

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – March 9, 2020 (Approved Minutes)

Robert McGarry called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm at 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. Anderson made a motion to add EDC Appointment under Old Business. No discussion. Motions approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

February 10, 2020 - Moriarty made a motion to approve the 2/10/2020. There was a brief discussion for clarification, in the Selectman's update, under budget. It should read ~ 1-million-dollar increase will stay flat. No further discussion. Motion approved as amended, unanimously.

February 13, 2020 - Moriarty made a motion to approve the 2/13/2020 minutes. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

Dallas, Jeff: Haddam Neck: Here to discuss the paving in Haddam Neck. There are already pot holes - he is aware there will be a top coat of approximately 2 inches, and probably won't be enough. Suggested the Town check into it.

Schlag: commented on the transfer amount under the Charter. \$20,000.00 is a lot without the input of the residents. She suggests Haddam keep it to \$10,000.00

Schwing: Haddam Bulletin: list of roads from his reader's that need attention: Little City, Candlewood Hill, Christian Hill Road, Beaver Meadow, Turkey Hill and Cedar Lake, Brainerd Hill Road, Parmelee Road, Jail Hill, High Street, Thayer Road, Maple Avenue West & East, Dublin Hill, Quarry Hill (Haddam), Grapevine Road, Quarry Hill Road (Haddam Neck) Injun Hallow Road, Ben Clark Hill Road, Thayer Road Ext, Pytlik Road, Wiese Albert Road, Oak Ridge Drive & Place, Depot Road, Landing Road (Higganum) Rock Landing (Haddam Neck), Park Road, Gulf Quarry Road, Camp Bethel Road and Neodibity Road.

Selectman's Update:

Higganum Center: EDC has met with the Main Street program, which promotes main streets in many towns. They came in to give a presentation and how they can help us with Higganum Center. The presentation is available on the Town Website under News & Announcements. They are still working on forming a Merchants Association.

Leasing of HES: Negotiations are still going on. We are encouraged it will be successful. It is still progressing.

Requested changes in the States POCD to include the school property and town green into the Village Priority Funding Area. We submitted testimony, spoke with OPM regarding this.

Community Septic. Meeting with the Department of Public Health as septic regulations fall under the Department of Public Health or DEEP depending on the size. The Town received a letter from DPH with DEEP concurring the Towns intentions to keep the system regulated by DPH. When it is established, we need to establish a WPCA Committee.

Mucket Madness: New event EDC is planning on an event, August 15, 2020. Triathlon, tractor parade, food trucks, and trying to merge this event with Haddam River Days. There are multiple subcommittees, please reach out to Kate Anderson & Mark Lundgren for more information on how you can help.

Tylerville Water: finishing up the hook-up. There are a few delays with access issues, some residents want to keep their existing wells.

Board of Education: We will be setting a Town Meeting to nominate and vote for a replacement of Gerry Matthews who resigned on February 24, 2020.

Budget: Board of Finance is ~ 95% done with approving the operating budget. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to come to next Mondays; meeting (March 16th). As of today, the Town Budget is up \$500,000. \$250,000 for the HES, \$50,000.00 for tree trimming, the health insurance, is about \$125,000.00.

Thursday night, joint meetings of the BOF, BOS RSD17 BOE. RSD17 Budget proposal is up 1.2-million-dollar increase for the Town of Haddam.

9 -Town Transit: The Town of Haddam, technically, are not members. McGarry attended a meeting to discuss merging with Middletown. 9-Town Transit would like us to be on the board. Something to think about for the future.

Tylerville Sidewalk Public Meeting: 2 weeks ago there was an information meeting for sidewalks in Tylerville. There was a good turnout of residents. For more information, go to the Land-use page.

COVID-19 outbreak: we are relying on the health district to keep us informed. We are tracking it as best we can. Please follow what the CDC is saying. We will update our website and Facebook page with any updates the Town receives.

Board of Education: Attached as Schedule 1. Presented by Brenda Buzzi.

