

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Grange Hall
June 4, 2014
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: F. Baylord; E. Blaschik; D. Dill; M. Hansen; P. Lacey; L. McDonnell; R. Miller; S. Quinn; T. Quinn; J. Roczniak; L. Stuhlman; F. Tencza; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Walter advised that he would like to add the following items to the agenda:
 - 4D. Email – Response to Reporter on Connecticut Yankee Canal Closure
 - 5E. Budget Discussion

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as amended.
Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of May 21, 2014 and Special Meeting of May 28, 2014.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 21, 2014 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 28, 2014 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

- A. Letter – Caleb Sherman Beebe Farmstead (Nomination for State Register of Historic Places): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Stacey Vairo, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, dated May 20, 2014, to Cloverdale Farm, c/o Randy Dill. He stated that the letter advised Mr. Dill that a nomination for the Caleb Sherman Beebe Farmstead to be listed on the State Register of Historic Places will be considered on June 4, 2014. In response to a question from Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Walter advised that there was no action for the Selectmen to take on this issue.
- B. Email – Volunteer for Sound System for Memorial Day Parade Services: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from Robert Bradway, dated May 26, 2014. He stated that Mr. Bradway and Bill Curry volunteered their services to provide a more substantial sound system and sound support for the Memorial Day services at Legion Field next year.

- C. Letter – Economic Development Commission Transfer Station Commercial Hauler Opinion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Robert Casner, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission. He advised that the letter outlines EDC’s position on the recommendations of the Transfer Station Study Committee Report and noted it will be considered in future Transfer Station meeting discussions.

Mr. Walter further advised that he had also received an email from the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments with link to an article in the Hartford Business Journal entitled “CT Waste Future Leaves Trash-to Energy in Dust”. He will forward to the board for their review.

- D. Email – Response to Reporter on Connecticut Yankee Canal Closure: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from him to Alan Aronow, a reporter for the Haddam Bulletin, dated June 3, 2014. He advised that his email was a response to Mr. Aronow’s request for his views on the Connecticut Yankee canal closure situation.

Mr. Walter reported that he had also received the following two pieces of correspondence:

- An email from Buddy Altomaro, Baseball Director, American Legion Baseball Post 156, dated June 4, 2014, thanking the Town for letting Mike Olzacki assist with work on the infield.
- An email from Gina Calabro, Director of Member Services and Marketing, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), dated May 30, 2014, reporting on Town residents’ use of the CCM Prescription Discount Card Program. He noted that 165 claims were processed since East Haddam joined the program in June 2013 resulting in savings for Town residents of over \$8,300.00.

5. First Selectmen’s Report:

- A. Bashan Lake Dam Update: Mr. Walter reported that the State Bond Commission has approved \$1.47 million for repairs to the Bashan Lake Dam. He stated that work is scheduled to begin after Labor Day and should be completed by next season. He noted that how quickly the lake level rises after the work is completed will be dependent on the amount of rainfall next spring.
- B. Route 82 Bridge Replacement Update: Mr. Walter reported on several aspects of the work on the Route 82 bridge and advised that the project is on schedule.
- C. Tax Sale Discussion: Mr. Walter recognized Tax Collector, Denise Dill, who discussed the upcoming tax sales for the Town. Ms. Dill reported that there are five properties that will be sold due to delinquent taxes. She noted that the Town had previously considered taking the property at 432 Town Street by eminent domain to expand the septic at Fire

Company 1. She advised that if the Town is still interested in the property there are several options available and described the procedure that would be followed if the property remained on the Tax Sale list.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to keep the property identified as 432 Town Street on the Tax Sale list and verify the Town's interest in acquiring said property. Unanimous aye.

- D. Property Donation Offer Discussion: Mr. Walter reviewed a map of the property being offered to the Town by Mr. Smith and the Selectmen noted that the property is adjacent to several other Town owned parcels. Mr. Walter noted that Mr. Smith would have to buy out several minority owners of the property before it can be donated. He advised that Mr. Smith has also offered the property to the Land Trust which is considering his offer and confirmed that this is the property that Mr. Dill brought to the Selectmen's attention at the May 21st Board of Selectmen's meeting.
- E. Budget Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that the Board of Finance has directed the Town to reduce its budget by \$32,000.00. He advised that Ms. Varricchio recommended using surplus funds in the Capital Projects budget line for the cut. He stated that there is a balance of \$27,597.00 remaining in the 4-8 Middle School Fund after paying off the Webster loan and an allocation in next year's budget for repairs to the new Middle School windows and replacement of the new Middle School phone system. The remaining \$4,403.00 would come from balances remaining in the following Capital projects: the Riverhouse Painting (\$845), Heritage Park (\$526) and Old Middle School Cameras (\$3,032).

