

Selectmen's Meeting – March 5, 2014

Schlag called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Haddam Neck Firehouse.

Donlan was present. Duval arrived at 7:25 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes – Special Budget Meetings – January 16, 22, 28, 29 and 30, 2014;**

**February 4, 6, 11, and 26, 2014. Regular Meeting February 12, 2014:** Donlan moved to approve the Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted. Donlan and Schlag – yes. Duval – absent. Motion carried. Schlag moved to approve the Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting as submitted. Donlan and Schlag – yes. Duval – absent. Motion carried. Schlag moved to approve the Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted. Donlan and Schlag – yes. Duval – absent. Motion carried. Schlag moved to approve the 29<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted. Donlan and Schlag – yes. Duval – absent. Motion carried. Schlag moved to approve the 30<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted. Donlan and Schlag – yes. Duval – absent. Motion carried. Schlag moved to approve the February 4<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted. Donlan and Schlag – yes. Duval – absent. Motion carried. February 6, 11 and 26<sup>th</sup> were tabled until Selectman Duval arrived. Donlan moved to approve the February 12, 2014 regular meeting as submitted. Schlag and Donlan – yes. Duval – absent. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Joe Zaiantz expressed his feelings about a recent article that was in the Haddam Bulletin regarding Chatham Health's budget and what Chatham Health does not do for the town. He is concerned about the fact that there is no pandemic plan for the town. Schlag stated that Chatham Health does do a lot of things for the town. Schlag thanked Haddam Public Health for what they do.

There was also discussion on the history of how the town signed on with Chatham Health.

Jim McHutchison stated he doesn't understand the issue. Schlag stated that in order to keep the health department with the town in the past, we needed a physician, now we would have to hire a certified sanitarian and it would be cost prohibitive. Schlag stated that Chatham has other programs that we don't utilize which she will find out about.

Schwing stated the town received a grant to join Chatham Health.

**Tax Refunds:** Schlag moved to approve the following refunds.

Barbara & Daniel Casey, Jr. - \$18.57 for real estate – excess payment.

John Agapito & Loraine Stook - \$5,209.42 for real estate – excess payment.

Marilyn & Brian Wakefield - \$74.69 for real estate – excess payment.

Donlan and Schlag approved. Duval was not present. Motion carried.

**Appointments – Transfer Station Task Force:** Schlag moved to appoint Peter Smith, of Higganum, to the Transfer Station Task Force. Schlag and Donlan – yes. Duval – absent. Motion carried.

**Abandoned Car Hearing Officer:** Donlan moved to appoint Melissa Schlag as the Abandoned Car Hearing Officer, which we need according to the Ordinance. After a brief discussion, because there was another person that wanted to be appointed, Donlan withdrew the motion. Donlan moved to appoint Dustin Nablo as the new Abandoned Car Hearing Officer, effective immediately. Donlan and Duval – yes. Schlag – abstained. Motion carried.

Selectman Duval arrived at 7:25 P.M.

**Transfer Station Floater Position:** Schlag feels this position will be a good addition to the Transfer Station. This position will be on an as needed basis, at \$16.00 hourly and under 20 hours a week. This person would fill in if regular employees need to be used for plowing or are out sick. After a brief discussion, Schlag moved to create the Transfer Station Floater Position on an as-needed basis. Approved unanimously.

**Correspondence – Letter about “No Parking Sign” on Staba Drive:** First Selectman Schlag received a letter from Gary Mornhineway of Staba Drive regarding putting up a “No Parking Sign” at the beginning of the street. “He stated there are nine houses on this street with a cul-de-sac. All properties have a deed restriction, one of which is no parking on the street, which has been violated several times causing the Resident Troopers to visit the street. At the cul-de-sac there is a conservation area which hunters frequently park. By law, according to Mr. Mornhineway, people cannot hunt within 500 feet of a house. There is not one thousand feet between the houses. His neighbor put up no hunting signs that were torn down. His request is to put up a no on street parking sign on an existing stanchion at the start of the street. This would allow the trooper to reduce visits while enforcing the restriction and protecting residents”. The BOS believe this is a civil matter. Schlag will send a letter to Mr. Mornhineway suggesting he speak with his neighbors and get a petition to get more support.

**DECD – State Register of Historic Places:** First Selectman Schlag received letters informing the town that a nomination has been submitted for the following properties on the State Register of Historic Places.

They are Hubbard Spencer Farmstead, 39 Christian Hill Road, Higganum, Stephen Tibbals Farmstead, 516 Little City Road, Higganum, Captain John Smith Farmstead, 95 Jacoby Road, Higganum and Orrin Freeman Farmstead, 37 Maple Avenue, Higganum. The State Register is the State of Connecticut’s official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the State Register provides recognition and assists in preserving Connecticut’s heritage. Best wishes to all of them for the nomination. A decision will be made in the near future. The President of the Historical Society stated our Historical Society will be able to use the armory again in Hartford to alleviate cost for the antique show. Schlag moved to send a letter to the legislative body in support of this. Approved unanimously.

**New Business – Lease Agreement for Rossi Property Building (Public Works):** A lease agreement with the Rolumco Property in Higganum Center and the Town of Haddam was discussed. This agreement is to continue to rent this property, which is located at the intersection of Route 154 and Depot Road in Higganum to store the Public Works Dept.’s equipment for another two-year lease beginning January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 in the amount of \$3,000 monthly, this is \$500 a month cheaper than the previous lease. After a brief discussion, Donlan moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the lease agreement. Approved unanimously.

**Budget Discussion and Approval of Capital Plan:** Schlag presented the BOS with the proposed Capital Improvement Plan and improvements she had made. It was decided to set up another BOS Meeting to discuss further.

**Dispatch Services and Selectmen:** A discussion ensued regarding the Valley Shore Budget. After a brief discussion, Schlag moved to approve \$105,631 for the Valley Shore line in the 2014-2015 budget and allow Schlag to sign the contract for continuing services. Approved unanimously. Schlag moved to approved \$21,552 in the 2014-2015 budget for Colchester Emergency Services (KX) and allow Schlag to sign the contract for continuing service. Approved unanimously.

**Public Comments:** Joe Zaiantz asked about an issue between Melissa Schlag and Scott Larson, President of the Haddam Volunteer Fire Dept., regarding financial statements that Schlag requested. Schlag had requested the statements and Larson refused to give it to her because the Fire Dept. gives

their financial statement to the board, but doesn't feel they should have to give the company's financial statement. Schlag stated according to the Charter, that all agencies must send a financial statement if they are receiving any funds over \$500. Schlag stated she is very disappointed with Larson's unprofessionalism in communications. A resident asked about a rumor he heard that the Fire Dept.'s budget was cut by 40%. Schlag stated the BOS cut excess from the budget, not 40%. She stated the BOS took the rolling average of the last six years and funded them according to their actual expenses. She feels that she would like to sit with both Fire Departments and help them with their budget. Schlag thanked the BOS for their many hours they put in on this year's budget and she is proud of what they accomplished.

Lisa Malloy asked about a proposed cell tower on Jail Hill Road in Haddam. Schlag stated there is no cell tower going up that has been sanctioned by the town.

A resident stated the Ambulance Corporation is saving over \$500,000 from monies the town has given them.

A resident stated the website information saves mileage for the Haddam Neck residents. Very informative.

Duval moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli