

## Board of Selectmen's Meeting – February 15, 2017 (Approved Minutes)

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

Robert Duval was present. Sean Donlan was not.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### Approval of Agenda:

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Duval made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2017, February 1, 2017 and February 8, 2017. Milardo seconded. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

### Public Comments: Ray Bogdan, 92 Nason Road, Higganum

I am here requesting that the town make an ordinance against shooting right off their back porch or in their yard. If they don't have better than 20 acres they shouldn't be shooting off their house. I don't mean that they shouldn't go and site their gun or something like that. This is a continuous thing, every single weekend this firing goes on. I have an i phone with the recordings so you will be able to hear it. The parcel that is marked in red is approximately where the shooting takes place. The property adjacent to it is a 43 acre piece of property that I own. This little piece across the street is where I reside. It's less than an acre. The problem that we've been having is that every weekend, Saturday and Sunday, sometimes during the week as it stays lighter later – I understand it's a young man, comes out on this property – approximately right here and starts firing his gun. We are talking about an automatic rifle and you'll be able to judge that for yourself when you listen. I personally think it's probably something that shoots very quickly. What I wrote here is the following (You don't have to answer these questions) Why is there no noise ordinance in this town? This shooting goes on for 2-3 hours every single Saturday and Sunday. The type of gun, I don't know because I haven't physically seen it. The State Police have seen it. I've called the State Police numerous times.

**Milardo:** How long has this been going on, approximately? **Bogdan:** a better part of the year, last year into this year. **Milardo:** And when you are calling the Troopers, are they responding? **Bogdan:** I don't walk up there because I'm afraid of getting shot. I've called the State Trooper and they say there isn't anything that they can do because the town of Haddam does not have a shooting ordinance or a gun ordinance. They told me I would have to go to Planning & Zoning. I went to Planning and Zoning and they didn't want to hear any part of it. They told me I had to go to the Board of Selectmen. I did find some paperwork – the bottom paragraph *“Public recreational uses. Shooting ranges, racetracks, amusement parks and other uses so deemed by the Commissioner are prohibited. Municipal parks may be allowed under site plan review.”*

The type of gun, is it a Bushmaster, I don't know.

It interferes with my tenants next door. I'm afraid I'm going to lose them because of the shooting, which is my livelihood. If I have to show the house on the weekend when there is shooting, do you think someone is going to rent my house, especially with children. Therefore, this situation is interfering with our livelihood. I'm a licensed real estate broker – my grandchildren came up from New York City over the holidays where their mother grabbed them and brought them into the house. I bought bicycles for them to drive around the driveway and the shooting started. They were frightened and had to go inside. I'm sad they couldn't enjoy the country. They live in New York City. I never received notification that this shooting range was being built. Another words, whenever I did any subdivision work (and I did the entire subdivision behind the Town Hall, there's 52 acres there) I had to send everybody certified letters stating “this is what I'm doing” I never received any notification that there was a shooting range.

I asked the Town Planner and the Selectman to call me to discuss this. I went to Planning and Zoning and they told me it wasn't their problem. I had gone there after the State Trooper advised me to. According to the States website, question and answer regarding the search for a new shooting range, they are taking in more consideration for noise property values decreasing than the Town of Haddam. I feel there is a tragedy waiting to happen. I happen to know this is a young man doing this shooting. We have a lot of small children in this neighborhood. Are we looking at another Newtown? (looking at the map) This is the property here – this is approximately where the shooting is happening. I can see it from the inside of my house. Mr. Bogdan played the recordings of the shooting. Mr. Bogdan was asked to bring his iphone

to the Town Office Building to copy the recordings. **Milardo:** We will look into this, we will do some homework and get back to you. I'm glad that you came.

