

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – January 18, 2017 (Unapproved Minutes)

Lizz Milardo called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at Haddam Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive

Robert Duval & Sean Donlan were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda:

Donlan made a motion to Approve the Agenda. Duval seconded. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Board of Selectmen meeting: December 7, 2016. Donlan moved to approve the minutes. Duval seconded. No Discussion. Approved unanimously. January 9, 2017 – Budget Meeting: Donlan made a motion to approve the minutes. Duval seconded. No Discussion. Approved unanimously. Special Meeting – January 9, 2017 – Donlan made a motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting. Duval seconded. No Discussion. Approved unanimously. January 10, 2018 – Budget meeting. Donlan made a motion to accept the January 10, 2017 minutes. Duval seconded. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: Ed Schwing: On the Agenda, Nason Group is listed on here for a Public Hearing – Will documentation be available a couple days before the meeting. **Milardo:** I'm not sure what documentation we'll have. It's just a hearing to discuss with the residents what is going to be happening. I'm not sure what the Attorney will have prepared.

Tax Refunds:

Real Estate (01)		
Mitchell	Jennifer & Adamm	\$2,706.45
		\$2,706.45
Motar Vehicle (03)		
Bystrek	Edward & Heidi	\$50.86
Dabkowski	Darek	\$55.35
Mcauliff	Yvonne	\$217.06
Lawrence, Jr.	Maggi	\$174.72
Lawrence	Mark	\$28.71
Ally Financial		\$218.25
Financial Service Veh Trust		\$204.36
Silvestrini	Lucille	\$27.14
Vitale	Richard	\$182.52
Stakey	Kathleen	\$103.58
Stakey	Kathleen	\$93.29
Lagace	Michael	\$648.96
Ryland 3rd	Cawley	\$123.09
		\$2,127.89
Motar Vehicle Supplement (04)		
Pytlik, Jr.	William	\$93.57
		\$93.57
Grand Total:		\$4,927.91

Duval made a motion to accept those tax refunds. Donlan seconded. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Reports:

- **Animal Control**

Daun is in need of a van. Her van died. We are working on getting her a new van which needs to have air conditioning. We are working on some options with her. She has been very patient. She's been working with Public Works. The Board of Finance is aware of this need. There were a lot of roaming dogs and some Clydesdale horses out loose on New Year's Eve.

- **Municipal Agent for the Elderly**

Eleanor had a total of 35 referrals for the month of December. She had contact with St. Peter's Church to see if there were any seniors in need of type of toiletries and/or hats/mittens/clothing. During the week of Christmas St. Peter's Church delivered them to her office and she wrapped them and delivered them to the seniors in need. She is making sure our seniors are being taken care of! She had the Brownie/Daisy group reach out to her to help with the seniors. There was a couple that she needed to help move into High Meadow. She is continuing to work with CRT and the heating. She is dealing with a few issues with property management at High Meadow.

- **Senior Center**

Suzanne is always coming up with new activities with the seniors. I am happy to report the phone for the meal site number has finally been fixed – after calling Senior Resources and having them contact CRT – we finally got it fixed. That did hurt our meal count a little bit. In the months of September she reported 211 meals, October 242 meals, November 246 meals and December 207 meals. Diane had a total of 69 passengers in the month of November, 8 of them were medicals. She drove over 1,000 miles for them and in the month of December she had a total of 63 passengers, 13 were medicals and she drove a little over 1,100 miles. She took Club 60 to the Trees of Hope in New Haven. Suzanne has been working on crafts & events. She reached out to the Committee on Aging to see if they can help on Thursdays. She is very concerned that if someone falls or has an issue there is no one there to help them. Technically, Shirley, who runs the meal site works for CRT and if Diane is out driving a senior somewhere we want to make sure there is back-up there. We asked the Committee on Aging because they have been very gracious in asking what they can do to help. I'm putting this out to the public – if anyone has a few hours to volunteer at the Senior Center please contact Suzanne or my office. This month she is partnering with the Library. They are going to be doing a program for dementia. She has not worked out the dates yet, but they are looking to do this at the Senior Center. Public Health has been coming in and giving presentations. They are considering on doing another flu clinic for those who haven't gotten their flu shot yet – there will be one more clinic at some point in the near future.

