

Haddad resigns from yet another administrative post

By Dotti Farrington

Mark Haddad, who briefly served as Jamestown's town administrator in 2005, resigned recently as chief administrative officer (CAO) in Stratford, Conn., after being cleared in that town of harassment charges in a community he worked in prior to serving either there or in Jamestown. He would make no further public comment about his career intentions after his resignation, which is effective Nov. 7.

Haddad was hired last December by Stratford's first mayor, James Miron, under a new charter for that town. His job at \$90,000 a year was the second highest paid post in Stratford, with a population of 50,000.

The appointment by Miron became part of a political morass over mayoral actions. Haddad's selection was challenged in conjunction with his role in a situation in Cohasset, Mass., before 2005.

Haddad, a graduate of Merrimack College and Suffolk University, had worked in Cohasset seven years when his effort to discipline two police officers was followed by harassment charges in which Haddad was named as town administrator but not as a harasser, according to information made public during the investiga-

tion launched by Stratford about the charges. Haddad said early this year that he believed the charges were meant as retaliation for the discipline.

The process of the Stratford investigation was riddled with fighting over procedures and interpretations of reports about the Cohasset situation, fueled by Massachusetts and Connecticut media stories for which original documents were not made public. One newspaper took media colleagues to task publicly for insufficient sources and specifics.

A full report by a private investigator, hired by Stratford, was aired behind closed doors last month for the Stratford City Council, which then pronounced Haddad cleared of its concerns. Some councilors previously rejected a (Conn.) state police report that Haddad had no record to report.

The Haddad controversy was reported as part of the post-charter-change atmosphere in Stratford where a number of key town officials resigned after Miron took office. Haddad was named by Miron to serve as Stratford Town Clerk while Haddad was working also as CAO. The charter there provides for such dual, interim service.

Early this year, Haddad said, "There were never any charges

brought against me. I was never charged with anything." He said then that he just wanted to help the mayor. He was praised this month by some officials for help he provided with the budget and other matters.

Miron called the Stratford battle "a shameful example of the politics of personal destruction (by) people with political agendas out to embarrass me." Some of Miron's opponents said they were glad that Haddad is leaving even though he was cleared of wrongdoing.

Haddad worked over 20 years in public and private management. In between public jobs in Jamestown and Stratford, he was executive vice president of business operations for Ventus Networks of Norwalk, an award winning company for its rate of growth, first in Connecticut and fifteenth in North America, for telecommunications.

Miron said he chose Haddad from among more than 50 candidates "as the most qualified and experienced, best of the best." Haddad's references included a letter from David Long, Jamestown Town Council president, who praised Haddad for work here. However, former Jamestown Council President Guy Settupane was quoted in Connecticut criticizing Haddad for a threatening manner with those who challenged him.

Haddad left Jamestown after six

months because of a high-paying private job offer. He said then he was trying to meet the Jamestown requirement to live on the island even though it meant downsizing his family's lifestyle because of housing costs, when the private job came unsolicited.

In his letter of resignation in Stratford, Haddad wrote, "I have been personally subjected to undue public criticism and scrutiny." He added, "I am pleased that the extensive investigation into these allegations has exonerated me of any wrongdoing."

Miron praised Haddad as a good administrator and for being well liked by many. "I was surprised at the viciousness of reaction and the whispering campaign," against

Haddad, he said. "We conducted one of the most invasive and exhaustive investigations ever," he said, adding that it revealed nothing to raise concerns about Haddad's job fitness.

"Mark has been a steady and reliable team player who will be missed," Miron wrote in an e-mail to town employees. "His professionalism, good nature and job performance (were) an asset to me personally and to the entire administration."

In his resignation, Haddad said, "I have enjoyed my work here and appreciate the opportunity given me." He concluded that leaving the town was in the best interests of his family.

Business seminar planned

Babcock & Helliwell, one of Rhode Island's leading full-service insurance agencies, has announced that it will be a sponsor of "We Mean Business," an event to be held on Nov. 5, at the Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln, which will provide an opportunity for entrepreneurs to discuss issues and acquire information that they will need to start, grow, or improve their business in Rhode Island. The event is free, but attendees must pre-register at the event Web site at www.wemeanbusinessri.com.

We Mean Business is a joint venture of the Secretary of State's First Stop Business Information Center and Every Company Counts, an initiative of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. The mission of We Mean Business is to connect Rhode Island business owners with local, state, and federal regulators as well as with non-profit resources that impact business.

"I urge anyone considering opening or expanding a business in Jamestown to go to We Mean Business," said Nick Morenzi, Jamestown resident and Babcock & Helliwell sales executive. "In one day you will be able to attend workshops and meet with experts on a variety of business-related topics, from customer service to insurance."

Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis and Saul Kaplan, Executive Director of the RI Economic Development Corporation, will open the event at noon. Among the invited guests are Rhode Island's Governor, Donald L. Carcieri, Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts, Attorney General Patrick Lynch and General Treasurer Frank Caprio.

Babcock & Helliwell is a privately held independent insurance agency established in 1892. The agency offers a full range of personal and commercial insurance products and services. The agency represents some of the largest and most financially sound insurance companies in the industry. For more information, call 782-1800 or visit Babcock & Helliwell's Web site at www.babcockhelliwell.com.

Hill & Harbour
TILE SHOWROOM
"Boston's high end look without the drive."
42 Ladd Street (1st Floor)
Located at waterfront end of Division St.
East Greenwich
398-1035
Mon-Fri. 7:30-5:00pm
Thurs 'til 8:00pm
Sat 8-2pm

jamestown **fitness**
Mon-Thurs: 5:30 am-8 pm • Friday: 5:30 am-7 pm • Sat-Sun: 7 am-3 pm
36 Southwest Avenue • Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835
T:(401) 560-0300 • F: (401) 560-0301

Midnight Sun
on the Wharf
Celebrating 18 Years of Funk!
Himalayan Salt Rocks • Jewelry • Drums
Crystals • Bajas • Candles • Incense
Tapestries • Didgeridoos • Rainsticks
Nag Champa • Egyptian Goddess Oils &
40 Other Varieties Always Available!
85 Brown St. Wickford • 295-1601 • Open 7 Days

CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS
Shutter & Blinds • Shades & Upholstery • Bedding & Pillows
Durasol Lateral Deck Awnings • Hurricane Shutters
The Cover-Up Shoppe
401.423.0522

"I had a Change of Heart!"

"I couldn't imagine giving up my home. Now I can't imagine a better life than I have at The Seasons. It's the perfect size home where everybody knows my name and people truly care about each other. A superb staff. New friends. Something different going on nearly every day. *I'm so glad I'm here!*" ~ Frances Armstrong

The Seasons
ASSISTED LIVING

- Studio, one and two bedroom apartments, including meals
- Options for enhanced support
- Respite stays
- Program for Qualified Veterans
- Separate Alzheimer's residence
- Priority admission to quality nursing homes

Five Saint Elizabeth Way
East Greenwich, RI 02818
401-884-9099
info@theseasons.org
www.theseasons.org

Pas de chat
[pah de 'shah]
nice things for busy women
16 Narragansett Avenue
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835
401 560 0091
Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday 9:30am-5pm
Sunday & Monday CLOSED
Welcome arrivals!
Eco friendly Yoga tops & bottoms,
funky & functional writing pens
from Retro 81, handmade soap
dishes from Provence.
Bring in this ad for a 10% discount.