

Selectmen's Meeting – April 16, 2014

Schlag opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. at the TH. Duval and Donlan were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acceptance of Minutes – April 2, 2014 and Special Meetings April 3, and 9th: Donlan moved to approve the Special Meetings as submitted. Approved unanimously. Schlag moved to approve the April 2nd meeting as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: Cheryl Haase presented a letter of resignation to the BOS from Joe Centofanti, alternate on the BOF. Schlag explained the process to Haase, stating that the resignation had to go to the Town Clerk and the Town Clerk would submit it to the BOS for final approval. Haase stated she would do that.

Reports – Municipal Agent for the Elderly and Board of Education Report: Rebecca Valenti, liaison for the BOE was present to answer and clarify any questions the BOS had on the upcoming budget proposal. Both Selectmen Duval and Donlan asked what had changed since the meeting of the BOS & BOE members and what effect does it have to the town.

Valenti stated the Anthem Insurance quote came in as \$1.07 million, so the BOE is going with CIGNA in the new budget. The contractual salary increased to \$491,000, loss of revenue from transportation - \$317,000, Special Education Classes - \$222,000, and Worker's Compensation increased to \$80,000. Those were the increases. Schlag asked what the difference is between Cigna and Anthem \$771,000 savings. Donlan asked about the early retirement plan reductions \$666,000. Valenti stated there were 15 slots for retirees and 14 teachers took the early retirement. Valenti stated three teacher positions were not filled. Schlag stated because the town is on the same health insurance as the school, it would have been helpful for the school to let the town know about the change. Schlag stated she has been in contact with our insurance consultant regarding the change and is working on this.

Municipal Agent for the Elderly: Schlag read the March report to the BOS. Lundgren stated in his report that United Way and AARP programs have been helping the seniors with income tax preparation. He is taking applications for the renter's rebate program. The Committee on Aging is in its final stage of sending out a pamphlet to all seniors in town with important information. The HK Middle School is holding their Annual Community Service Day on May 3rd for the seniors to get help around their house, leaf raking and garden prep. The new exercise class has begun and the center is busy with their normal events (Bingo, needlework, ukulele, and wood carvers).

Tax Refunds: Schlag moved to approve the following refunds.

Peter or Heidi Lyons - \$13.23 for a supplemental on motor vehicle – Excess payment.

Philip Mueller - \$68.27 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.

Both of the above approved unanimously.

Appointments – Conservation Commission: The BOS received a letter from Ian Gibson, requesting he be appointed to the Conservation Commission. Donlan moved to appoint Ian for a three-year term, to expire April 30, 2017. Approved unanimously.

Donation of Fire Dept. equipment to another Fire Dept. in New Hampshire: The BOS received a request from Chief Sam Baber, HVFD, to ask permission to donate the following equipment to a less fortunate fire department in Acworth, New Hampshire. This town currently does not have any hydraulic

rescue tools. The closest fire dept. is 15 – 20 minutes away. Hurst Power Bee Gas power Unit (bought in 1978) with 16' hose. Hurst 32B Spreader (bought in the 80's). Hurst 32A Spreader (bought in 1978). Hurst 0150 Cutters (bought in the 80's). Hurst Multi tool manifold. Hurst Ram and various replacement tips and attachments for tools. The above equipment was replaced a while ago by our fire dept. Baber stated in his letter that he contacted the Hurst Dealer and he feels if you could find a buyer who was interested in this equipment, as its all-out dated and discontinued, it would have a current value of about \$750. Schlag moved to allow the Fire Chief to donate the equipment to Acworth, New Hampshire. Approved unanimously.

Old Business: Schlag stated she had met with Governor Malloy this week regarding the education funding for the town. She stated there is quite a disparity between all towns. She will continue to keep the lines of communication going with him. Some other towns are putting in a law suit. Schlag will check into this further.

Electronic Sign: Donlan talked briefly about the electronic sign the Lion's Club is going to erect on the green in Higganum Center. They will be starting their fundraiser in the near future and would like a letter of support for the concept, not monetarily. Schlag stated she would like to have a say about what the sign will look like. Schlag feels this is a great idea and will send a letter of support to the Lion's Club.

American Diabetes Association's Annual Tour de Cure Ride: The BOS received a request from the American Diabetes Association asking permission to use town roads on Sunday, June 8th, 2014 starting at the Durham Fairgrounds at 6:00 A.M. and ending by 3:00 P.M. and riding through Haddam. This is a non-competitive bike ride. Donlan moved to approve the request. Approved unanimously.

New Business: Schlag announced she received a "Memorandum of Agreement" re: use of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 State Homeland Security Grant Funding and Custodial Ownership of regional Assets in DEMHS Region 2. This has been signed by previous administrations and now must be signed with the new First Selectman Schlag. After a brief discussion, Donlan moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement. Approved unanimously.

Agreement between American Red Cross and the Town: At the last BOS Meeting, Schlag gave a copy of an agreement to the BOS to review. The purpose of this agreement is to provide for the cooperation, collaboration and coordination between the Town and the American Red Cross in carrying out their respective responsibilities in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. Donlan moved to authorize the First Selectman to enter into the agreement. Approved unanimously.

Duval moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli