

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – September 7, 2016

Lizz Milardo called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at Haddam Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam

Robert Duval & Sean Donlan were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda:

Milardo made a Motion to approve the Agenda. Donlan seconded. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Board of Selectmen meeting: August 3, 2016. Donlan moved to approve the minutes. No Discussion. Approved unanimously. Donlan made a motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting: August 23, 2016. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

Melissa Schlag: What is your current competitive bidding procedure?

Milardo: Anything that is \$2,500.00 and over we have been using the DAS Website. Previously, it was put in the paper, but I am trying to save the town money. Otherwise, I've been doing what the Board of Finance and the Finance Director have been doing. They have been putting a lot of the bids out.

Schlag: What is your technical procedure? For example, putting a roof on this building.

Milardo: I would have someone gather the necessary information and have it put up on the DAS website. They would have to come, look at the project, bids would come in, open the bids, many times interview the vendors and then make a decision as to who the best vendor for the project would be. I would bring it to the Board of Selectman. I can't speak for what has been done previously, but that's what I have been doing.

Schlag: How do you decide if it's a closed bid or getting a quote via e-mail?

Donlan: I think she's asking "Do we have a uniform policy and I don't think we do. I think we should and I did bring it up to the committee that is reviewing the Charter because of the use of the state bidding process, COG bidding process, but we do not have a formal process. The Charter states we are supposed to have a bidding process but we don't have one. Things vary in prices and importance. In the past, things of high value go out to a formal bidding process and other not.

Duval: The anticipated value – for example, if you are going to put a roof on this building and it's going to cost you \$50,000.00 then we're going to go out to a real formal process. If you're going to buy something for \$3,500.00 then we're going to go through the website. When you start to put all your ducks in a row you're going to slow the process down. It may take you 1 ½ year to get a bid on the roof and you may not have that much time.

Schlag: The DAS, COG – they already go out to a competitive bid process, so that has already been done for the Board of Selectman and then it is up to the First Selectman and the Board to decide on what process we are going to follow. We, traditionally, have always used the state procurement process which is closed sealed bid that would be opened up at a public meeting and that helps with collusion, to prevent collusion and bid rigging so I would like to see the Board of Selectman come up with some policy and the Board of Finance should be involved as well and I think it's a great time to have the Charter commission to come up with a procurement process or a separate ordinance because it seems to be confusing.

Ed Munster: It sounds like what you have been doing has been the right thing for the town. It doesn't make sense to go through a formal bidding process which would cost the town money that putting out for process for something that's just a few hundred dollars over the limit where as if you get into a major event that needs to be done, obviously you would do it by the formal process. I think what you've been doing is using common sense and I thank you for that.

Tax Refunds:

Real Estate (01)		
Macneil	Michael	\$308.15
Casavant	Debra	\$844.46
Watts	John	\$2,238.39
MacNeil	Michael	\$316.38
		\$3,707.38
Motar Vehicle (03)		
Caparaso	Frank & Lynn	\$26.11
Johnson	Frederick & Karas	\$34.54
Carey	Timothy	\$89.39
Bowden	Scott	\$101.81
Minow	Mary	\$14.82
Toyota Lease Trust		\$126.55
The Vintage Auto Body		\$6.49
Scanlon	Heather	\$46.74
Picard-Eberl	Rose	\$118.77
McCarthy	Robert	\$6.99
Honda Lease Trust		\$256.83
Honda Lease Trust		\$354.28
Scully	Pamela & Ashley	\$28.14
Neustadt	Sherry	\$38.06
Neustadt	Sherry	\$411.84
Brinckerhoff	Scott	\$39.96
Ford Credit Personal Property Tax		\$347.54
Ford Credit Personal Property Tax		\$365.35
Carvalho	Debra	\$87.64
Grenman	Carolyn & Gunner	\$27.05
Ally Financial		\$192.63
Ally Financial		\$781.87
Ally Financial		\$260.11
Fallon	Deborah & Michael	\$20.56
Hill	Donald	\$36.03
Steele	Dewey & Serena	\$57.72
Sierpinski	Samantha	\$19.16
Timothy	Patrick	\$91.10
Nissan Infiniti LT		\$335.59
Miner	Connie	\$14.19

Schiavi	Victor	\$25.36
Stewart	Mack & Natalie	\$5.86
Huded	Prakash & Sumangala	\$83.77
Andeen	Holden	\$92.82
Salamone	Anthony & Sara	\$70.52
Krieg-Marcia	Heather	\$11.67
Nenninger	David	\$43.05
		\$4,670.91
Motar Vehicle Supplement (04)		
Chase Auto Finance Corp		\$173.29
		\$173.29
Grand Total:		\$8,551.58

Donlan made a motion to accept those tax refunds. Duval seconded.

Discussion: Donlan: Is it possible to name this chart in the future and vote on it instead of reading each person's name? Duval: Thinks we should continue reading them off, they are part of a public record.

Approved unanimously.

Reports:

Animal Control Officer: Daun is amazing and has a lot of calls. She has everything under control and is doing a great job.

Municipal Agent for the Elderly: Eleanor did ten (10) renters rebates, 3 people did not qualify. She's been handing out tickets to the farmers market. We have a new representative to the Committee on Aging and he's helping her reach out to those in Haddam Neck. She and Deborah Kelly met with the residents of High Meadow. CRT is coming in to help with Energy Assistance in the Month of September.

Senior Center: Last report by Mark Lundgren. Not much about what went on. He is unhappy with his pay and the condition of the Senior Center and Annex building. **Donlan:** Mark did a tremendous job. He was truly an advocate. When he took over he organized and did a fantastic job. I was pleased with what he did.

Resignations:

Trooper Connelly is resigning. His official retirement date is October 1, 2016. **Donlan:** That is a tough job, but he did a great job.

