

Selectmen's Meeting – May 13, 2015

First Selectman Schlag called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the TH. Duval and Donlan were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Schlag explained to the residents in attendance, that because this meeting is not on a regularly scheduled meeting night, that nothing could be added or altered to the agenda.

Acceptance of Minutes – April 15, 2015: Donlan moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: There were several contractors present to attest to the fine job Fern Tremblay, Building Official, has been doing over the years. They have heard rumors that his position may be changing and they do not want to see him leave. They don't feel that the town should share the building official with another town. The BOS thanked them for their comments.

Tax Refunds: Donlan moved to approve the following tax refunds.

Melanie F. Simmons - \$73.25 – motor vehicle – excess payment.

Melanie F. Simmons - \$17.99 – motor vehicle supplement – excess payment.

Doug or Barbara Rogers - \$9.72 – vehicle sold – excess payment.

Daimler Trust - \$633.14 – motor vehicle – excess payment.

Vault Trust – Ally Financial - \$150.27 – vehicle sold.

Vault Trust – Ally Financial - \$452.41 – vehicle sold.

All of the above – approved unanimously.

Town Clerk Grant Acceptance: Donlan moved to authorize the First Selectman to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Town of Haddam a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant in the Town Clerk's Office. Approved unanimously.

Resignations – Board of Finance and Wetland's Commission: The BOS received a letter of resignation from John Tabak who served on the Board of Finance, dated May 11, 2015, effective immediately. Donlan moved to accept the resignation, effective immediately, with regret and best wishes in his new location. Approved unanimously.

Donlan moved to accept the resignation of Joseph Laurenza from the Wetland's Commission, effective immediately. Approved unanimously. A letter will go to the Democratic Town Committee and the Republican Town Committee to ask for candidates to fill this position.

Appointments – Merit Service Retirement Board (for Fire Dept): Donlan moved to reappoint Richard Annino and Randall Spencer for another two-year term to expire June 1, 2017. Approved unanimously.

Economic Development Commission: Donlan moved to reappoint Dan Dachelet for another three-year term to expire June 30, 2018. Approved unanimously.

Wetland's Commission: Donlan moved to reappoint Jeremy DeCarli and Malcolm Gorin to the Wetland's Commission for another three-year term to expire May 1, 2018. Approved unanimously.

Interim Building Official: Donlan moved to appoint Robert Meyers as the Interim Building Official to cover in the building department when Fern Tremblay is out of the office for a period of time (vacations, etc.). Approved unanimously.

Old Business Transfer Station Sticker Policy: There were some minor areas that needed to be tweaked. Residents will need to display the sticker on the windshield. No vehicle will be allowed without the sticker on the windshield. Schlag moved to approve the Transfer Station Sticker Policy that was drafted by the transfer station committee, effective July 1, 2015. Most of the rules are the same but were never implemented. After a brief discussion, the BOS approved the motion unanimously. Schlag stated she received a letter from Committee on Aging asking if we can give an elderly discount for people downsizing and to consider a lower year round rate because seniors don't acquire as much trash. Schlag stated she would like to continue with the same rates for a while. If there is a senior that is having difficulty with the fees, they can contact the First Selectman to discuss.

New Business – Discussion of the new permit for the orange barrier on the Connecticut River: CY has erected an orange barrier at the entrance of the cove on the CT River. Schlag spoke to a representative from CY and from the DEEP has asked CY to remove the barrier and only put up for special occasions or emergencies. Melissa Schlag stated it was too open-ended and asked the DEEP and CY for a 45 day limit. Schlag stated if the boom has to be up for more than 45 days to move it up the canal more. Schlag stated the town should be notified when the boom will be erected because her office is the one who gets calls and questions as to what is going on. Alicea Charamut, Steward from the Lower River Valley for the CT Watershed Council, wrote a letter and was present. Ms. Charamut explained that the CT River Watershed Council is the principal nonprofit environmental advocate for protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the CT River and its watershed. The subject of her letter is "re: Permit to Place Markers for a Restricted Area on the CT River in Haddam". "She thanked the BOS for allowing an opportunity to comment on the most recent Marker Permit Application submitted by CT Yankee, DEEP for restarting the permit process, and Brantley Burger and CY for demonstrating a willingness to implement alternative security measures so that the barrier may be removed.

The conditions put forward for redeployment and duration of the barrier in this variation of the permit should be more specific and clear to the general public. A large portion of the controversy surrounding the initial deployment of the barrier stemmed from a lack of opportunity for public participation or input during the permitting process. The permit application is deficient as it is currently written and the CT River Watershed Council respectfully asks that the BOS request more specific conditions for deployment of the barrier that the public can understand".

There were several comments from the audience to make the conditions clearer. Schlag asked if anyone had any further comments to email them to her and she will talk to Sue Whalen of the DEEP. John Hull stated he has a petition of 1,500 signatures of people who do not want the barrier up. Schlag will look into this further. Schlag stated CY will not take down the barrier until the town signs the permit. She will not sign until the permit is made clear and residents agree.

Public Comments: Ed Munster read a letter into the record from Kristin Battistoni stating the Assistant Tax Collector will be retiring at the end of June, which is the busiest time of the year. Battistoni is asking that she have an Assistant in her office by October 2015. The BOS thanked Mr. Munster for reading the letter.

Someone asked about the status of the Tylerville water issue. Schlag stated nothing new at this time. The DEEP will be submitting a report in October.

Duval moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 P.M. Approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli