

**VOLUNTOWN SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
February 26, 2019**

**Regular Meeting** The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday February 26, 2019 at the Voluntown Town Hall. Ms. Hanson, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

**Selectmen Present** Tracey Hanson, Ronald Millovitsch, Mark Oulton

**Town Officials**

**Citizens Present** Eddie Del Santo, Joe Miller, Deborah Fletcher, Wendy Gauthier, Ralph LaFrazza, Renee Jowett

**Approval of Minutes Motion** A motion was made by M. Oulton/R. Millovitsch to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 22, 2019. Motion Approved.

A motion was made by M. Oulton/R. Millovitsch to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on February 14, 2019. Motion Approved.

**Citizens Comments**

Eddie Del Santo Mr. Del Santo spoke to the Selectmen about the increase in truck traffic on Main Street due to the tolls in Rhode Island and what they could do to fix the problem. Ms. Hanson stated that Main St is a State Road and it would be up to the State to make any changes.

Joe Miller Mr. Miller stated you would need trooper enforcement to slow the traffic down on Main Street.

Deborah Fletcher Ms. Fletcher spoke to the Selectman about the recent investigations involving sexual harassment and animal neglect at NECCOG. Ms Hanson responded that the sexual harassment claims were investigated, and the report is available to anyone by contacting NECCOG. The animal neglect charges are being investigated by the Department of Ag and are still ongoing.

Wendy Gauthier Ms. Gauthier asked the Selectman to give a statement on Tolls in Connecticut. Ms. Hanson waiting for more information about issue.

Ralph LaFrazza Mr. LaFrazza spoke to the Selectman about the problems with jet skis on Beach Pond. There used to be no wake signs on the pond. Ms. Hanson has been in contact with Mike Peyton about the problems on Beach Pond.

Renee Jowett Ms. Jowett also spoke to the Selectmen about the problems occurring with the increase in truck traffic on Main Street.

**Correspondence  
& Announcements**

Friend of Pachaug Forest The Friends of Pachaug Forest issued their first newsletter.

Job Fair The Norwich Bulletin will be hosting a regional Job Fair on Tuesday March 26, 2019 at the Courtyard Marriott in Norwich from 10a.m. – 3 p.m.

Denison Hill Mr. Eppinger sent Ms. Hanson an email regarding snow plowing on Denison Hill Rd.

Last Green Valley	The Last Green Valley is looking for sponsors for this year's Walktober. They would like the Town to consider increasing the Town's participation by encouraging and planning activities for this event.
Center for Hospice	The Center for Hospice Care of Southeast Connecticut published their list of counseling services for the winter of 2019.
Insurance Workshop	Ms. Hanson is holding an insurance workshop for any Boards and Commissions that are planning events and have any insurance questions on March 19, 2019 at 6pm at the VES Library.
COST	COST sent an email discussing the bills concerning property tax reform and School District Consolidation.
Tricentennial	The Tricentennial Planning Committee is inviting any groups or individuals interested in helping planning events for the Town's Tricentennial in 2021 to their meeting on March 25, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Voluntown Town Hall.
CCM	CCM sent out an email regarding the census for 2020. They are recommending that towns recruit approximately 20 volunteers to help with the census taking. All Municipal Aid and Educational aid are dependent on an accurate population count.
NEAR	NEAR is holding a free advocacy and education event 'Forgotten Corner Day' at the Connecticut State House on Wednesday February 27, 2019 from 10am to 3pm.
VHS	The Voluntown Historical Society has donated \$5,000.00 towards helping with the lead remediation at the Wylie School House. They will attend the next Selectman's meeting to give an updated report on their efforts.

**Board and Committee Reports- None**

**Old Business**

<b>Employee Handbook</b>	The Selectmen finished their review of the Employee Handbook. Mr. Oulton suggested adding No Smoking within 25 feet around the building. A motion was made by R Millovitsch/M. Oulton to approve the Employee Handbook. Motion Approved with the no smoking addition.
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**New Business -Discussion**

Feral Cats	The Selectmen discussed the problem of Feral Cats in the Bailey Pond area. Ms Hanson spoke to NECCOG about the problem. The only thing they can do is trap, neuter and release them back where they found them. They can take kittens and find homes for them, but they will not take adult feral cats. The cost for this service is \$65.00 per cat. They discussed options on what to do about this problem. The first step they decided is to start with an education pamphlet.
Codification Services	Ms Hanson and the Town Clerk are looking into a new codification service called General Code. This service would create an online database to organize the Town's ordinances in a clear and concise way. They would go through and make suggestions on what needed to be updated or repealed. The town clerk has received a grant which will cover the cost of and there will be no cost to the town to implement.
Point and Pay	Ms. Hanson stated that since the ordinance passed at the Town Meeting allowing the town to accept electronic payments we can go ahead with accepting online tax payments with credit cards. There will be a terminal in the Town Hall for townspeople to use if they choose to pay with a credit card. This will begin on Monday March 18, 2019.

Budget 2019-2020            The Selectman have begun the process of creating the 2019-2020 budget. We are faced with a 316,000.00 cut this year alone to our ECS funding. Ms. Hanson will be speaking to the General Assembly on Friday about the Regionalization bills.

Wood-Pawcatuck            The Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers is looking for two representatives from Voluntown to join their new committee. Mr. Oulton said he would be one. Ms. Hanson will add it to the newsletter to see if we can get another volunteer.

**Suggestions for Next Meeting –**

**Adjournment**

**Motion**                    A motion was made by R. Millovitsch/M. Oulton to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m. Motion Approved.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved for distribution by:

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Julie L. Zelinsky, Admin. Asst. to the BOS

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Tracey Hanson, First Selectman