

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Grange Hall
March 5, 2014
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; E. Lyman; E. Malavasi

Also Present: E. Blaschik; C. Farrow; T. Gelston; C. Kindel; F. Kindel; J. Jansky; A. Jansky; J. Jansky; P. Lacy; J. Moreau; D. Panfili; R. Panfili; T. Gelston; R. Parady; R. Smith; C. Varricchio; J. Ventres; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 19, 2014, Special Meeting of February 25, 2014; Special Meeting of February 27, 2014 and Special Meeting of March 1, 2014.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2014 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 25, 2014 as written. Unanimous aye.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of February 27, 2014 were tabled.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 1, 2014 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

Mr. Walter reported that he had received an email from Deb Mathiasen, dated February 27, 2014, regarding EDC business update letter recently mailed and the East Haddam Business Association's planned Taste of East Haddam event. He advised that the Taste of East Haddam will replace the Chowder Festival and will be held at the Senior Center.

5. First Selectmen's Report:

A. Open Space Commission Letter of Support: Mr. Ventres advised that the Town has the opportunity to purchase two new Open Space parcels identified as the Lena and Zeleznicky properties. He reviewed topographical maps of both properties and outlined how both purchases fit in with the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development Plan. He noted that 40-50% of the cost to purchase the properties could be covered by State grants.

Mr. Ventres advised that the Zeleznicky property is surrounded by Nature Conservancy property and the Conservancy would be a co-applicant for grant funding; however, they would not be able to provide any funds for the purchase of the property.

In response to questions from Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Ventres stated that the Zeleznicky property has the potential for one building lot and he feels it would be a very desirable lot to develop. He stated the Lena property has the potential for 24 building lots.

Mr. Ventres advised that there is a balance of \$1.1M remaining in the Town's original bond authorization for Open Space purchases and the Lena and Zeleznicky would require approximately \$546,000.00 of Town funding. Mr. Walter noted that, in light of the other large projects the Town is considering, there could be a challenge getting additional Open Space purchases approved by the Board of Finance.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that the Board of Selectmen support an application to the State of Connecticut's Open Space Grant program for funds to purchase the Lena property and Zeleznicky property as described in the February 20, 2014 document submitted by the East Haddam Open Space Commission.

Mr. Malavasi stated that he feels there is less value in the Zeleznicky property and there was a general discussion regarding its purchase. Mr. Smith and Mr. Gelston spoke in favor of the purchase. In response to a question from Mr. Malavasi, Ms. Varricchio stated that, at this time, she did not have information regarding what impact the purchases of the two properties would have on the Town's debt service.

Mr. Malavasi stated that he could support the purchase of the Lena property and would support the purchase of the Zeleznicky property with reservations. Unanimous aye.

6. Citizen's Concerns: In response to Mr. Farrow's question regarding concerns raised at the recent public meeting regarding upcoming bridge work in the Village, Mr. Walter noted that he is having on-going discussions with the Coast Guard and DOT regarding modifying the schedule for the swing bridge openings. Mr. Jay Moreau described the protocol for moving emergency vehicles through traffic jams created by the bridge openings.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Jansky, Mr. Walter advised that the Town had just recently received the Transfer Station Committee report/recommendation and he is still gathering information regarding the situation. He noted that the report/recommendation will be discussed in a public meeting and he will notify the affected businesses when that meeting is scheduled.

Ms. Jansky also expressed concern about the loss of property taxes that would result from converting additional properties to Open Space.

7. Unfinished Business:

- A. General Budget Review Workshop & Resolution: Ms. Varricchio distributed materials related to the Town's General Budget. She noted that \$545,743.00 of the total budget increase of \$609,375.00 was non-discretionary expenses. She discussed several additional reductions to the budget and Mr. Malavasi noted changes in the healthcare industry that might lead to future savings in fringe benefits. There was a general discussion regarding the Town's healthcare coverage costs and Mr. Walter and Ms. Varricchio advised that the majority of the Town's employees are in unions that negotiate

health insurance benefits for their members. Mr. Malavasi noted his long career in the healthcare industry and stated he would welcome the opportunity to participate in future discussions regarding healthcare coverage for the Town's employees.

Ms. Varricchio called the Selectmen's attention to the document titled "Budget Adjustments" she had distributed and noted the bottom line had been reduced by approximately \$4,000.00 and confirmed that she would breakout the salary split for Shared Services employees. There was a general discussion regarding the library contract with LION and Ms. Varricchio agreed to follow-up with the Library Director to ensure that all potential options have been considered.

The Selectmen discussed potential reductions to the Public Safety budget request and Mr. Walter expressed concern about eliminating funding for an additional full-time officer and recommended reducing the amount from \$60,000.00 to \$30,000.00. He noted that he anticipates a need for additional hours for traffic control due to the planned bridge work in the Village this summer and stated that he would like the flexibility of adding an additional officer in the 2nd half of the next fiscal year if necessary. Mr. Malavasi expressed reservations about the need for an additional full-time officer and the Selectmen agreed to add \$30,000.00 to the Public Safety budget for overtime and additional part-time hours. In response to a question from Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Walter confirmed that he would not recruit a full-time officer in this budget year.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to recommend to the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2014-2015, a budget of \$10,812,192.00 which represents General Government, Shared Services, Capital and Reserves. Unanimous aye.

- B. Tax and Business Incentive Program Application: There was no update on this agenda item at the meeting.
- C. Transfer Station Update/Transfer Station Committee: Mr. Walter noted that the Transfer Station report/recommendation had been received but not reviewed yet and confirmed that he would notify the haulers when the public meeting to discuss the report is scheduled.
- D. Blight Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item at the meeting.
- E. Wocl Road Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item at the meeting.
- F. Scoville Landing Emergency Right of Way: Mr. Walter noted that he has given the Fire Marshal the map of this area and asked him and the Fire Chief to weigh in on this situation.
- G. A.P. Gates Road/Warner Road Drainage Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item at the meeting.

8. New Business

- A. Small Cities Grant Resolution: Mr. Walter advised that, earlier today, a Public Hearing was held regarding a Small Cities Grant application on behalf of the East Haddam Senior

Housing Corporation for renovations to the Oak Grove complex. He noted that the next step is for the Board of Selectmen to adopt a resolution authorizing the application.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93-3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of East Haddam make application to the State for \$800,000.00 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Selectmen:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of East Haddam in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.00 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, to carry out approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of East Haddam.
Unanimous aye.

- B. Colchester Emergency Communications Memorandum of Agreement: Mr. Walter advised that the following towns have been authorized by either their Board of Selectmen or Town Council to sign the Colchester Emergency Communications Memorandum of Agreement: East Hampton, Marlborough, Lebanon and Bozrah. He advised that, in addition to East Haddam, the following towns still need to approve the agreement: Colchester, Haddam and Salem.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between Colchester Emergency Communications (“CEC”) and the Town of East Haddam. Unanimous aye.

- C. Volunteer of the Month: There were no nominations for the Volunteer of the Month to consider.

D. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to two tax refunds.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to award the following tax refunds:

- \$60.81 to Cameron Beard, and
- \$58.99 to Edgar Girouard.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Mr. Walter provided him with information on the Town attorney's opinion on the Wocl Road situation and confirmed that no decision has been made regarding a resolution of the Town's concerns.

Mr. Smith advised the Selectmen that Dolbia Hill Road was washing out into the Eightmile River area. He stated that he had notified Public Works of the issue and they had advised him they will look into it. Mr. Walter noted that he will check on this with Beth Lunt.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: There were no additional items discussed by the Selectmen.

11. There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary

Recorded