

Selectmen's Meeting - May 21, 2014

Schlag called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at Fire Station #1. Duval and Donlan were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acceptance of Minutes – May 7, 2014: Schlag moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Schlag moved to add Solar Installation waiver of fees ordinance to the agenda. Donlan asked if this motion was just to have a Town Meeting for discussion. Schlag stated she has to send the proposed ordinance to the Town Attorney for wording and then go to the Town Meeting. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: Ed Munster asked if waiving the fees for solar also includes a different installer than the town is proposing to use. How does that differ from waiving fees using private haulers, same concept? How do we justify that? Schlag stated it would help any solar installation, promoting a healthier environment. Munster argued that the State went to every town with the end destination as an environmental issue as well. Donlan stated it's clear that this waiving is a one-time fee to encourage people to do this. Donlan stated that with the waste disposal issue, the BOS did not want to encourage people one way or the other. Munster stated we do want to encourage people to dispose their trash so it doesn't end up on town roads, etc.

Munster stated the Brainerd Memorial Library, Board of Trustees, usually award bids for the library. Is the town awarding this bid? Why is it changing? Schlag stated the Board of Trustees does not have the power to award bids; therefore, the town awards the bids. Donlan stated that never should have happened in the past. At this point, Donlan stated he objects to the town paying for any repairs to the library because the building or land does not belong to the town. Donlan feels the owners of this building should not decide how to spend taxpayer's dollars. He feels expending the large amount of money that is in the budget, be revisited. Munster stated the town started giving money to the library in 1978. Donlan stated in 1978 the town was only paying 5 – 7% of the library budget. Now the town is paying 95% of their budget and things have changed dramatically.

A resident suggested that the motor cycle rides that come through the town have legal mufflers on their bikes before we approve usage of our roads.

Solar Installation Discussion: Schlag stated she had been in contact with Michael Trahan regarding mitigation of the fees for solar installation. There was a recent solar meeting and approximately 250 showed up with 130 people signing up for information and installing a system. The building department is ready for the onslaught of applications that will be coming through the TOB. The building official is familiar with Be Free, the installation company. Residents will still have to pay the State fees. Schlag moved to schedule a Town Meeting for the proposed ordinance to waive the town's portion of fees to install solar systems. Donlan feels there should be a deduction of fees for anyone who does energy savings to their homes, not just solar. A question was asked how much money the town would lose in fees. Schlag stated \$250.00 per house or between \$20,000 - \$25,000. The price for a system would range from \$8,000 - \$25,000. The motion was approved unanimously to send to a town meeting.

Tax Refunds: None at this time.

Requests for Board of Finance: Schlag deleted this item from the agenda because there is money to pay for the TOB front vestibule. Did not have to appropriate more money.

Award Library Roof Bid: Five bids were received to replace the roof on the 1996 addition at the Brainerd Memorial Library as follows.

Bert Door Roofing of Durham, Ct - \$30,600.

Rudolph Netsch of Chester, CT - \$68,521.

C & M Roofing of South Windsor, CT - \$30,000.

Melanson Builders of Higganum, CT - \$55,000.

Scholar Painting LLC of Seymour, CT - \$23,630.

We also received one bid from a contractor, but there was no insurance information, so the bid did not Qualify. After a brief discussion, and at the recommendation of the Brainerd Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Schlag moved to award the bid to C & M Roofing in the amount of \$30,000. The contract must be signed by June 30, 2014.

Schlag announced she would like to set up a Town Meeting to set up a local bid ordinance where local contractors can match bids. Duval stated he would have an issue if local contractors did not do the work themselves and subcontracted the bids. After a brief discussion, Schlag said she would work up the language and send it to the Town Attorney to review and then go to a Town Meeting.

New Business – Motorcycle Ride by The Arc through Town: The BOS received a request to use town roads for a motorcycle ride on Sunday, August 17, 2014 to benefit adults with developmental disabilities. Schlag moved to allow the Arc to use town roads. Approved unanimously.

To send proposal for access and utility easement over a town owned ancient highway, Tax Map 40, Lot 6-2 to the Haddam P&ZC per CT Statute Sections 8-24 for review: This property is located off Little City Road. The owner is asking for the transfer of easement rights, from the Town of Haddam, intended to facilitate the development of a vacant lot. After a brief discussion, Donlan moved to send this request to the P&ZC for an 8-24 review and decision. Approved unanimously.

To Increase the Registrar of Voters hourly rate: The BOS received a request from the Registrar of Voters to increase their salaries from \$15.49 per hour to \$19.49 per hour. They have not received an increase for 6 years. A survey was done comparing Haddam with other towns and Haddam is the lowest paid. Duval stated that in order to keep competent people working, we have to keep current in the salaries. Schlag moved to increase the salaries to \$19.49 per hour, effective July 1, 2014. Approved unanimously.

Old Business: None at this time.

Public Comments: There was more discussion regarding the solar energy program and waiving fees.

Duval moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 P.M. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli