

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

Lizz Milardo called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. at the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Community Hall, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum 06441

Sean Donlan and Robert Duval were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda: Donlan made a motion to amend the agenda to include the verbiage for the Resolution authorizing First Selectman to file and apply for grant and financial assistance from state of Connecticut for capital improvements for long-term provision of potable water in Tylerville section of the Town of Haddam and the Disposal of the 2001 Astro Van under new business. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Donlan made a motion to approve the November 1, 2017 minutes. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: Sonski on behalf of the Board of Education: Roof project is finished. Budget was approved for the state. It's not as severe as anticipated but it's still more of a problem than we thought it would be when we passed our budget. The Board of Education is planning on meeting with both Board of Selectmen (Haddam & Killingworth) to discuss the budget. The Strategic Planning subcommittee of the Board discussed the options to reallocate the resources in the district. We voted to approve their recommendation: K-3 students into two elementary schools. Move 4th 5th, 6th 7th & 8th into the middle school and the high school would remain 9-12. If a school were to close it would be 1 of the 2 elementary schools in Haddam. There is still a lot of research that needs to be done. Which school is in better condition and which building can education the K-3 students. We plan to start meeting in January.

Schwing: Discussed a decision he received from the FOI Commission regarding a complaint he made.

Schlag: Asked "Can you explain the Tax Sale of Higganum Cove?" **Milardo:** The Tax Collector, Land Use and myself have met with the Attorney's to ensure a way the town can take the property from the cove. It was recommended to us from the attorneys that the way we would have the most **control** over the property was to do it via Tax Sale which will be held January 30, 2018. The terms and conditions of the sale are what's available up to the day it will be sold. There are liens from EPA and from DEEP that can be added to that. There are a number of things that can be added to that. Those Terms and Conditions will be available before the day of the sale. **Schlag:** Can I get a promise that you will do everything in your power to make sure this property stays with the people? **Milardo:** It is staying with the people. That's why we're taking the measures that have. We already met with the Haddam Historical Society and the Haddam Land Trust to discuss that. This was the way the Town can control and make sure that it stays part open space property for passive use for the town. If we had a foreclosure we'd have to rely on the judicial system to put a committee together and that would not allow us to have as much control. Up to the day of that sale, if we don't like any of the bids that are presented the Town can pull it at that time and it would still stay in foreclosure or a tax lien against the town. This is the best way to ensure this property stays in the hands of the town. **Schlag:** So it would be up to whom to be sure that the sale stops if we don't like what's presented. **Milardo:** The Tax Collector. I plan to be present and so are the attorneys. It's ultimately up to the Tax Collector. It's her responsibility. **Schlag:** If someone comes in and offers \$200,000.00 and she takes it.. **Milardo:** They are not going to be able to do that. They will have to pay the EPA the 3 million dollars that they spent and 1 million dollars to DEEP that they spent. That's what the terms are going to be. It doesn't matter if there are liens or not, it's written into the language of the sale. **Schlag:** Where can I find that language? **Milardo:** The attorney who is handling the foreclosure will have that available. It doesn't need to be available right now, but it will be available at the time it needs to be before the sale. The attorney is working on it. I don't anticipate it taking that long. That is up to the Tax Collector and him. We had another meeting this afternoon and that is what was decided upon.

Tax Refunds:

Real Estate (01)			
NA			
Total:		\$0.00	
Personal Property (02)			
NA			
Total:		\$0.00	
Motor Vehicle (03)			
Spencer	Brewster	\$33.94	Current
Shawn	Rockwell	\$77.32	Current
Roni	White	\$87.36	Prior
Total:		\$198.62	
Motor Vehicle Supplement (04)			
NA			
Total:		\$0.00	
Grand Total:		\$198.62	

Duval made a Motion to approve the November 15, 2017 Tax Refunds as presented. Donlan seconded. No discussion. Approved Unanimously.

Reports:

- **Animal Control:** We have 17 Dog incidents, 3 cats and a snake incident and an iguana as well as a deer. There was a concern that came from a resident who had a 17 foot snake. You do not need a special permit to have that snake. You can purchase a Boa Constrictor at a pet store so you can have one in your home.
- **Senior Center:** The Center was open 20 out of the 31 days in October. They were closed for the Senior Expo on October 3rd and Columbus Day on October 9th. Flu shots were offered by CHRAD and also by the pharmacy by Greg McKenna. Club 60 had their annual mystery trip. They were visited by the Nursery School and their regular activities continue. CRT is looking to hire someone to work at the meal site. The person who we had was moved to Middletown. Our numbers are increasing. I've been assured that the funding for meals will still be five days at the meal site and there is no wait list for meals on wheels. Diane Gondek was out due to a medical procedure. We had a substitute van driver so we had coverage. Linda finished up on Friday and Diane came back to work on Monday.

Old Business: None

New Business: Tylerville Water: There was a brief discussion regarding the status of the Tylerville Water. This will go in front of the Bond Commission the end of January. This needs to go on the Agenda the end of December. We will probably need to have a Town Meeting the end of December to get the final approvals of what we need to do.

Duval made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing First Selectman to file and apply for grant and financial assistance from state of Connecticut for capital improvements for long-term provision of potable water in Tylerville section of the Town of Haddam

Capital Asset Disposal Policy: There was a brief discussion regarding the lack of a Capital Asset Disposal Policy. Donlan made a motion to approve the Capital Asset Disposal Policy as presented. Duval seconded. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP Grant): There was a brief discussion.

Donlan made a motion to send a legal notice out and request a RFQ for engineering services for the project for the sidewalks by the swing bridge under the TAP grant. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

Pension Change: Our town pension plan is currently with Securial. There are a lot of internal fees in the Securian Plan. We are under contract with the union to continue some type of defined benefit plan similar to the Securian plan. After a full analysis of looking at that we decided upon approval tonight, we will work with an independent financial advisor which gives them the right to use independent products. We are not in compliance with the investment policy statement of how the funds need to be invested. This will come with an update to make sure we are compliant. I am looking for a change from Securian to Nationwide. A discussion followed.

Duval made a motion to switch from Securian to Nationwide. Milardo seconded. Donlan abstained. No further discussion. Approved 2 to 1.

Disposal of van: Donlan made a motion to dispose of the 2001 Astro Van for scrap for \$412.00. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: Schwing: Made a comment about a consent order with the DEEP and asked what it was and asked for a copy. Milardo stated that the Consent order is still being worked on by the attorneys and the commissioner. **Schalg:** Asked for clarification on what was just signed. **Milardo:** Permission to continue to negotiate for that consent order. **Schlag:** you're not consenting to the town to take responsibility for the pollution? **Milardo:** The town will never take responsibility for the pollution.

Selectman's Comments: Milardo made a presentation to Sean Donlan thanking him for his many years of service on the Board of Selectmen and presented him a gift. He always puts Haddam first and his time is greatly appreciated.

Robert Duval was presented with a plaque. Thank you for your dedication and service to the Town of Haddam as Selectman from 2005 – 2017 you've done so much for this community. Sean Donlan also thanked him for his service and dedication to the Town.

Duval made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Donlan seconded. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli