

## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting, June 8, 2020 (Approved Minutes)**

Robert McGarry called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm via GoToMeeting

Kate Anderson and Sean Moriarty were present

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda:** Moriarty made a motion to amend the agenda to include the report of the Charter Revision Committee and second is a request to discuss a request to have a protest at HES. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Moriarty made a motion to Approve the May 11, 2020 minutes as submitted. Under Higganum Center – clarify where alarms went off. Moriarty approve minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Selectmen updates:**

**Dublin Hill Bridge:** Completed. The Bridge has been opened to traffic. There are few cosmetic tasks that need to be completed.

**Scovil Hoe Building:** Previously updated that a consulting firm was selected to do the environmental & engineering assessment. A contract was signed with them. The Town approached the state to get formal approval to conduct the assessment and go on the property. This is a two-step process. The first is a list of conditions I received from the Department of Transportation. It was signed and returned. It now goes to the Office of Policy & Management for final approval and access.

**Tylerville Water:** approximately 85 people have been hooked up. Contractor announced their source for Chip Seal will not have materials available to them until the Summer. They are proposing to wait until after the summer traffic to complete the paving.

**Road Work:** Road work has been completed on 21 of the 23 roads that were funded by the Bond issuance last year. 2 remaining roads: work will start on Injun Hallow within the next couple of weeks. Christian Hill Road shortly thereafter. That will be followed by Dublin Hill Road and Lt. Shubael Road.

**Proposed Budget:** The Budget is posted on the website. It's approximately \$90,000.00 increase. No mil rate increase.

**Town Office Building:** The Clerk's office is currently open from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm. The Land Use Office will open on July 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am 2:00 pm, the Tax Collector & Tax Assessors office will open on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Senior hours will be Mondays & Wednesdays from 8:30 am – 10:00 am.

**Bond:** Our 6-million-dollar bond that was approved last august, 5 bond providers bid on interest rates for us for the 20-year bond is 1.686461% there will be a closing for the bond and will start issuing the bond thereafter.

**Covid-19 update:** 36 cases in Haddam. May 20<sup>th</sup> opening of business went well. The Governor moved up phase 2 to June 17<sup>th</sup>. State COVID-19 website.

**Public Health Matter:** We expect another bad mosquito year. CRAHD will be treating storm drains as they are being cleaned. They will be treated with Larvacide.

**Board of Education Update:** Attached as Schedule 1

**Tax Refunds:**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Personal Property (02)</b>		
New Image Auto	18-02-40672	\$27.12
Morrison, Catherine	18-1-2537	\$46.98
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$74.10</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle (03)</b>		
Blackmon, Sidney	18-03-50875	\$5.42
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5.42</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>		<b>\$79.52</b>

Anderson made a motion to approve the June 8, 2020 tax refunds. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

Resolution re: Trustee Change Amendment of the Town of Haddam Governmental 457(b) Plan: Moriarty made a motion to remove Milardo and add McGarry as Trustee. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution re: Trustee Change Amendment of the Town of Haddam Employees' Pension Plan: Anderson to remove Milardo and add McGarry as Trustee. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution re: Trustee Change Amendment of the Town of Haddam Volunteer Firefighters' Merit Service Retirement Plan: Moriarty to remove Milardo and add McGarry as Trustee. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Authorize the Board of Finance to adopt the 2020 – 2021 budget:** Anderson made a motion to authorize the Board of Finance to adopt the 2020 – 2021. No discussion. The is required by the law and Governor's Executive Order. Motion carried unanimously.

**Charter Revision:** Changes proposed (Attached as Schedule II) Moriarty made a motion to approve as recommended and move on to the next step. There was a brief discussion regarding notifying and educating the public. Motion carried unanimously.

**Permit for Peaceful Protest:** on the grounds of HES they are seeking a permit to have a peaceful protest. They are aware of it. The protest will take place on June 20 Moriarty has no problem with the protest, it is what our country was founded on and would just encourage safety is first. Anderson agrees with Moriarty. McGarry agreed.

Anderson made a motion to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 7:00 pm,  
Minutes taken by JoAnn Ricciardelli

**Summary of May 2020 Board of Education Meetings**

**Cougar Pride:**

The Superintendent and the Board recognized HKHS Senior Lauren Miller and Junior Matt Jennings for their work as student representatives to the Board of Education. Both Lauren and Matt are exemplary student athlete leaders with notable involvement and success at HK. A special note of gratitude went to Lauren for her role as a representative for these last two years. Additionally, the 2020 CT Association of Schools recognized HKMS 8th graders, Natalie Houlton and Ivy McNeil with Scholar Leader Awards for distinguishing themselves in scholarship and leadership in the school and in their community.