- **Resident State Trooper**

Enrico Milardo – Joseph DeAngelo has been hired to be our permanent evening shift Resident Trooper. He was our part-time fill in trooper while they were going through the search process. He scored the highest on the exam – he came in ranking first for Haddam. He has taken over for Enrico. Enrico works the day shift. They had 494 Routine Calls for Service. 15 of them were motor vehicle accidents. One was a DUI. We had a burglary at the Mobile station on Route 81 and there were some car break ins on Old Chester Road. There were 84 Traffic Citations issued and 20 motorist assists. There were no major incidents in the town. They did make an arrest regarding the vandalism at the HK High School Football Field. There were some residents who were complaining about speeding so I asked them to put counters up and to put some signs up – between him and Public Works they have been working on traffic enforcement. The DUI Grant was approved by the CT DOT. They have been focusing on traffic enforcement on Walkley Hill, Route 81 and Candlewood Hill Road.

Appointments: Inland Wetlands Commission – I have a request from Mark Stephens who is the Chair of Inland Wetlands. Curt Chadwick's term expired on May 1, 2016 and is requesting he be appointed as a regular member to the commission. Donlan made a motion to appoint Curt Chadwick to the Inland Wetlands Commission. Duval seconded. Approved unanimously. We appreciate him volunteering his time.

Old Business: No old business

New Business:

- Set a Town Meeting to approve the appoints of the Park & Recreation Authority; Brookes Court is ready to go as a town road; there are additional easements for Park Road and the Vynalek Property. I propose scheduling the meeting for January 26, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Fire House. **Duval** made a motion to set the Town Meeting for January 26, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Fire House for the various items mentioned. Donlan seconded. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.
- We need to set a Public Hearing. Nason Group has come out of bankruptcy. We need to let the residents in that area know what is going on and what the options are for the property and what we plan to do with the property. The Attorney has been working on putting all the documents together. I want to have a hearing to answer any of the resident's questions that they have. I'd like to schedule that for Monday, January 30, 2017 at the Town Hall at 6:30 pm. **Duval** made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for January 30, 2017 at 6:30 pm to discuss the Nason Group. LLC. **Donlan** – discussion regarding informing the neighbors of the hearing. **Milardo**: we will send e-mails and regular letters via USPS to be sure they are aware of the hearing. Approved unanimously.
- We need to set a Public Hearing for construction for Bartman Road. We will start working on Bartman Road this Spring. There are some residents we will need temporary easements from. I want to let them know what will be happening and what to expect. There are quite a few telephone poles that need to be moved. We will be sending all the residents a letter and letting them know of the Public Hearing on February 2, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Community Center. **Duval** made a motion to set a Public Hearing on February 2, 2017 at 6:30 pm to discuss the Bartman Road Construction at the Community Center. Donlan seconded. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Selectman's updates: We are working on the budget. We have maybe 2 or more meetings left. We'll be ready to turn it over to the Board of Finance. They have their first workshop on February 4, 2017. They moved the calendar up this year so they would have plenty of time to really be able to examine things and be able to what they need to do. There has been some discussion on making some changes and improving some services.

I attended a meeting for the Council of Small Towns (COST). The Governor came in and spoke Kevin Lembo spoke. There were cuts to ECS for us and for Municipal Aide to approximately \$115,000.00 for the town. I'm hopeful we are going to be able to recoup those dollars. We did have some previous taxes that were due to the town come in due to a tax sale.

Donlan Comment: Just to be clear, the Nason Group meeting affects everybody in town, not just the neighbors. Anybody who has any interest in that area – it will involve potential property that is going to come to the town. Property that the town may deem open space, may sell, there are tax implications and there are financial implications. Anybody who has any interest in the budget itself or financial status of the town or open space or that particular area, come to the meeting, not just the neighbors. **Milardo:** Thank you, Nason group owed the town about 1 ½ million dollars that we were not able to collect. There are a few parcels that the town will be able to take over. I've had a few people contact me about purchasing property. We would get an appraisal and get fair market value for it to help recoup some of those tax dollars we weren't able to collect.

Public Comments: Ed Schwing: Today there was a hearing scheduled at the State Labor Board about a Complaint filed by the Teamsters Union. The Complaint alleges that you, the First Selectman made changes to terms and conditions of employment and according to the law it states that you cannot do that, that you need to bargain with the union employee, so my question is why did you decide to make those changes without talking to the union rep? Second, after this

hearing today, are you planning to restore the previous conditions until there is a contract?

Milardo: I have the complaint. I'm not sure there are any violations, which is why there is a hearing for discussion. Once we go to the hearing and we figure out what truly happened and if there is action to be taken care of I will do what we need to do. The hearing hasn't been held yet.