Tax Refunds:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Real Estate (01)		
LERETA [BARONE]	18-1-0190	\$1,252.23
LERETA [BARONE]	18-1-0191	\$1,009.33
CORELOGIC [ZK BUILDERS]	18-1-3938	\$1,324.01
CORELOGIC [BOUFFARD]	18-1-0387	\$3,806.61
CORELOGIC [BLACKMON]	18-1-0327	\$3,677.47
TERAN TIMOTHY	18-1-3552	\$78.28
LANQUE BARBARA	18-1-2046	\$500.00
BOBBI JAMES	18-1-0344	\$34.00

Total: **\$11,681.93**

Motor Vehicle (03)

BURNS KELLY	18-3-51330	\$115.83
PETTERSON CHARLOTTE	18-3-57265	\$361.58
WAZ CAROLE	18-3-59664	\$28.77
Jeffrey Waskiewicz	18-3-57792	\$286.59
Matthew Polansky	18-03-57383	\$55.96

Total **\$848.73**

Motor Vehicle Supplement (04)

DIMAURO ROSARIO	18-4-80413	\$8.33
YORK KATHRYN	18-4-81622	\$87.78

Total: **\$96.11**

Grand Total: **\$12,626.77**

Anderson made a motion to approve the March 9, 2020 Tax Refunds. No discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Appointment to EDC: Anderson made a recommendation to appoint John Pembroke to EDC. Brief discussion. Approved unanimously.

Charter Revision Changes: Moriarty made motion to approve to Charter Revision Committee to review the following:

Section	Change	Rationale
Table of Contents Section 8.6 (page 2)	Change title from “Director of Civil Preparedness” to “Director of Emergency Management”.	Civil Preparedness is an obsolete title. The title is correct on page 21 of the charter but not in the TOC. (The 2002 charter had the same oversight.)

6.3(j)	Delete “and input from the Long Range Capital Planning Committee”	This is the only mention of the LRCPC in the charter. We’re evaluating our budget development process. Changes to it may or may not impact the LRCPC. The committee was established by an ordinance so any change to it would require a town vote.
8.14 (a)	<p>Reword to read:</p> <p>The Board of Selectmen shall be responsible for the hiring and termination of all Town employees. On a case by case basis, the Board of Selectmen may delegate these responsibilities to the First Selectman. The First Selectman or designee shall be responsible for the review, evaluation and discipline of all Town employees.</p>	<p>The proposed wording streamlines handling routine personnel matters. It allows the BOS to delegate hiring and/or termination responsibilities to the First Selectman when they feel it is appropriate such as the recent hire of a part time transfer station attendant.</p> <p>Note: Both the proposed wording and the current wording conflict with the Clerical contract which makes the First Selectman responsible for hiring, termination and everything in-between. We’ll have to negotiate any change during the contract renewal this year. The negotiations should be completed long before the charter revisions are voted on.</p>
8.14 (b)	<p>Reword to read:</p> <p>The Board of Selectmen shall establish wage rates, salaries, job descriptions and working hours for all Town employees, except when the terms and conditions of employment of a Town employee are governed by a collective bargaining agreement and the Town’s obligations under applicable law.</p>	The current wording is in violation of the Municipal Employees Relations Act (MERA).

9.4 (c)(2)	Delete the last sentence of the paragraph “Transfers within agencies of amounts exceeding \$1,000.00 shall require Board of Finance approval.”	This requirement wasn't in the 2002 revision to the charter. I don't know why it was added. It creates a lot of unnecessary work. It's contrary to our long-standing policy of allowing departments managers to manage their budgets as long as they don't exceed their total budget. (At the Town Meeting we approve the department budgets not their individual lines.)
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All but #4 to Charter Revision. Anderson & McGarry Yay. Moriarty Nay. Motion carried.

There were other suggestions by Board of Finance Chairman, Centofanti. This was tabled until the next BOS meeting.

New Business:

Resignation of Gerry Matthews.