### **Tax Refunds:**

#### **Real Estate (01)**

Meghan Bowden & David Peterson	\$3,315.94
Wanda & Anthony Cacace	\$613.00
Lereta LLC	\$2,606.29
	<b>\$6,535.23</b>

#### **Motar Vehicle (03)**

Nancy Hunter	\$6.93
	<b>\$6.93</b>

#### **Motar Vehicle Supplement (04)**

Sheilia Gouin	\$130.94
	<b>\$130.94</b>

**Grand Total:** **\$6,673.10**

Milardo made a motion to accept the tax refunds. Milardo seconded. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

### **Reports:**

- **Animal Control**

We all know Daun is very busy. We have some loose horses. One dog had to be quarantined. There are about 30 instances here, mostly dogs. Some dogs missing, some dogs found, dogs invading on other peoples' properties. She's still busy doing what she does.

- **Municipal Agent for the Elderly**

For the month of January she assisted 39 individuals. She has been working with lots of the residents up at High Meadow. Eleanor had surgery at the end of January so despite that she was very busy. She got a lot of things accomplished. She's been talking to Senior Resources and she's been working with the Veterans to see what benefits are available for Senior Veterans. She's been working on Fuel Assistance with the Oil Company. Candy Casale is out so Eleanor has been helping out with that.

- **Senior Center**

CRT who is our new food service provider – for those of you who don't know – we are in charge of taking over the phone of the previous provider. There were many times that Frontier was supposed to show up and they didn't and there was issue after issue. I'm glad to say that the phone is back working! There were 239 meals served in the month of January and two (2) of those days we were closed. CRT, which is the vendor who bid on these meals through Senior Resources have gone through the number of meals they were allowed. They proposed going from a five (5) day cycle to a three (3) day cycle. The town has been working with Senior Resources and CRT and with Youth and Family Services to figure out a way to be able to continue the meals for the seniors five (5) days a week. For right now that will continue until the end of February, possibly into March. We are looking into some alternatives / solutions. It was on the news, in the Hartford Courant, all towns were affected by it, not just Haddam. She's done some great presentations, "Stop Ageism" Liz Glidden came in and spoke about the POCD. We started to Zumba and Dance Therapy. Suzanne is great about her mindful mediation and her enrichment programs. February highlights are Veteran Workshop with Meghan Peterson, Family Care Plus with Kellie Kraushick and Heart Health with Daisy Hernandez as it is Heart Health month. There is a field trip to Meriden Mall, there is a Cancer Prevention presentation. She is working on a

project with Tom at the library for those with Altimers. Someone made an anonymous donation to the Senior Center for \$1,000.00. Very generous and I can't thank that person enough.

- **Resident State Trooper**

They had 545 calls. 5 were Citizen Assist calls. 12 are motor vehicle incidents. 21 were motorists assists. 2 medical, 16 alarms, no criminal mischief and 2 unattended death investigations which were elderly, no DUI's, 1 burglary, unfortunately the Mobil Station on 81 keeps getting broken into, they aren't taking anything but it's still breaking and entering property. There was an armed robbery at the gas station down on 154 that they have been looking into. There were 71 traffic citations. The troopers seem to be very busy. I think I said this in our last meeting, the DWI grant was approved.

**Old Business:** No old business

**New Business:** No new business

**Correspondence:** None

**Selectman's Comments:** Yesterday I attended CCM. Ben Barnes came in from OPM and tried to give us some explanations about what's going on with the state budget. I also had a COST which is Council of Small Towns – board meeting today. There was more discussion about the state budget. The big things in the budget that are going on are the Governor is looking for the towns to contribute one third (1/3) of the teachers retirement plan to make a contribution to that. There are some changes – ECS is still up there for discussion with the formula; Special education, how the refunds will be handled and the cost sharing from the state. There's a lot of questions around the teachers retirement plan and because some towns are a regional school district just like we are. Cathy Iino and I have had several discussions – we are waiting for Howard Theiry to return. He is in Jordan right now. We want to have a meeting with him so we can see how this will shape up. We are not happy about the news for Haddam. Haddam is impacted by about \$704,000.00 which is the estimate right now of the funding we will not be getting from the state. Compared to other towns – some towns all of their funding was wiped out – so it's not a bad thing, but it's still not acceptable. At the end of the day there is still going to be a deficit. I don't know one First Selectman, Mayor or Town Manager in this state that is happy about what's going on. We're hoping to come together we plan to give testimony in Hartford. We've been asked to join forces together, even though some have been hurt and others have not. The state needs to know we don't want to increase property taxes. They have opportunities to increase sales taxes. They are pretty adamant that they don't want to increase taxes and they don't want it to look like a state increase. At the end of the day, it's going to affect taxes either way. The municipalities, for the most part, have been financially sound, balancing their budgets and I don't think it's right to have the residents be hit. There's got to be a way to make it more fair. There is some discussion about tolls. There is some discussion about increasing the sales tax. Connecticut wants to be competitive with outside businesses coming in. There was lots of news as I was leaving the house about UCONN having some cuts and some increases. Everyone is being affected. We are asking that they look at everything diligently. I'm hoping they are not looking to pass the budget five (5) minutes before midnight like they usually do. It is encouraging to see that everybody is in unison despite what party they are on. This will consume my life for the next few months, which is fine. Being a finance person I enjoy looking at how they magically appear with numbers. One other note, Killingworth's share of pension contributions is higher than Haddam's. Towns like Durham & Killingworth are possibly looking at a 4 mil increase based on what happened at the state level versus Haddam, if it were to go through we would be looking at a little less than 1. It's still not what we want to see.