Schlag: Furthermore, were there changes made to the work parameters of the Public Works employees after the union contract was signed? **Milardo:** not to my knowledge. **Schlag:** Did you make any changes to the traditional methods were before prior to the union contract being signed? **Milardo:** No. There are policies in place that were here long before I was.

Charlie – Is the new supervisor required to come in to remove snow? **Milardo:** It depends on what is going on. If there's snow removal, he's been plowing. Pete Santoro is the one who is in charge of calling the crew in, he is the foreman. Pete and Chris communicate and decide when to call the crew in and Pete calls them in. **Charlie** Who actually makes the decision to call the crew in? **Milardo:** Chris does. Pete calls Chris, or Chris calls him – as you know, the top of Pakorney Road where I live could have three (3) inches of snow and where you are Charlie, there could be nothing. So the protocol is that the Foreman and the Assistant Director of Public Works communicate and discuss the conditions. Pete is the one who makes the calls to the crew to have them come in.

Schlag: Have you brought up the Labor Issue and discussed it with the Board of Selectman?

Milardo: They are aware of it. I'm not hiding anything. **Schlag:** Did you discuss it with them?

Milardo: It's a hearing - we don't know what is valid or isn't valid. **Schlag:** It costs money to send an attorney there. **Milardo:** It cost money to respond to Mr. Schwing's FOI Complaint also and you don't seem to care about that. What is the difference if there are labor concerns for the town paying properly due to personnel procedures or this (FOI Complaint) **Schlag:** The FOI is part of your job it doesn't cost anything to pull out some documents. **Milardo:** No, it doesn't cost any money to pull out documents. You are correct. **Schlag:** The labor issue could potentially be a big ticket item. **Milardo:** That's your opinion.

Munster: You say, FOI doesn't cost any money but it does cost time to look around and dig out material and provide it. I would contend that it does cost us as taxpayers because it does take you and other people away from their jobs to do it.

Donlan: In general, I would disagree with you Ed, because I don't want anyone ever to feel intimidated or feel any hesitation to FOI anything this board does or anything the town does and I wouldn't want to feel that they would not want to go forward with an FOI because it costs money. As a member of the Board of Selectman, anyone who wants to FOI anything in this town or anything we do, please go ahead. Don't be intimidated or believe that because you do that it's going to cost the town money. We are a transparent government with anything we do. **Milardo:** we are transparent, and for the record, I'm not a fan of the publication that "I will not collaborate or provide due to a deadline" on documentation that I did not have at the time. I have a hard time with that. I have an entire file here of FOI requests from both Mr. Schwing & Ms. Schlag have requested of me. Anything I am able to share with them I have and I have an open door policy. For whatever reason, it seems that whatever I'm doing in the Selectman's Office doesn't work on their deadline. **Schwing:** That's your job, you're a public servant. **Milardo:** Not to work for the Haddam Bulletin.

Peterson: Are there any properties that the town may be selling that they acquire – how would I go about learning of those properties? **Milardo:** Generically, if there's a property that owes taxes – it's printed in the paper and then we have an auction for a Tax Sale. The public can come in. There are requirements to show your license and to show a deposit. I imagine that the same process will go through with Nason Group. This has been going on for over twenty (20) years –

it's not something we've gone through many times before which is why we've been very careful and doing our research. For those properties that will be available – we will have that information available and maps that evening. The properties will be identified. **Donlan:** This isn't a normal Tax Foreclosure. This one is unique, it's a little different. **Milardo:** The Town Planner does have a map in her office. You can go into Land Use at any time and look at it. Town Office Building is open Monday – Wednesday 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, Thursday – 8:30 am – 6:30 pm and Fridays, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm. That is public information and those properties are identified. **Donlan:** Normally, if a person or entity owed taxes to the town, the town would foreclose on that and it would be put up for auction by the court and anyone could buy it and the town would just get the tax dollars back. This is going to be different because the town is going to be transferred back the property – it won't be like a tax foreclosure auction. It's part of the company coming out of bankruptcy. It will be handled differently, come to the Town Meeting to find out.

Mary Nork: Regarding the refunds, it is unusual to hear over \$2,000.00 being refunded on real estate, do you know the circumstance to that? **Milardo:** The owner paid twice.

John Nork: Is there something going on with the traffic lights? I see the DOT is there?

Milardo: There were a few different sensors there that DOT had and it took them a few days to make sure that they were working right. They were not reacting the way they needed to. It seems to be fine, the engineers are coming back at the end of the month to check on it to make sure everything is running fine.

Duval moved to adjourn meeting at 7:35 PM. Donlan seconded. Approved unanimously.
Minutes taken by: JoAnn Ricciardelli