

Selectmen's Meeting – April 20, 2016

Milardo opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. at the TH. Duval and Donlan were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting – March 30, 2016 re: Brainerd memorial Library, Regular Meeting – April 6, 2016 and Special Meeting – April 14, 2016: Donlan moved to approve all the minutes as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: A resident asked if the Charter Revision Meeting was posted. Milardo stated there were some internal issues and timing because her assistant was out, but the meeting was posted with the Town Clerk, just not on line.

Resident Troopers Update: Sgt. Rob Derry and Troopers Milardo and Connelly were present to update the BOS on a few issues in town that residents are concerned about. Sgt. Derry stated the town has been busy with burglaries (gas station, bank and grocery store). Several arrests have been made. Sgt. Derry stated he is very proud of Troopers Connelly and Milardo for the work they do. Several residents spoke highly of the work the Resident Troopers do for the town and thanked them. A resident asked about residential burglaries. Sgt. Derry stated they are down. There is a neighborhood watch on Walkley Hill Road. The troopers encourage other neighborhoods to do the same. Trooper Connelly would set-up the program for other areas. You may email the First Selectman if interested at firstselectman@haddam.org.

A resident asked why so many break-ins are happening? Sgt. Derry stated there are severe heroin/drug issues everywhere. Sgt. Derry stated there will be a drug take-back program in Killingworth on April 30, 2016.

Selectman Donlan stated having the troopers in town are invaluable. They have a positive impact with relationships they have established over the years. Another safety tip given was when a resident goes out of town for any length of time, to let them know and they will drive by to check their property. Remember, if you see something suspicious, please contact the troopers. We all want to be safe!

Reports – Charter Revision Public Hearing: Lizz Milardo announced there will be a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Station #1 Firehouse to review the Charter. This will be an opportunity for the public to give their input. The charter is online at haddam.org. Go to boards and commissions and the Charter is under BOS.

Milardo moved to add CT Main Street Grant to the agenda. Approved unanimously.

CT Main Street Grant: Milardo stated the town has an opportunity to apply for a grant to make improvements to the Higganum Green. In 2010 the town was awarded a \$500,000 STEAP Grant to bring water to Tylerville from Chester. Chester was also awarded a grant for the same purpose. Because of the financial crisis the State is in, they called and asked if the Town of Haddam was not going to use the STEAP Grant, they were going to take it back. So the town asked to reappropriate the monies for a different project, Phase II for the Green. The water situation in Tylerville has moved along fairly quickly, so the State would like \$500,000 grant for the water, which means the Higganum Green may not get done. Fortunately, this CT Main Street Grant came along and would need to be applied for by May 31, 2016 to improve the Higganum Green. This grant will help with the traffic pattern on Candlewood Hill Road, lighting, and adding more sidewalks. Liz Glidden, Town Planner, brought the drawings to the EDC.

Milardo moved to approve the application for the CT Main Street Grant of \$500,000 and the project is titled Higganum Town Green Improvement Project. There is no matching fund the town has to pay. Approved unanimously.

Correspondence – Request to use Town Roads for Bikes for Kids Ride: Milardo received a request to use town roads for a “Bikes for Kids Ride” on October 2, 2016. The ride will begin in Old Saybrook at 7:00 A.M. with approximately 100 riders. They will be traveling through the following towns: Old Saybrook, Essex, Westbrook, Deep River, Chester, Haddam Madison and Clinton. Donlan moved to allow them to use town roads. Approved unanimously.

Town Meeting Date – April 21, 2016: There will be a Town Meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Station #1 firehouse for discussion and vote to consider joining the CT River Area Health District (CRAHD).

Tax Refunds: Donlan moved to approve the following tax refunds.
Kathleen Wheaton - \$86.42 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
Shirley Barry - \$44.74 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
Jeffrey Centola - \$11.21 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
Jeffrey Centola - \$63.96 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.
All of the above approved unanimously.

Public Comments: There was a question regarding the grant for Tylerville and Higganum Green. Milardo explained the town applied for a STEAP Grant for the water in Tylerville. Because this money has not been used, the town cannot apply for more STEAP grants until it is used. The \$500,000 grant will go to Tylerville and the Higganum Green Grant is separate from the \$500,000 grant.

Ed Schwing stated he tried to go to the first Charter Revision Committee meeting and the agenda was not posted on line in a timely fashion. He was surprised to see a legal notice posted without the Charter Revision Committee meeting first. Milardo stated there will be a Charter Meeting the night of the Hearing at 6:00 P.M. to vote to appoint the committee. Schwing stated you don't need to rush the process. There are statutory regulations that must be met. Milardo stated she has checked the procedure out with the State and it is being followed. Schwing stated the Chair of the Charter Revision Committee should have put the notice in the paper and not the BOS. Melissa Schlag asked several times who called the Public Meeting. Milardo stated she was advised by the Town Attorney of the statutory requirements.

Don Giboski asked Milardo why the road crew is doing flagging for tree work, paving, etc. Milardo explained it is cheaper to have our road crew do it rather than the tree company to hire another person to do it and it would cost more.

A resident asked about the process of how the committee members were picked for the Charter Revision Committee. Another resident stated that anyone who was interested in being on the committee should have been chosen to serve on it or do a lottery to pick the number of people you would need to serve. Milardo stated she could not do a lottery because the committee was appointed according to number of democrats, republicans and unaffiliated to serve.

A resident asked about RFQ's versus RFP's. Milardo explained the difference.

A resident asked for an update on the paving of Park Road. Milardo stated that when Tony Bondi was First Selectman he stated he would pave the road. Milardo stated the reality is that it would have cost \$700,000 back then and now the cost is \$850,000. Milardo stated the biggest issue is drainage. The town engineer is working on putting in culverts to help with the drainage issue. Milardo stated she is

looking to go out to bond for roads and a list of roads is being prioritized by the town engineer. Milardo could not give a timeframe of when the road will get done.

Executive Session – Negotiating Lease of Town Property: Donlan moved to go into E.S. at 8:00 P.M. approved unanimously. They came out of E.S. at 8:17 P.M. Donlan moved to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a potential contract to lease town property. Approved unanimously.

Duval moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 P.M. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli