

Selectmen's Meeting – August 28, 2013

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DeStefano gave a disclaimer about the video taping of this meeting. He stated this meeting is being recorded but has not been sanctioned or endorsed by the BOS and, therefore, the BOS cannot attest to the accuracy or completeness of the film.

Acceptance of Minutes – August 14, 2013. Donlan moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Reports – Announce Dates of the BOS Meetings for September: DeStefano announced the meetings for September will be on Sept. 11th and 25th at 7:00 P.M. at Fire Station #1.

Higganum Vision Group – Community Center Renewal Project: Several members of the Higganum Vision Group were present to support the clean-up effort at the Community Center on Candlewood Hill Road. Lynn Cooper, President, gave the BOS a revised scaled-back plan for the center. With this scaled-back plan, there is sufficient funds and volunteers to move forward with the project. The committee will concentrate on the following in the center, paint walls, cleaning & oiling wood-siding, wash/paint ceiling grid, replace ceiling tiles, clean entire building (excluding the garage area), kitchen and hallway walls, and install the microwave. They will also replace the old shrubs in the front of the building with new hydrangeas. The committee has received cash donations which will be plenty to cover the scaled-down plan. An inventory of items was completed and a tag sale was held in August of items being sold or disposed of that have accumulated over the years. The committee gave the First Selectman funds that were received from the tag sale (\$403.76), as well as, a disposal list of items that didn't sell. Some things were donated to St. Vincent DePaul's and the YMCA. The committee asked the BOS for a letter authorizing the committee to move forward with the project. DeStefano stated he would do that. DeStefano thanked the committee for their effort and is very encouraged that other Town groups are volunteering with the project. Donlan stated this is a great program and thanked them as well. DeStefano stated he would encourage the Haddam Bulletin and PATCH to get information out. DeStefano will put a notice on the town's web site for anyone who may be interested in helping or making a contribution. Donlan moved to grant access to the building to make improvements and the BOS will make a commitment to work with the committee as dictated in their plan and dedicate funds to complete the project. Approved unanimously.

Regional District #17 – Board of Education Report: There was no report. DeStefano stated he went to the Convocation at the HKHS. Representative Phil Miller was there, as well as Kathy Ino, First Selectman Town of Killingworth. The meeting was upbeat and positive towards the commitment to the education of our children.

Correspondence – Homeland Security Grant: DeStefano asked the BOS for permission to sign the Memorandum of Agreement regarding use of Federal Fiscal Year 2012 State Homeland Security Grant Funding and Custodial Ownership of Regional Assets in DEMHS Region 2. DeStefano stated this is an annual agreement. Duval moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the agreement as presented. Approved unanimously.

Additions/Transfers: None at this time.

Tax Refunds: Duval moved to approve the following refunds.

Toyota Lease Trust - \$396.59 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.

Frank W. Pokorny - \$11.18 for a 1991 Chevy – vehicle donated.

Robert L. Smigel, Jr. - \$69.46 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.

Stephen E. Kitts - \$12.85 for a 2002 Nissan – vehicle sold.

Eric or Diane Trafton - \$22.61 for a 2001 Nissan – vehicle traded.

Robert L. Fuller - \$59.64 for a vehicle – excess payment.

Daimler Trust - \$253.85 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.

Jillian L. Kish - \$244.16 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.

Michelle R. Rindfleisch - \$38.36 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.

Meredith C. Safer - \$110.35 for a 2008 Volvo – registered out of state.

Daniel Duffy - \$289.32 for a motor vehicle – excess payment.

Estate of Gregory Beach - \$134.86 for a 2007 Chevy – vehicle donated.

Estate of Gregory Beach - \$102.71 for a 2004 Chevy – vehicle donated.

All of the above approved unanimously.

Resignations: None.

Appointments: None.

Old Business – Higganum Cove Update: DeStefano stated there are conditions in the act that was passed and have to file a remediation plan with the State. He met with Robert LaFrances, of the DEEP, to make sure we don't have to pay \$2 million to clean. He has another meeting set up with Graham Stevens on September 11, 2013. The idea is to not have to spend any money for clean-up if the town forecloses on the property.

Higganum Sewer Update: DeStefano stated he had a meeting with Commissioner Smith, Art Linares, Larry McHugh, Mike Fortuna and Liz Glidden regarding a public/private partnership with a DECD Grant. When the DECD community-oriented program expanded, there was political pressure put on them and their focus is on larger developers. Some options are to have a self-contained system or connect with Middletown. DeStefano stated he is not going to the public yet and is looking into funding. The Water Pollution Committee Authority (WPCA) which consists of 6 or 7 people will draw up a plan on what could be done.

DeStefano stated the town has spent over \$300,000 on cleaning and stabilizing the old jail building. The cost to maximize the use of the building could be prohibitive and counter-productive to the town's needs. However, the language in the original deed prevents the town from selling the structure, but does allow for economic development use. In order for the town to consider selling or leasing the property to a developer, the deed needs to be modified. DeStefano has written to the State to look into modifying the deed.

DeStefano stated the sale of the 105 Bridge Street property cannot be complete until Chatham Health does the soil testing, which should be done next week.

DeStefano stated he spoke to Joe Commerfield of the 9-Town Transit District regarding the signs that have been taken down. Mr. Commerfield will be meeting with our town's Asst. Director of Public Works to find safe areas to put them up along Route 154. The route may also include Route 81 in the near future.

Public Comments: Mark Stephens Chairman of the Wetland's Commission was present to let the BOS know that he needs someone to fill an alternate position. DeStefano stated he would send letters to both political parties to try and find a candidate. Stephens also stated that bamboo in this area is definitely an issue. He strongly suggested to the BOS that they look into the Haddam Congregational Church and the right-of-way on Maple Avenue. If the bamboo continues to run it can be viral. Once it gets into the roads, they will start to erode. DeStefano stated he is looking into it.

Ed Schwing stated his concerns about DeStefano selling town buildings and properties without the proper authority. He wanted to know who is interested in buying the jail and Cove. Destefano stated this is a long way off. He has made no commitments; he is just asking the State to see if the jail can be sold. Schwing stated the committee needs to come up with alternatives for the use of the building. Schwing also asked about the consideration of the sewers. DeStefano discussed this issue indicating that several alternatives were being considered and would be brought to the public once State funding potential had been determined.

DeStefano stated there are no plans for moving the Senior Center at this time. DeStefano will be looking into grants in the future to see what can be done, either by moving to another building or adding onto a building. For right now, there is no funding to move the center.

Duval moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli