

## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting – August 9, 2021 (Unapproved minutes)**

Robert McGarry called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam CT 06438

Kate Anderson and Sean Moriarty were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Anderson made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended to include a Resolution re Septic System in Higganum Center. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**July 12, 2021:** Anderson made a motion to approve the July 12, 2021 minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

### **Selectman's Update:**

#### **Projects**

- Rossi Property – No change since last update
- Scovil Hoe – No change since last update
- Bridge Road - No change since last update
- Roads
  - Chip sealing
    - Arkona Dr, Jackson Rd – Start
  - Dublin Hill – Driveway aprons
  - Calliari, Depot Hill, Parsonage – Start after Dublin Hill
  - Thayer, Maple Ave West after that
- Community Septic
  - RFP for engineering firm issued. 3 replies received. BOS will convene in Executive Session on 8/18 to select the firm.
- Private Projects – No change since last update

#### **Other**

- COVID-19
  - No cases reported from 5/16 until 7/19 (65 days)
  - 11 since 7/19
  - Delta variant - >90% of new US cases
  - Governor issued EO 13A on 8/5
    - Currently - Masks required for unvaccinated people indoors in public settings
    - Towns can mandate masks for everyone in indoor settings (public or private)
    - Masks in schools still required under DPH order of May 19<sup>th</sup>. DPH & State Dept of ED are reviewing

- Kaiser Family Foundation Study - < 0.2% of CT cases are fully vaccinated people. 8,001 State-wide cases since 16 July = 16 breakthrough cases.
- I don't see the need to require vaccinated people to wear masks indoors at this time. That may change as the pandemic conditions dictate.
- July 15 Town Meeting – All approved
  - To appoint the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority for the fiscal year 2021-2022: Jason Lonergan, Jennifer O'Neal, Peter Christopher, and David Law
  - To vote on Capital Fund Transfers,
  - To vote on an increase in project authorization for the Beaver Meadow Culvert.
  - To vote on the McCann Property Purchase in the Higganum Cove area for \$21,000.
  - To authorize the approval of the project authorization, remediation of Scovil Hoe with the DECD Grant.
  - To vote on approval of the STEAP Grant (Community Septic)
- Public Works (Teamsters) negotiations going to mediation

**Anderson:** The Farmer's market has been going great. There is a 3-week break. It will resume on September 17, 2021. Looking forward to the fall: River Days will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, Grimms Haunted House will take place at HES in October.

**Board of Education Update:** Jennifer Favalora presented the Board of Education update. Attached as Schedule 1.

#### **Tax Refunds:**

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

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Prior / Current</b>
Lereta for Andrew Lindberg	\$2,752.12	Prior
Lereta for Bonye Barone	\$1,252.23	Prior
French, Susan	\$119.60	Prior
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,123.95</b>	

Anderson made a motion to approve the August 9, 2021 tax refunds as presented. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Appointments:**

- **Higganum Cove Advisory Committee:** Anderson made a motion to set up the Higganum Cove Advisory Committee as recommended by the Town Planner to include Peter Baird, Sue DeCarli, Tim McCane, Jessica Condil, Ed Schwing, Tim Teran and Dante Ursini. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **Resignations:**

- **Sustainability Committee:** Anderson made a motion to accept Mark Lundgren's resignation from the Sustainability Committee. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Community Septic:**

**RESOLUTION**

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Haddam ratifies recommendation 5.2 Community Septic of the Higganum Center Report which states:

*It is clear that the creation of the community septic system is the most important fundamental action that must be taken in order to revitalize the regenerate the character of Higganum Center. Based on community input it is clear that this is a priority.*

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Haddam, Connecticut on August 9, 2021.

Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution re Community Septic in Higganum Center. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Municipal Master Signature Card & Deposit Account Resolution:** Anderson made a motion to approve the Municipal Master Signature Card & Deposit Account Resolution authorizing Harter to the bank accounts. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Local Bridge Program Supplemental Application Resolution:** Anderson made a motion to authorize McGarry to sign the Local Bridge Program Supplemental Application Resolution. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Elderly Tax Relief Appeals:** Anderson made a motion to approve the Elderly Tax Relief Appeal. There was a brief discussion. Anderson withdrew her motion. Anderson made a motion to Table the Elderly tax relief until the next meeting. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Set a Public Hearing & Town Meeting:** Anderson made a motion to set a Public Hearing to discuss the adoption of an Ordinance creating a Water Pollution Control Authority and the abandonment of a section of Old Chester Road on September 15, 2021 followed by a Town Meeting on September 29, 2021. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** DeBold, Marge: Thank you for having this virtual meeting. It is nice to be a part of it.

**Adjournment:** Anderson made a motion to adjourn. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:09 pm. Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

**Summary of July 2021 Board of Education Meetings**

**RSD 17 Superintendent:**

The Board of Education appointed Mr. Jeffrey Wihbey as its next Superintendent of Schools. Jeff possesses an extensive background and a distinguished career serving every level in K-12 public education, most recently serving as the Superintendent of Schools for Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), leading and advocating for more than 11,000 Technical High School students throughout the state. At his appointment, Jeff expressed how ready he is to begin his work in RSD17 by listening to the community, staff and students as well as working together to raise HK to the next level of educational excellence. Mr. Wihbey's first day will be October 12, 2021.

**Summer Learning:**

Interim Superintendent Dr. Paddyfote gave a report on Summer Learning Opportunities that have been offered to help prepare students to be ready academically to begin the 2021 school year. Nearly 90 students opted for in-person sessions, which focused on essential content and skills needed for success. Another 90 students in grades 3-8 participated in on-line personalized learning pathways, monitored by a teacher, that they can log into at their convenience.

**Next School Year**

Interim Superintendent Dr. Paddyfote shared with the Board and community that guidance on mask wearing and other safety measures to reopen schools has yet to be given from the CT Department of Public Health and the CT State Department of Education. Once that guidance is received and reviewed, communication about protocols for students and staff will be sent.

**KES Playground:**

The Board accepted a donation of \$75,000 from the KES PTO to be used to purchase new playground equipment at Killingworth Elementary School. The KES PTO worked in partnership with KES Principal, Dennis Reed, Director of Operations, John Mercier, former Superintendent Hageman and the BOE Facilities Committee to achieve an age-appropriate design, acceptable for the space, that will be enjoyed by the community's children for many years to come.

**HKHS Athletic Fields:**

The Facilities Committee proposed, and the Board agreed, to authorize \$20,000 from the emergency operating account to replace lamps and ballasts at the HKHS athletic field and \$24,000 for the repair and recertification of the bleachers at several of the High School athletic fields.

**Town Payments:**

Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, has worked with the Boards of Finance from both towns to agree on a new payment schedule from the towns. Payments from the town have been spread out from nine monthly payments to eleven an adjustment to the percentage paid each month. Additionally, the District has agreed to allow the towns to use their entire position of the audited fund balance to offset the first payment in July. Previously the audited fund balance was returned over the entire nine-month payment schedule.

**On our Website:**

Continuity of learning is important to prevent summer learning loss and thus the district has created a summer learning plan for all students exiting grades K-8 which includes both reading and math. These Summer Learning Opportunities, which include suggested reading and math activities, can be found on the RSD17.org website under Parents → Summer Learning Opportunities and then clicking on the grade your child is entering in the fall.