

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – January 8, 2018 (Approved Minutes)

Lizz Milardo called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438

Larry Maggi and Melissa Schlag were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda: Maggi made a motion to amend the Agenda to include the December Senior Center Report and to add Higganum Cove under old business and add Haddam Elderly Housing, Small City Grant under new business. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Maggi made a motion to approve the December 6, 2017 minutes. Schlag made a suggestion to include specific names rather than I or We and to include a reason why a member would oppose a Motion for the future. Approved unanimously with suggested changes.

Maggi made a motion to accept the December 18, 2017 minutes. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Tax Refunds:

Motor Vehicle (03)		
Toyota Lease Trust		\$288.29
Toyota Lease Trust		\$235.56
Kanaras	John	\$180.85
Davis	Sue & Peter	\$38.66
Markwat	Margaret & John	\$151.70
Total		\$895.06

Maggi made a Motion to accept the January 8, 2018 Tax Refunds. No discussion. Approved Unanimously.

Reports:

- **Animal Control:** Milardo had a meeting with Daun last week. She came to get her Animal Control Officer Certificate. There have been a number of issues Daun has to deal with. She has handled a dog bites and quarantines. She has a few repeat offenders and will continue to ticket them. The first offense is a warning and the next time is a ticket.
- **Municipal Agent for the Elderly:** In November Eleanor had a number of residents contact her regarding paying the Medicare B that the General Assembly was going to have residents pay out of pocket. Since then they've rescinded having residents pay out of pocket. Renters Rebates checks have gone out. She helped someone with Fraud and is

looking to do some education for the elderly on that. In December Eleanor started with the CRT Applications. She and Jessica Condil the Social Services Coordinator, went to High Meadow to hand out emergency kits. Beth Hartke and her knitting group knitted a bunch of scarves and hats to be included in the kits.

- **Senior Center Report:** In November the Center was open 19 out of 30 days. They had a Veterans Day brunch. Jack Murphy helped with that brunch. The holiday fair was organized by Shirley Talbot, Paula Woodworth and Alice Zanelli. They raised \$1,257.00 that was donated to the Senior Nutrition Program. It was a packed event. Tony Bondi's portrait was reframed. Diane came back from her surgery and is up and running. In December the center was open 15 out of 31 days. The Center is closed in between Christmas and New Year's. The second edition of the Senior Scoop was published. CRT has been consistent. They have a new kitchen worker who has been working out.
- **Social Services:** Jessica received donations from the Higganum and Tylerville Market, River House, Town and Country Nurseries, Liberty Bank and Churches around town. There was a total of 50 Christmas baskets handed out. 6 donated by the Higganum United Methodist Church, 24 delivered and made by the Haddam Lions Club and 20 by the Haddam Food Bank. Jessica has helped 6 families with fuel. The same knitting group with Beth Hartke donated 36 hats, gloves and scarves. She has been working with the Committee on Aging with the emergency kits and making sure all the shut in's in town has a kit. She is meeting with all of the shut in's individually to make sure they have an emergency plan.

Resignations: Fire Marshal: Bill Robbins is retiring as of April 2, 2018. He is recommending and it will be discussed at a later meeting, to appoint Deputy Fire Chief, Chris Gamache to fill that position. Chris works for South Fire District in Middletown. He has completed the training that needs to be done for Fire Marshal. Milardo will meet with Chris Gamache and will report back to the board.

Appointments:

Street Naming Committee: Schlag made a motion to appoint Tom Kobylenski, Chris Corsa and Lizz Milardo to the Street Naming Committee. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Inland/Wetlands: Schlag made a motion to appoint Mark Stephens, Thomas Worthley and Dan Iwanicki for a three (3) year term to the Inland/Wetlands. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Conservation Commission: Schlag made a motion to appoint Mardi Hanson-d'Alessandro and Gail Reynolds for a three (3) year term to the Conservation Commission. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Gateway Commission: Schlag made a motion to appoint of Sue Bement for a two (2) year term to the Gateway Commission. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Salmon River Watershed Partnership: Maggi made a motion to appoint Gail Reynolds and Jim McHutchison for a 2 year term to the Salmon River Watershed Partnership. No discussion. Approved Unanimously.

Haddam Park & Recreation Commission: Maggi made a motion to appoint Jay Lonergan for a five (5) year term (9/1/21) to the Haddam Park & Recreation Commission. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Merit Service Retirement Board: Maggi made a motion to appoint Randall Spencer, Richard Annino and Lizz Milardo to the Merit Service Retirement Board for a two (2) year term. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Old Business: Higganum Cove: About 1 month ago a real estate sign was put up on the Higganum Cove Property. For years the Town has tried to get the owners to do what they needed to do to clean up the cove. It is someone's nephew of an heir who passed away. It caused a great deal of concern. Milardo asked DEEP and EPA in December to do something as the Tax Sale is coming up. The town does not own the property at this point. The town received copies of the letters that were sent today, one was sent to the real estate agent notifying him and the heir (Mr. Nathan Robinson) that there is an order in place from DEEP and EPA. The cost to the state exceed 1 million dollars and to the EPA (direct or indirect) exceed 6 million dollars.