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, contingent on the revised budget passing, to follow Finance Director, Cindy Varricchio's recommendation and inform the Board of Finance of same. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Malavasi asked Mr. Walter to thank Ms. Varricchio for all the work she has done on this project and also for providing him with the background materials he had requested.

- 6. Citizen's Concerns: Ms. Stuhlman stated that she has several concerns about the State contractor for the Route 82 bridge work dumping excavation fill at the Industrial Park. She advised that she has spoken with Mr. Ventres about the issue and noted that her concerns are two-fold. First, she feels that this is an illegal dumping which violates a number of the Town's Zoning regulations. She also believes it violates the State's DEEP regulations for ensuring that the materials are clean fill prior to the dumping. Ms. Stuhlman stated that she would like the Town to take appropriate steps to remedy the problem. Mr. Walter stated that Mr. Ventres had informed him of Ms. Stuhlman's concerns and he would begin an investigation immediately.

Mr. Lacey informed the Selectmen that six cities in the country have now joined People Against the NDAA (PANDA) and encouraged the Selectmen to vote to have East Haddam also join.

Ms. Quinn expressed concern that several new Town employees have been hired at significantly higher rates of pay than a number employees with much more longevity. She stated that she feels this is unfair and requested the Selectmen review and make appropriate revisions to the Town's existing wage structure.

Mr. Walter stated that the Town is currently doing a wage/salary survey to determine if East Haddam's pay is in line with other towns and Ms. Quinn noted that she is more concerned about the discrepancy among East Haddam's employees' pay, and its impact on morale, than a discrepancy between towns. Mr. Walter agreed to look into the situation; Ms. Roczniaak requested that he not only look into the situation but also take action on it.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Walter confirmed that he does do performance reviews; however, he has not done them for the past two years. Mr. Malavasi encouraged regular/timely reviews be completed for all non-union staff and Mr. Walter committed to completing them by this fall.

7. Unfinished Business:

- A. Tax and Business Incentive Program Application: Mr. Walter advised that the Tax abatement for Eddie's Autobody has been submitted to the Board of Finance for their approval. There was no additional update on this agenda item.
- B. Blight Ordinance Discussion: This agenda item was tabled.
- C. Scoville Landing Emergency Right of Way: There was no update on this agenda item.
- D. A.P. Gates Road/Warner Road Drainage Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that Mr. Ventres and Ms. Lunt are working with counsel to research the question of easement on this property.
- E. 20% by 2018: Mr. Malavasi asked Ms. Hansen to update the Selectmen on this program. Ms. Hansen stated that she is a member of the Green Committee and reviewed the progress the Town has made on its previous Clean Energy pledge. She noted that the Green Committee voted in its April meeting to recommend the Town renew its pledge by signing the 20% by 2018 paperwork.

There was a general discussion regarding the Town's commitment and requirements for participating in the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge.

Motion was made by Mr. Malavasi, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept the Green Committee's recommendation and sign the 20% by 2018 Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge. (A copy of the Pledge is attached and made part of these minutes). Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

- A. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (COA): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Jo Golec, Chairman of the Commission on Aging, dated May 25, 2014, recommending reappointments to the commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to reappoint Jovita Cozean, Rosalie Hoffman and Alice Sabo for three-year terms to expire June 30, 2017 as regular members and Mary Ellen Klinck and Suzanne Bostelman for one-year terms to expire June 30, 2015 as alternate members on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

- B. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to two tax refunds.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to award the following tax refunds in the amounts presented.

- \$371.42 to CAB East LLC, and
 - \$ 24.97 to Barbara Kirk.
- Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no additional public comment at the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

- A. Neighborhood Assistance Act Public Hearing (June 11, 2014): Mr. Walter reported that he would chair a Public Meeting at 7 pm on June 11, 2014, in the Town Hall to review community project applications for the Neighborhood Assistance Act. He noted that there are currently two applications: (1) Town of East Haddam for Open Space Trust Fund, and (2) Goodspeed Musicals for LED Stage Lighting Energy Conservation Project. He further noted that this item would be on the next agenda for approval to send to the state by July 1.
- B. DARE Graduation (June 18, 2014): Mr. Walter advised that he has a scheduling conflict and will be unable to attend the Middle School Dare graduation this year. Mr. Lyman stated he would attend the graduation.
- C. Second Budget Referendum Calendar: The Selectmen reviewed the second budget referendum schedule. Mr. Walter noted a Town Meeting will be held on June 9th and the referendum is June 19th.
- D. June & July Board of Selectmen Meetings: It was noted that there are several scheduling conflicts with the next three Board of Selectmen meeting dates and the Selectmen agreed on the following changes:
- The June 18th meeting will be rescheduled to June 17th at 7:00 p.m.
 - The July 2nd meeting will be rescheduled to July 1st at 7:00 p.m.
 - The July 16th meeting will be rescheduled to July 28th at 5:00 p.m.