**Public Comments: Ed Schwing:** A question to follow up on Mr. Bogdan's problem: P&Z didn't think it was necessary to put in the P & Z regulations. I'm wondering if the board is considering to put in an ordinance for noise. **Milardo:** I think we need to come up with a game plan. I think it's too soon to say yes or no. **Schwing:** But you do think it's the responsibility of the Board of Selectman versus Planning & Zoning? **Milardo:** I don't know I have to do some research.

**Peterson:** Regarding Malloy's increase, what's the best way to get follow-ups regarding your efforts and other Selectman's efforts in the state? Is it just attend these meetings?

**Milardo:** I think if you go on CTN, News 9 to see what's going at the legislation – there are some bills, I'm trying to work on an article out to do that, following those bills. One of the things that I brought up, being someone in finance and working with teachers is that the teachers in addition to their pension they pay into are allowed to save money in a separate account called a 403B – it works a lot like a 401K. It's meant for teachers and others in the non-profit world. Teachers do not get Social Security. Teachers in Connecticut do not receive Social Security based on their teaching career. They are able to transfer the funds that they save outside their 403B contract and transfer them into their pension from the state. The actuarial tables that they use through the state of Connecticut are a much higher of a payout than is out in the market place. For example, if you are a female (usually females live longer – so their payout is lower) and you are age 65 and you go to put \$50,000.00 into some type of lifetime payout, your payout in the market is going to tend to be less than half (1/2) if not lower for your lifetime versus if you put it right now under the current formula for the teachers retirement plan. I know of someone who is retiring who is putting \$50,000.00 of their 403B in and that person in addition to their pension – just based on that transfer going in – will get \$500.00 a month more for the rest of their life versus if you went out to the market place, you might get around \$200.00 a month. There is nothing wrong with doing that. When the rates in the market place and actuarial are based on paying out 2% or 3 % and the states paying out close to 8% some things not right. A lot of the towns have switched over what they are doing with Pensions. Even if there are things that can happen next year we're going to have the same problem. Even though the towns are not happy with what is being done we understand it's a problem. I think they have to make sure the numbers were getting have backup. We've received numbers but no backup. There's a lot of gray on where the numbers came from. CCM represents 165 towns of 169. COST has probably another 60 towns.

**Perron:** Comment on the shooting. I went through a couple of months ago in Haddam Neck. I talked with one of our troopers. With no town ordinance with shooting, target practice, there are no ranges in town – their concern is 1, they highly recommend that if you are going to shoot you let your neighbors know, that's also on DEEPS' website. Also, you cannot shoot within 500 feet of a neighbor's house. That's a law. That person can get arrested if shooting within 500 feet of your house. There is other ordinance out there – when you shoot on your property it needs to be down range. That was the main concern the troopers had when I called and told them I was shooting in case you got a phone call.

**Bogdan:** I think the 500 feet only involves hunting.

**Milardo:** We will find out.

**Duval** moved to adjourn meeting at 7:42 PM. Milardo seconded. Approved unanimously.  
Minutes taken by: JoAnn Ricciardelli