State will include the sidewalks in the cost of the bridge refurbishment. It's an 80/20 split to the Federal Government as far as the actual sidewalks on the bridge. The sidewalk connections will go from Eagle Landing to the Bridge and on East Haddam's side from Goodspeed to the Bridge.

Route 9 renumbering: The state is renumbering the exits on route 9 to comply with the Federal numbering systems. No major changes in the first year. The numbers will match the mile markers. We will get a final series of numbers.

Leverette Spencer House on Depot Hill Road, one of the last “mill workers house” Friends of the Cove are working with the owner and the Town to see if we can have it moved to the Higganum cove as a welcome nature heritage center. The owner is open to this.

Anderson commented on the sidewalk on the Swing Bridge. This is tax money, if it doesn’t get spent here it will get spent somewhere else. There was a meeting about a year ago, many people would love this. It will be beneficial to both East Haddam and Haddam.

Earlier this month we had our last Farmers market. It was a great event. Thank you to all who attended.

Thank you to all the businesses, groups and public works who helped to decorate the town for the holidays.

Anderson asked if there been any movement on the cell phone towers? McGarry: Homeland Towers renewed their lease with us, they believe there is still interest for a cell carrier to have cell space on one of our sites.

Board of Education update: (Attached as schedule 1)

Tax Refunds:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Real Estate (01)</b>	
KILROY, EDWARD	\$5.40
baxley, richard	\$7.98
LEONARD, PATRICIA	\$434.47
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$447.85</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle (03)</b>	
toyota - lease	\$427.18
cab east - lease	\$348.65
FOREMAN, JAMES	\$28.61
baxley, richard	\$93.00
baxley, richard	\$51.93
esposito builders	\$25.48
klimaszewski, charles	\$205.48
MULHALL, RICHARD	\$19.06
Ellis, Mary	\$26.37
acar leasing	\$209.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,434.92</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$1,882.77</b>

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Moriarty made a motion to accept the December 14, 2020 Tax Refunds. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Appointments:

Committee on Aging: Anderson made a motion to appoint Jo Ann Woickelman to the Committee on Aging. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Anderson made a motion to appoint Margo Chase-Wells as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### New Business:

##### **2019 Homeland Security Grant Program:**

Moriarty made a motion to approve the 2019 Homeland Security Grant Program Resolution. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approve Budget Transfers:** Fund transfers were approved by the Board of Finance. Normally we would go to a Town Meeting. Under Governor Lamont's Executive Order the Board can approve the transfers as they are necessary for normal operation during the pandemic.

There was a brief discussion discussing the transfers.

Moriarty made a motion to approve Budget Transfer 2020-5 in the amount of \$887,000 into capital outlay fund. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Anderson made a Motion to approve Budget Transfer 2020-6 \$45,744 between the accounts specified there-in. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Sale of 550 Dump Truck:** Moriarty made a motion to approve the disposition of the truck. There was a brief discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Equivalent Proposal Letter of Endorsement:** River Cog is looking for a letter of support for a proposal that will be in federal registrar that has to do with allocation of federal funding. A lot of grants are awarded on a county basis. It does not re-establish counties.

RiverCog is in support of the change. There was a brief discussion.

Moriarty made a motion to send a letter of support for the County Equivalent Proposal. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

**Barbara Fernandez:** 91 Churchill road: Express concerns of the garbage at the Jail Hill park. There is an enormous amount of garbage that needs to be picked up. The trash stops getting picked up in November. People still use the park and still leave garbage.

**Moriarty** commented that there is a scholarship fund, Melissa J. Schlag, a Good Citizenship Education Award Fund. It will be awarded to a high school senior pursuing studies in civics, political science, journalism or communications. It will all get done through the Middlesex County Foundation. High school teachers will decide who gets the award. The money will directly to the school the student goes to.

Anderson: Thank you to Barbara for coming here and sharing your comment.

Moriarty made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

**Summary of November 2020 Board of Education Meetings**

**2020-2021 School Year:**

RSD17 continues to operate K-8 schools in a full in-person model, and the high school in a hybrid model. Superintendent Hageman reported to the Board that she meets weekly with Superintendents from the region as well as local health officials to analyze the data as it relates to keeping students in school, quarantining where we must, and following the DPH's guidelines very strictly. The state did not advocate for proactively closing schools after Thanksgiving, and Dr. Hageman continues to prioritize keeping students in school as much as possible, for as long as possible. The number of families that have chosen to learn remotely remains consistent at 11%.

**2020-2021 Continuous Improvement Plans**

Each fall, the District's Principals report their school's Continuous Improvement Plan to the Board of Education. This year, given this Spring's COVID- related remote learning, the Curriculum Coordinators began the presentation with an overview of math and literacy student data from this fall. Relative to years past, there are some positive highlights of on-track learning, but in some grades and subjects areas there has been learning loss, as was expected. The Curriculum Coordinators have highlighted action steps to adjust instruction and focus on the major themes of each grade level in order to systematically close those gaps and additional supports have been put into place for students in all grade levels. Other major themes throughout the presentations included 1) ensuring all Region 17 students feel safe, respected and accepted, and 2) promoting connectedness and engagement for our students in this very unusual year. These Continuous Improvement Plans have been posted onto the RSD17.org website on each of the school's pages.

**Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

The Personnel Committee reported the District's plan to increase the part time nurse position at the Middle and Intermediate School Building, to a full time position. This increase would put two full-time nurses in the building, one RN and one LPN. The Committee also reported that they are currently in the middle of contract negotiations with two of the District's bargaining units.

**Strategic Planning Subcommittee**

Principals, Teachers, Students, Parents, Community Members and Board of Ed members convened for a "Vision of the Graduate" kickoff meeting. This group is working to gather information from various sectors throughout our communities to identify the core skills and dispositions that are most important to see in an HK graduate. The group will meet again in December to discuss the findings from the Thought Exchange that was sent out to the community and work on next steps to complete this very important work.

**Free School Meals Program**

The USDA Free School breakfast and lunch program has been extended to the end of the school year. This program is available to students who are present in school, students who are remote learning, and children that live in the community but are not enrolled in our school system. If a school, or the district, is operating in full-remote, there will be meals provided at Burr Elementary. If school is cancelled for a snow day, there will not be meals available that day. Order forms are on our RSD17.org website under District - Food Services.

**Website:**

The 32nd annual HKTV Holiday Show will be held on December 23, 2020 from 8 AM to 11 AM. This year the students have chosen to support the Nathaniel B. Field Foundation, a mental health awareness organization that aims to end the stigma surrounding mental illness. The telethon can be viewed live on Comcast Channel 18 and Frontier Channel 6090, and on our website at [holidayshow.rsd17.org](https://holidayshow.rsd17.org).