There was no additional Selectmen's discussion.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary

Recorded

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES MUNICIPAL PLEDGE

The Clean Energy Communities program is an initiative funded by both the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA-formerly known as the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund) and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. CEFIA and the Energy Efficiency Fund develop programs which collectively seek to have Connecticut cities and towns both reduce energy use and increase support for clean, renewable energy for municipal facilities. Energy Efficiency Fund programs are administered by The Connecticut Light and Power Company, The United Illuminating Company, Yankee Gas Services Company, The Southern Connecticut Gas Company, and/or Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation (collectively, "the Companies")

By applying currently available energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy technologies the Town of East Haddam can save money, create a healthier environment and strengthen local economies; and **accordingly, the Town of East Haddam makes the following Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge:**

1. The Town of East Haddam pledges to reduce its municipal building energy consumption by 20% by 2018. Building energy consumption shall be determined by benchmarking municipal building energy consumption to a baseline fiscal year. The Town of East Haddam can elect from the following fiscal years to determine its energy baseline year: 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, or 2012-2013.
 - a. The Town of East Haddam will seek to reduce its municipal building energy consumption for municipal facilities by at least 20% by 2018. The schedule follows:
 - i. Fiscal Year 2013-2014: 8% Reduction
 - ii. Fiscal Year 2014-2015: 11% Reduction
 - iii. Fiscal Year 2015-2016: 14% Reduction
 - iv. Fiscal Year 2016-2017: 17% Reduction

v. Fiscal Year 2017-2018: 20% Reduction

- b. The Town of East Haddam will work with the Companies, contractors or other entities to benchmark its municipal buildings (including board of education buildings) to determine the municipal buildings' energy usage.
 - c. Beginning July 1, 2015, the Town of East Haddam agrees to provide documentation of its municipal building energy consumption on an annual basis by the end of the first quarter of the following fiscal year.
 - d. The Town of East Haddam pledges to create its own Municipal Action Plan (MAP) to determine its path in reducing its energy consumption. The Town of East Haddam may satisfy this requirement by submitting a pre-existing municipal energy plan, sustainability plan, climate change action plan or similar document.
 - e. There is no penalty if the Town of East Haddam fails to meet the reduction amounts set forth in the schedule above. However if these reduction targets are not met starting July 1, 2015, the Town of East Haddam will not be eligible to receive Bright Idea Grants from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund and Companies under the Clean Energy Communities program.
2. The Town of East Haddam pledges to purchase 20% of its municipal building electricity from clean, renewable energy sources by 2018.
- a. The Town of East Haddam will seek to make a voluntary purchase of at least 20% of the electricity for municipal facilities from clean, renewable energy sources by annual CEC program requirements. The schedule follows:
 - i. Fiscal Year 2013-2014: 16% Purchase
 - ii. Fiscal Year 2014-2015: 17% Purchase
 - iii. Fiscal Year 2015-2016: 18% Purchase
 - iv. Fiscal Year 2016-2017: 19% Purchase
 - v. Fiscal Year 2017-2018: 20% Purchase
 - b. The Town of East Haddam may satisfy this requirement by taking municipal action steps to support clean energy such as opting into Commercial-Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) or adopting streamlined permitting practices for solar PV systems; purchasing Green-e® Energy certified Renewable Energy Credits (RECs); enrolling one or more municipal facilities in the CTCleanEnergyOptionsSM program; installing Class I renewable energy systems; or any combination thereof.
 - c. The Town of East Haddam agrees to provide CEFIA documentation of its municipal clean energy purchases on an annual basis.
 - d. There is no penalty if the Town of East Haddam fails to meet the items set forth in the schedule above; however, the Town of East Haddam will not be eligible to receive incentive rewards from CEFIA under the Clean Energy Communities program.

3. The Town of East Haddam agrees to promote energy efficiency and clean, renewable technologies in its community. The Town of East Haddam is encouraged to establish a Clean Energy Task Force, or comparable body. This entity will assist the municipality in meeting the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge and to perform education and outreach among residents, businesses and institutions within the community concerning energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy programs.

By taking the pledge and meeting the Clean Energy Communities Program requirements outlined by CEFIA and the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, the Town of East Haddam may qualify, subject to the terms of separate memorandums of understanding, for the following grants:

- a. CEFIA. For every 100 points, the Town of East Haddam will earn a 1 kilowatt (or equivalent) clean energy system.
- b. Energy Efficiency Fund. For every 100 points, the Town of East Haddam will earn a Bright Idea Grant that can be used for energy-saving projects. The Town of East Haddam is eligible for two Bright Idea Grants per fiscal year.

Signatory

Date:

Name of Signatory: Mark B. Walter

Name of Town/City: Town of East Haddam

* The Town of East Haddam understands that the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge is not a contract, and that CEFIA, the Energy Efficiency Fund, and the Companies have not contracted, committed, agreed or promised, to perform or incur any obligations, in any manner, hereunder