Schlag: added to the record that there are still no liens on the property. DEEP and EPA have not exercised their right to do so. Milardo: Spoke with Town Counsel today, if the Tax Sale proceeds and the Town has the property we need to make sure that the Order they put on the Town in April of 2016, of what we have to do to maintain to clean it up stays in place and that the Town isn't going to be responsible for this 1 million and 6 million dollars to pay back. The current agreement of what we have with them will stand.

New Business:

- **Opt out of Bill 17-155:** Also known as "Granny Pods" It is something that the Town has to opt out of. It is a temporary health care structure that can be put up on property. The idea behind the General Assembly is that if someone in a family needed care you would be allowed to put up a temporary structure on your property to be able to care for that individual. P&Z voted with a Resolution to opt-out. We offer the opportunity for detached accessory apartments. Schlag made a motion to opt out of Bill 17-155. Schlag is in favor of the idea however the details have not been ironed out yet. There are ways people can help their elderly parents/grandparents with what the town already has in place. Milardo also stated that the Bill doesn't allow the Town for control. Approved Unanimously.
- **Haddam Elderly Housing/Small City Grant:** They asked the Town to help them apply for a Small City Grant. Barbara Bertrand, the Finance Director, attended training on December 21, 2017. There are a few things that changed in the application process. Milardo spoke to the Town Attorney, Rich Carella, There is a Board Member of the Haddam Elderly Housing who is also on the Board of Finance. It could be perceived that there is a conflict of interest. We have to put a file together to show publically that there is not a conflict and that he will not profit from the Town pursuing this Small City Grant. Due to him sitting on both boards we need to go through this process and this process needs to be completed before the application can be submitted which needs to be done by April. There is some concern that they have been telling me for the last six months they have been collecting bids for a generator. Milardo has requested an update on the generator.

Melissa Schlag asked about an update on the roads in Haddam Neck for a resident who lives in Haddam Neck: **Milardo:** Once Eversource is done doing their work we are ready to go. Quarry Hill, Injun Hallow, Cove Road which Eversource gave us \$118,000.00 dollars to do. Milardo signed a confidentiality agreement and cannot discuss the what Eversource is doing in Haddam Neck but would be agreeable to go into an executive session in the near future to do so. In addition to those roads we will work on others that have drainage issues.

John Nork: Why do you go into an Executive Session in the middle of the meeting? Is that normal? **Milardo:** Yes, that is normal. You have to break to go into executive session and then you have to come back from executive session and then we adjourned the meeting. **Schlag:** the last two (2) sections of the executive session were an illegal executive session so you should have been able to film it.

Pablo Arroyo 131 Wig Hill Road: Question to Schlag: When you throw out terms like “illegal executive sessions” and no one questions it, it becomes the norm and that’s what everyone believes it is because it’s not challenged. This question is to Melissa: Why do you term it as an illegal session? Is it you or is it something that is concrete? **Schlag:** Something concrete. The FOI Commission will rule on that if somebody files a complaint. **Arroyo** What led you to that belief? **Schlag:** It’s in the statute. **Arroyo:** What was it that was violated from your prospective in the statutes? **Schlag:** From my perspective, JoAnn Ricciardelli, should not have been in the last two (2) sections of the executive session. She had no purpose to be in those sessions. And the Town Attorney also gave the wrong reasons for her to be in the executive session. Not only was it an illegal executive session, the Town Attorney doesn’t quite understand the FOI law. **Arroyo:** From your perspective. **Schlag:** No, from the statute perspective. I have the FOI law here if you are interested in reading about it. **Arroyo:** I’m familiar with the law. **Schlag:** It’s something very concrete in law. Reasons to go into executive session to prevent collusion and the government going wild are very specific and it’s limited for that reason. I am very cautious about following the FOI law. **Arroyo:** As a resident of the town I would appreciate that if statements are made that they are justified because if not, it can either be here say or in fact something fictitious. **Schlag:** Any time I say anything at all it’s always based on fact never on here say. I’m always researching and I make sure that I know what I need to know, especially serving on the Board of Selectmen. I am really glad you asked that question. There are usually a few more people here so if you had not asked that question I would not have given the answer to the people watching on TV but it’s important for people to know that their government is open and transparent for a well-run town. **Milardo:** For the record, the Town Attorney did say that we were legal to have the meeting which was why we proceeded with it.

Maggi made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli