

**Town Of Haddam  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
Regular Meeting  
Town Office Building Annex  
Monday, March 9, 2015  
MINUTES**

***Approved as Printed at the April 13, 2015 Regular Meeting***

In attendance: Chairman Joseph Centofanti, Vice Chairman Harlan Fredericksen; Members: John Bosco, Marjorie DeBold, David Kapitulik, and John Tabak; and Alternates: James Bucko, Cheryl Haase and Joanne Nesti [all Members were present]  
Staff in Attendance: Georgia Emanuel, Financial Coordinator and Barbara Galloway, Recording Secretary

Chairman Centofanti called the Meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance

*The Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

2. Seating of Alternates]

All Regular Members were present. None of the three Alternate Members were seated.

3. Correction/Approval of the February 17, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Ms. DeBold made the Motion seconded by Mr. Bosco to approve as printed the February 17, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

4. Review and discussion of the 2013-2014 Audit with Blum Shapiro

Vanessa Rossito, Partner at the Town's audit firm Blum Shapiro, was present to review portions of the 2013-2014 Audit with the Board. She reported that the Town had received an overall good report. She went over new considerations due to changes in the State regulations of which the Town and the Boards should be aware, especially regarding future reporting of the Town's Pension Plan. Ms. Rossito also reviewed the audit's recommendations section and explained the three main recommendations the auditors were presenting to the Town to assist with efficiency and prevent unwanted errors from occurring. The Board Members thanked Ms. Rossito for her time and the shared information.

5. Public Communications

a. *Communications to the Board of Finance*

Chairman Centofanti reported that there were no written communications received for the Board's attention.

b. *Public Input/Comments*

Residents John and Jim Sibley were present and spoke of their discontent with interactions they had experienced recently with the Town's Health services provider, Chatham Health District, while they were going through the process of opening a new grocery store in a space that had previously housed a grocery store in Tylerville. They noted the unfriendly atmosphere met by current town merchants/businesses and especially by new business owners considering an application and applying to open businesses in Haddam, and wondered about their recourse and the Town's other options for Health services in Haddam.

Resident Ed Munster also commented that he had witnessed a less than optimal situation experienced by local merchants providing food samples at the most recent Taste of Haddam event that had been hosted by Brainerd Memorial Library.

6. Review of 2014-2015 financial status reports

The Board Members reviewed the two financial statements that had been distributed earlier. These included "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures July 2014 to June 2015 – General Fund" dated 03/09/2015 and "Adjustments to Budgeted Expenditures July 2014 to June 2015 –Capital Non-Recurring", both dated 03/09/2015. There was a brief discussion of the Public Works budgets involved with snow clearing and road treatment that were now over-budgeted; the fact that these departments are running "in the red" was a surprise to none of the Board Members and will be addressed later in the budget year.

Chairman Centofanti suggested that it would be useful to the Board at this point in the year to be provided with revenue reports, as well. Ms. Emanuel said that she could e-mail the revenue reports to Board Members.

7. Selectmen's Requests

There were no selectmen's requests presented for the Board's attention.

8. Old Business

There was no Old Business presented for the Board's attention.

9. New Business

a. *Introduction/Discussion of any Town activities/matters*

b. *Other*

There was no new business presented for the Board's attention.

10. Continue Review and Discussion of the 2015-2016 Town Budget (time permitting)

400 Haddam Public Health – The Board Members agreed to continue to table the budget deliberations and vote until this agency has met with the Board.

*405 Social Services [Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth] – There was a brief discussion about the amount of contribution to this budget the Town of Killingworth would be making. The Board Members noted the differing amounts and ways of calculating contributions to this budget each Town had used in past years.*

**Vice Chairman Fredericksen made the Motion seconded by Mr. Bosco to approve the 405 Social Services budget with the requested and proposed total of \$80,000. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

*415 Transportation for the Elderly – It was noted that there is some question about the accuracy of the Sr. Van Driver Wages line on this budget. The Board agreed to table the deliberations and vote on this budget until receiving more information from the Board of Selectmen.*

**420 Water Pollution Control & Monitoring – Ms. DeBold made the Motion seconded by Mr. Bosco to approve the 420 Water pollution Control & Monitoring budget with the requested and proposed total of \$5,000. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

*425 Haddam Ambulance Services* – Chairman Centofanti reported having recently spoken with a representative of Haddam Volunteer Ambulance Services, Inc.. He informed the Board that the agency is meeting this week and Chairman Centofanti will speak with the representative after that meeting to determine whether or not a meeting between the agency and this Board will be necessary. It was also noted that currently this budget has both a \$0 department request and Selectmen Request (proposal). Chairman Centofanti will communicate with First Selectman Schlag regarding the status of the budget request. The Board agreed to table deliberations and vote on this budget until more information has been presented.

*503 Haddam Park & Recreation Commission* – With the Town's acquisition of the Brickyard property in the past year, the Boards had previously agreed that the 510 Brickyard budget [formerly titled the "510 Higganum Athletic Association – Brickyard" budget] would be combined into the 503 Haddam Park & Recreation Commission budget. It was noted that there continues to be little back up information included with those current two budget requests and that the purposes of the funding requests/proposals for some budget lines, especially the Field Maintenance lines, were unclear. The Board Members agreed to table deliberations and vote on this budget until further information in these areas is available.

*505 H/K [Haddam/Killingworth] Recreation Authority* – **Ms. DeBold made the Motion seconded by Mr. Bosco to approve the 505 H/K Recreation Authority budget with the requested and proposed total of \$108,321. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

*510 Brickyard* [formerly referred to as Higganum Athletic Association]- See "503 Haddam Park & Recreation" [above] for details. The Board agreed to table deliberations and vote on this budget until more information has been presented.

*515 Village Parks Society* – **Ms. DeBold made the Motion seconded by Mr. Bosco to approve the 515 Village Parks Society with the requested and proposed total of \$3,000. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

*530 Middlesex County Soil & Water* – The Board noted that although a department request was made for \$1,729, the Board of Selectmen had proposed a \$0 budget for this agency and that neither the agency nor the Selectmen had included any back up information or explanation for either the request/proposal. The Board Members agreed to table deliberations and vote on this budget until they receive further information from either or both sources.

*535 Brainerd Memorial Library* - The Board noted that although the Library had requested \$383,849, the Board of Selectmen had proposed \$340,000 (the same as the current year's adopted budget) without explanation. The Board Members agreed to table deliberations and vote on this budget until they received further information.

*540 Haddam River Days* – It was noted that although this budget retains the name of the former two-day weekend event, the agency request is essentially to pay for the fireworks display on Saturday night. The Haddam Park & Recreation Commission is currently responsible for the Friday evening festivities and entertainment. An agency name change might be considered in the future.

**Vice Chairman Fredericksen made the Motion seconded by Mr. Kapitulik to approve the 540 Haddam River Days budget with the requested and proposed total of \$5,000. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

*546 Haddam Historical Society* – **Mr. Bosco made the Motion seconded by Ms. DeBold to approve the 546 Haddam Historical Society budget with the proposed total of \$2,500 (from the department request of \$5,135). The Motion was approved unanimously.**

*555 Higganum Cemetery Association* – **Mr. Bosco made the Motion seconded by Mr. Tabak to approve the 555 Higganum Cemetery Association budget with the requested and proposed budget of \$3,000. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

New budget requests introduced by the Board of Selectmen included *556 Rushford Center*, *557 Regional Mental Health Board*, *558 Community Health Center, Inc.*, and *559 Middlesex Land Trust*, but no back information up or other explanation was provided. The Board agreed to table deliberations and votes on these budgets until the Board of Selectmen provide this Board with further information re: these agencies and explain what criteria went into the Board of Selectmen's decision to include these specific agencies in this year's budget requests.

*Fund 12 Road Fund* – Although the requested/proposed funding of this budget is understandable, the Board agreed to table the deliberations and vote on this budget, in anticipation of a detailed Road Plan to be provided for future road work, the estimated costs, and a reasonable timetable for the activities from the Public Works Department/Engineering/the Board of Selectmen.

11. Public Comment

There were no comments or questions offered by the public at this point in the Meeting.

12. Adjournment

**Vice Chairman Fredericksen made the Motion seconded by Mr. Tabak to adjourn the Meeting. The Motion was approved unanimously. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara D. Galloway  
Recording Secretary/Clerk