Phil Goff is retiring. October 7, 2016 is his official retirement date. We are in the process of interviewing for his position. There is a committee that will assist in this process. **Donlan:** He will be tough to replace. He knows every inch of this town. When it came to emergencies he knew how to handle it.

Appointments:

Beth Hunter – she is interested in serving on the Economic Development Commission. She is a great business owner and I think she'd be a great asset to the commission. Milardo would like to make a recommendation to appointment her to the EDC. Duval made a motion to Nominate Brenda Hunter to the EDC. Donlan seconded. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Senior Center Director: There were many qualified applicants from town. This was a hard decision. I would like to appoint Suzanne Wintsch to be the Senior Center Director to work 18 hours a week. She can start immediately. She has a background in singing, yoga, psychology and has worked with seniors. She will make \$16.24 an hour. Milardo made a motion to appoint

Suzanne Wintsch to be Senior Center Director. Donlan seconded. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Old Business: Emergency Services Bid: This bid was budgeted by the Board of Finance and Capital for a study to be done for our EMS Services. We discussed this quite a bit during the budget season. There is a meeting tomorrow night at Middlesex Hospital for the paramedics. Milardo will be there. The bid went out through DAS. They were sealed bids. They all came in in May. On May

9, 2016 Alice Zanelli opened them all. We held interviews with the vendors. The vendors ranged in price from \$4,500.00 - \$24,800.00. The difference was their hours, who has done it for a municipality previously, references that they had, working with the fire department and the ambulance and putting together a plan of action. Len Guercia stood out. We were able to get him to commit to work and he is ready to go. His bid is \$18,500.00. It would have been great to take the \$4,500.00 bid but it did not include everything that we needed.

Donlan: Was that bid eliminated because it didn't comply? Milardo: no, it was very basic. The rest of the bids that were more went above and beyond what we needed. Donlan: How much is budgeted? Milardo: \$30,000.00. We are complying for what we need to do for our license. It's a need for the town and the safety for the community.

Milardo made a motion to award Len Guercia of Holdsworth Group for EMS Study, Public Safety Study, Education & Staffing Study for \$18,500.00. Donlan seconded. Discussion: Donlan: the lower bid was not considered because it did not qualify. Approved unanimously.

New Business: Fire Department was awarded a grant for \$494.87. The funds can be used for training, water handling equipment, communications, prevention projects, safety supplies, suppression gear and other related items.

Selectman's update:

The insurance company has looked at this building regarding the water damage. The repairs were done, the insurance company is willing to pay for the repairs, however there is asbestos and lead in this building (Old Town Hall). When they go to remove those things they are not covered in the insurance policy. I have a quote and information coming. CIRMA (our insurance carrier) has been very good to us. There are extra funds that are going to be needed to take care of that remediation so I will be going to the Board of Finance and asking for those funds. There were improvements done outside. The Garden Club will help with beautification.

The road work has started. The milling and paving is going to happen the end of September - beginning of October. Park Road, since we will cover the addition of the rest of the road, all the engineering has been done. That should be going out to bid – but will hold off until early winter because there is some work that can be done even if there is snow on the ground and then tie in the end of that project to have the paving done as the last piece. Dish Mill Road Bridge is 98% completed. The only thing we are waiting on are the guard rails, they are on back order. Those are not coming until October. They are going to take the guard rails that are there and use them on Clark Hurst Road in Haddam Neck. McTigh Road is going. There was an issue with Eversource moving a pole. We were able to get that cleared up in about two (2) hours. I spoke to Aborio on the bridge. They are still on schedule for November 1, 2016 for that work to be done in the center of town.

EDC has been very busy. Fall River Days is coming up with East Haddam. Fireworks have been moved to that night. Activities will be at Eagle Landing and at Haddam Meadows. DEEP has been very flexible with us, we are grandfathered in because of River Days. There will be a Trunk-or-Treat October 29, 2016 at the green. Monday there were a bunch of volunteers who showed up to the Green to decorate the gazebo. Thank you for your time. People donated hay and other items. It was a fun event that brought the community together.

The Buildings Committee has been meeting; Liz Glidden reported it was a positive meeting. Had a meeting with the state – Phil Miller helped orchestrate another meeting with DOT because they are being very stubborn about the town taking over the Old State Garage. There are still some contaminants there. They are telling me they don't have the money to fix the problem even though they cause the problem. They are telling me that if a bidder or someone comes to purchase the property they are going to sell it because the state needs the money. We received a grant from the Connecticut Historic Trust to do a study, just a short market study. Tim Sullivan who is the Deputy Commissioner of the DECD said if we can show him some use for the building then he might be able to find some money to help us clean it up. We are working on that study and getting DOT and DECD to the table.

We have a business forum coming up for business owners. There will be more information coming out for that. I went to a Workforce Alliance meeting this morning and am part of that board. There is a million dollar grant that's been out since May through the Middlesex Revitalization Committee for businesses to either grow and/or have employment opportunities. Donlan: I saw a garden at Haddam Meadows. Milardo: It was an anonymous gift in honor of Cheryl Czuba's son and husband. Town & Country put in a butterfly garden. Cheryl is looking for volunteers to help water the garden.

Public Comments: Beth Hunter: Is there any update on the Cell Tower?

Milardo: Yes, a contract is in the process of being negotiated now with Homeland Tower. They are looking at a few sites and the language is going back and forth between the attorney's on how that will work. I was told that wouldn't have that until December, so I'm encouraged that it is happening now. One site is the Fire House because that property is up high and we already own the property and all of our emergency equipment can go on that. I have nothing final yet.

Duval moved to adjourn meeting at 7:46PM. Donlan seconded. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by: JoAnn Ricciardelli