Schedule a Town Meeting - Nominations are taken on the floor at that meeting. Both party Chairs have been notified. The vacancy is to be filled within 30 days. The Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24th. Time to be determined. Moriarty made a motion, brief discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

Schwing: Will the Water Pollution Control Committee be elected or appointed?

Schlag: Asked if the Capital Plan has been completed, if not when will it be finished.

McGarry stated It will be discussed at the next BOF Meeting.

She also asked who will be the other person nominated for the Board of Education is? Prem Aithal

Asked if there was any update on Silver Springs, has there been a meeting or discussion. McGarry answered, Not as of yet. The Dam has been repaired. She also asked if the Board of Selectmen will discuss it in future meetings. McGarry: yes

Lastly, she commented, on how proud she is to see the way the Board of Selectmen is acting and appreciates all three of them working together.

Schwing: commented on the Town Manager position for Charter Revision. McGarry stated it was up to the Charter Revision Committee to send their recommendations.

Munster - asked what is the name of the Democrat who will be nominated for the Board of Education.

Schlag responded: Katie Packtor.

Anderson made a motion to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm

Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

Summary of February 2020 Board of Education Meetings

School Educational Activities:

Cougar Pride- Eighth grader Jonah Keithan-Resnick was recognized as the first RSD17 student to win the Patriot's Pen Competition in Connecticut. As the Connecticut representative, Jonah's essay "What Makes America Great" will compete against students from each state for the national prize. Recognition was also given to the Haddam-Killingworth High School Girls Cross Country Team for winning the Class SS State Championship. The Board congratulated teammates Meara Bodak, Julia Callis, Lauren D'Amico, Ava DiMatteo, Isabel Berardino, Ali Twachtman and Brianna Minervino for their achievement.

Community Mentoring Program- Principals at the Elementary Schools approved a partnership with HK Youth and Family Services for a new School-Based Mentoring Program. The program would run during the school day and details will follow on how community members can apply to become a mentor.

Effective School Solutions- In a Special Meeting, the Board addressed the increase in Special Education Outplacements, the related costs, reasons, and outlook for RSD17. This elevation in Emotional and Behavioral Disorders is consistent in school districts across the state. In response to the marked increase, Effective School Solutions (ESS) was proposed by Administration as an effective and less expensive alternative that provides clinical services inside our schools instead of sending identified students to expensive specialized schools outside of our District. The Board gave consent to contracting with ESS beginning in March to implement at our High School and Middle School.

Math Program- The Superintendent introduced, and the Board discussed, the merits of a new math text and computer program with assessments, problem solving and testing for Kindergarten through 8th grade. The Board will consider and vote on its adoption at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Capital Improvements:

KES Roof - The Board approved immediate replacement on a section of the roof at KES, directly over the kitchen, after a failure caused damage inside the building. Construction was completed over Presidents' Day weekend and will be paid entirely through the Capital Improvement Fund.

HKHS Field House Project: The Board reviewed and approved final recommendations from the Public Building Committee on renovations to the Field House. Remediation and replacement of the Field House floor will commence in late April. Additionally the gym will be updated with new backboards, gym dividers, a center lift practice cage, paint and window tinting. Improvements will also be made to existing lighting, speakers, emergency evacuation systems and the bleachers. The approved project will cost just over \$1 million. State reimbursements are expected and the remainder will be paid through the Capital Fund. Administration has plans in place for activities that will be displaced due to the construction, such as the Project Graduation Celebration which will be moved to HKI/MS.

Other Business

Budget Freeze- Due to more than expected outplacements, the Special Education Tuition line is significantly over budget. As a result, the Superintendent has frozen all but critical expenditures in an effort to offset the costs. The BoE Finance Committee and the Superintendent continue to monitor the situation and are cautiously optimistic that we will come in just under budget for the year.

Board Resignation- Haddam Board of Education Member Gerry Mathews submitted his resignation and a grateful Board thanked him for his service. The Town of Haddam will hold a town meeting to replace Gerry's position for the remainder of the term.

On our RSD17.org website: Budget Season has begun. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget can be found under "Budget Information" and videos of meetings can be viewed under "HKTV".