**RSD 17 2020/21 Budget**

**Budget Approved** - After three months of work which included two Budget Presentations, eight Budget Workshops, four Joint Meetings with HK Town Leadership, a Community Input Session and a two week Community Input Open Email, the Board of Education voted to adopt a 2020/21 Annual Gross Budget of \$41,887,638.40. This Gross Budget is a \$461,275.12 reduction from the 2019/20 Gross Budget.

**District School Calendar 2020-21** With the approval of the 2020/21 budget, the Board voted to reduce the number of student school days from 182 to 180. Updates were made to the calendar, including changing the first day of school for students to August 27th; replacing six early release days into full school days, and turning two school days into full Professional Development Days for teachers. The updated calendar can be found on our RSD17.org website under "Calendar".

**Covid-19 Effects on RSD17**

**HKHS Class of 2020** - On June 15th, HK Seniors and their immediate families have been invited to the High School campus at an assigned time to be celebrated by their teachers and staff and receive their diplomas. With updated social distancing directives from the State anticipated, School Administration and Class Officers have rescheduled Prom to August and have plans to gather as a class for a Graduation Celebration on August 14th.

**Fall Planning-** RSD17 will be receiving \$45,000 in CARES Act Funding with some of those funds immediately earmarked for the purchase of safety equipment, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for the fall. Summer School guidelines from the state were released and gave an indicator of measures to consider for re-opening in the Fall. Superintendent Hageman expects Fall guidelines for re-opening to be released by the Governor by mid-June.

**Capital Improvements:**

**Technology Purchases** - In order to enhance student learning using technology and in anticipation that some degree of remote learning is likely in the fall, the BoE voted to use unspent 2019/20 funds due to Covid-19, to add 1,074 computers to the current inventory to equip all students with a school computer for use both at school and at home. This increase in District laptops will allow teachers to hold a greater number of "live" scheduled classes remotely, mirroring in-school scheduling to enhance the learning experience. Daily instruction, whether inside classrooms or through remote learning, depends on technology as a tool for success at every level and this investment will equalize accessibility for all RSD17 students. Additionally, the Board approved purchasing a new website platform and accounting/ HR system using 2019/20 unspent funds. These purchases were moved to help reduce the overall 20/21 Gross budget.

**HKHS Field House-** The State granted approval to begin work and the bleachers have been removed from the field house in preparation for the floor removal and abatement. Despite starting later than the original start date, the architect believes that there should be no problem finishing the project on time.

**On our Website**

The 2020/21 Adopted Board of Education Budget is posted on RSD17.org under "Budget Information".

# Charter Revision Report to the Board of Selectmen

## Dated May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Board of Selectmen,

Please accept this as the official report from the Charter Revision Committee, as appointed on December 9, 2019, as the reviewed and approved set of recommendations for charter changes under Connecticut state statutes.

In the box below, you will find each of the sections the Board of Selectmen requested we review as well as any approved changes. Most changes were approved, with some having been amended as outlined.

Section	Change Discussed	Rationale	Status
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.	Approved
3.4 (a) and 9.3 9(a) (pages 25 & 6)	Move the last sentence in 9.3 (a) that begins “The First Selectman shall set the Annual...” to the second sentence in section 3.4 (a)	This is better call out the duties of the First Selectman in setting up the Annual Budget vote	Approved
6.3(j) (page 17)	Delete: “and input from the Long Range Capital Planning Committee”	This is the only mention of the LRCPC in the charter. We are evaluating our budget development process.	Approved
8.14 (a) (page 23)	Reword: 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 shall be responsible for the review, evaluation and discipline of all Town employees.	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.	Approved, but removed “or designee after “First Selectmen” in last sentence

8.14 (b) (page 23)	Reword: 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.	The current wording is in violation of the Municipal Employees Relations Act (MERA).	Approved
<b>Section</b>	<b>Change Discussed</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Status</b>
9.4 (c)(1) (page 27)	Is using a percentage instead of a number compliant with state law?	There was an open question on this item.	Confirmed current language is compliant
9.4 (c)(2) (page 27)	Delete the last sentence of the paragraph "Transfers within agencies of amounts exceeding \$1,000.00 shall require Board of Finance approval."	A number that is too low creates undue administrative work for the BOF	Approved change from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

In addition, the question of the Town Manager form of government was considered. Based on several interviews with experts on the topic and with feedback from the public, we have come to the following conclusions:

- There is little public support for a major change in Haddam's form of government
- Town Manager forms of government tend to work better in larger towns than Haddam
- Switching to a Town Manager form of government needs to start with an advocacy group created separately from a Charter Revision Committee to educate the public, identify the pros and cons of switching and build public support

Based on all the above factors, the Charter Revision Committee recommends no changes to our form of government at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Battistoni

Chair