

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – January 11, 2020 (Unapproved 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: Moriarty made a motion to approve the agenda. Move Health District update to after Public Comment. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

December 14, 2020: Anderson made a motion to approve the December 14, 2020 minutes. There was discussion to capitalize “f” in Friends on page 2; change “Council of Governments” to “River Cog” on page 3. Moriarty made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

December 30, 2020: Anderson made a motion to approve the December 30, 2020 meeting minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: N/A

CRAHD Update: 2 ½ weeks ago vaccinating started. Almost 1000 people were vaccinated in the 1a group. The nursing homes are all vaccinated. 1B is being opened up and encompasses 800,000 people in Connecticut. CRAHD will be working with the First Selectman to getting the information out to the residents.

Selectman's Update:

Financial

- Budgets – Receiving requests from departments

Public Health - Covid-19

- December – 64 (November – 51)
- January to date - 31
- Total – 215

All Nursing Homes received their first does of the vaccine. It was offered to the town's first responders

- Phase 1b – Start mid to late January for individuals 75 and older. frontline essential workers and Individuals living on congregate settings
- Hospitalizations in CT slowly trending down. (May just be end of Thanksgiving surge)

Public Safety – Complaints of speeding, running stop signs received. Troopers stepping up enforcement. Moriarty thanked the troopers for their efforts.

Anderson reported the EDC will be meeting this week. We are looking forward to a normal 2022, any events that anyone would like to see please let us know.

Board of Education update: Attached as Schedule 1

Tax Refunds:

Motor Vehicle (03)	
stack, dana	\$11.44
albert, jonathan	\$14.92
Acer - Leasing	\$907.82
Bleak Rock	\$94.60
Bleak Rock	\$45.85
Bleak Rock	\$24.59
Total	\$1,099.22

Moriarty made a motion to approve the tax refunds as presented. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments:

Democratic Registrar of Voters: Moriarty made a motion to appoint Kate Wessling to the Democratic Registrar of Voters. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resignation: Board of Finance – Harlan Fredericksen. Moriarty commented that he was a pleasure to work with while on the Board of Finance, he will be missed.

Peddlers Permit: The board discussed - McGarry will deny any peddlers permits received, due to COVID -19.

Adjournment: Anderson made a motion to adjourn. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm. Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

Summary of December 2020 Board of Education Meetings

2020-2021 School Year:

Superintendent Hageman reported that the State Board of Education gave school districts the option to use remote learning in place of weather-related school cancellations. After careful consideration, Dr. Hageman decided that RSD17 would keep the first four inclement weather days as “snow days” to be made up in June. If there are more than four, the Superintendent will consider using the state flexibility and will communicate the plan to the District.

District Operating Budget Update

Finance Committee Chair, Eileen Blewitt, updated the Board on the District’s 2020-2021 Operating Budget, including Covid related expenses to date. This fall, the District received two Covid relief grants: the CARES Relief Fund for \$219,740, and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant for \$45,545. Additionally there were Covid related savings in District transportation this summer. As of December, Covid related expenditures had been negated by the grants and Covid specific savings, however this mid-year review noted that pandemic expenses will continue to add up. Outside of Covid related expenses the Finance Committee reported the Special Education and Health Insurance lines were both over budget. Additional investments in paraprofessionals, an interventionist and additional chromebooks for the students have been added to the budget this year. As of December, the Finance Committee estimates the District will end the year in a positive position and plans another update to the Board in February.

Student Services Continuous Improvement Plan

Director of Student Services, Dr. Kris Lindsay-Stevens reported the Continuous Improvement Plan for Student Services to the Board which included three goals for this school year. This year the goal for Student mental wellness focused on grades 6-12 with plans to select a social, emotional, behavioral screening system and curriculum. Dr. Lindsay-Stevens reported that Effective School Solutions (ESS) has been a positive experience for our district by supporting students with identified special education needs, and in some cases preventing out-placement. The second goal to improve the provision of nursing services to our students will start with a nursing audit of our district health offices to keep practices and protocols between schools more consistent. Student Services’ final goal is to continue to improve the preschool program by increasing opportunities for students who need extended day services and finding ways to increase enrollment of typical peers to a 50-50 ratio.

Sand Storage

The Facilities Committee recommended, and the Board agreed, to stop relying on Haddam for sand during snow storms. Haddam’s decision to change their surface treatment as well as complications of access to the facility for the District’s maintenance crew precipitated the decision to become self reliant. The district will use \$14,443.82 from the Capital Fund to build a shelter for the sand. Equipment which is currently stored outside can be put inside this structure when winter sand is not present.

Website:

You can watch the Finance Committee’s report at the December 15th Board of Education meeting on our RSD17.org website under District -> Board of Education -> BOE Meetings and Schedules -> Board of Education.