

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Grange Hall
August 20, 2014
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: C. Altieri; J. Altieri; J. Baade; K. Barrows; E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; R. Calltharp; R. Casner; D. Chesson; S. Costomiris; C. Cross; W. Cross; L. Curry; R. Curry; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; A. Jansky; J. Jansky; J. Jansky, Jr; D. Kaemmer; P. Lacy; B. Lunt; M. McLaud-Touncci; S. Palmer; R. Parady; R. Parady; B. Quinn; T. Quinn; J. Rozniak; P. Simmons; J. Schaefer; P. Stricker; L. Stuhlman; P. Tripputi; B. Vilela; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter 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: Mr. Walter advised that he would like to add item 8.E. – Rathbun Library Grant Application Certified Resolution to the agenda.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of August 6, 2014. Mr. Walter noted that the minutes of the August 6th meeting were not yet ready for review.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to table approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 6, 2014. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an invitation to a retirement luncheon for Carolyn Hart in their meeting packets.
 - A. Letter from Thomas Tarbox: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packet from Mr. Tarbox concerning the seeding in front of the Grange and Old Town Hall. He noted that Mr. Tarbox's letter provides helpful information about the proper process for planting lawn seed and that he had forwarded a copy to Mr. Mansfield.

5. First Selectmen's Report:

- A. Shared Services Report – July/August 2014: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to the Shared Services report in their meeting packets and reviewed several items on the report.
- B. Route 82 Bridge Replacement Update: Mr. Walter reported that, on Friday, six sections of Bridge #2 will be installed. He advised that, during that day, additional sections of Ray Hill Road will be closed to traffic.

- C. Skateboard Park Update: Mr. Walter reported that he had met with the police and Ms. Quinn to discuss parking and other security issues at the Skateboard Park. In response to a question from Mr. Malavasi, Ms. Quinn advised that there has been no vandalism at the park and the skateboarders have been very respectful of the property. She noted that the park has signs posted that it is only open from sunrise to sunset.

6. Citizen's Concerns: The following citizens' concerns were heard:

- In response to a question from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter advised that the recorder had not been in the bag it is usually stored in and someone was bringing it over from the Town Offices.
- In response to a question from Ms. Barrows, Ms. Quinn stated that the liability with the skateboard park is the same as any other park in Town and that it is posted that individuals skateboard there at their own risk. She confirmed that the risk and liability of the park was reviewed and accepted by CIRMA.
- In response to Ms. Roczniak's expressed concerns about discrepancies with the statue in front of the Grange/Town Hall, Mr. Walter advised that he had a picture of the statue before it was moved and would provide a copy to Mr. Mansfield so that he can duplicate the setting as closely as possible. He noted that the dedication plaque had been set aside and would be reinstalled but that they could not find the plaque about the trees. He advised that one of the trees had died and another had to be removed because it was located where the new driveway was being installed. He stated that the Town would plant new trees and dedicate them properly.
- Mr. Cross reiterated the history of the Harris property and stated that the Town is fortunate to own it as open space. He stated that the citizens should have a voice in how it is utilized going forward.
- Mr. Gelston provided the Selectmen with copies of a document outlining an alternative plan on the development of an agriculture center at the Harris property. He reviewed his plan for the audience. Mr. Walter thanked Mr. Gelston for his comments and confirmed that he would address any questions Mr. Gelston has about the CCA with him.
- Ms. Stuhlman noted that Mr. Gelston had provided some positive next steps for the CCA project and emphasized that the people need to take part in the decision making process for this project.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Tax and Business Incentive Program Application: There was no update on this agenda item.
- B. Blight Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.

- C. Scoville Landing Emergency Right of Way: Mr. Walter advised that a walkthrough has been scheduled for August 26th at 5:00 p.m.
- D. A.P. Gates Road/Warner Road Drainage Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.
- E. Transfer Station Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that the Town's contract with Willimantic Waste Paper Company, Inc. has expired and he reviewed Public Works Administrator Lunt's analysis regarding quotes for municipal bulky waste disposal services, municipal waste and recyclables hauling services, and municipal waste disposal services. He noted that Ms. Lunt recommended renewing the contract with Willimantic as the most cost effective approach. At Mr. Walter's request, Ms. Lunt explained her rationale for recommending renewing Willimantic Waste Paper Company's contract.

Mr. Walter stated there are a number of concerns about the Transfer Station including the hopper/compactor and the open bins at the top of the hill which are out of compliance with current state regulations. He advised that a tipping floor could extend the life of the compactor and noted that the Town could apply for a STEAP grant to install one and build a roof over the bins.

Mr. Walter opened the floor for discussion of this agenda item and asked Mr. Jansky, Sr. his opinion of installing a tipping floor at the Transfer Station. Mr. Jansky stated that he feels a tipping floor is an unnecessary expense and that a more cost-effective way to extend the life of the hopper/compactor would be to implement dumping controls and regular maintenance. Mr. Walter thanked him for his input and agreed that the hopper is in good shape at this time but his concern is that if another failure happens it will shut out the entire Town from using the Transfer Station.

Mr. Malavasi stated that he does not feel the cost of installing a tipping floor is justified by the continued use of the Transfer Station by two private enterprises.

Ms. Jansky agreed that few towns allow private haulers to dump at their transfer stations; however, she noted that many mandate town pick-up of their residents' trash at a cost to the taxpayers and/or the individuals themselves.

There was a discussion regarding whether or not the existing equipment is adequate for commercial dumping and Ms. Lunt and Ms. Jansky both stated they spoke with the manufacturer and were given conflicting information.

Mr. Lyman stated that he had participated on an earlier Transfer Station Committee and noted that significant investments had been made to repair the hopper/compactor. He stated, however, that before he agreed to allow the continued use of the Transfer Station by the commercial haulers, he would want a full engineering study of the equipment to be done.

In response to a question from Ms. Stricker, Mr. Walter stated that it was possible that a STEAP grant could pay to install a tipping floor. Mr. Jansky, Jr. stated that he would not be opposed to using a tipping floor.

There was a general discussion regarding the build-up of trash at the Transfer Station after a holiday. Ms. Barrows noted it is difficult for residents to get to the Transfer Station during the week and suggested that adjusting the hours could alleviate the holiday build-up.

Mr. Lyman and the Janskys discussed the cost impact on their business from hauling loads out-of-town.

Mr. Altieri stated he objected to the use of public funds to support private businesses. Ms. Rozniak stated that she would be concerned if grant funds were used to benefit only a few people rather than the general public. Mr. Walter noted that the bins at the Transfer Station are out of compliance and the STEAP grant would also be used to correct that situation. Mr. Palmer expressed concern about increased labor costs associated with a tipping floor and Ms. Lunt advised that the Town would not be required to sort the waste on the tipping floor; she stated that Willimantic Waste would continue to be the sorting/processing facility.

In response to a question from Ms. Jansky, Mr. Walter advised that there are only three individuals employed for the Transfer Station and a reduction in staff is not feasible due to scheduling requirements. He also noted that the Public Works and Transfer Station employees are in different unions making it difficult to have Public Works employees cover at the Transfer Station.

Ms. Barrow complimented Ms. Lunt on her management of the Public Works and Transfer Stations.

Ms. Jansky noted a number of free and reduced fee services that their company provides to the Town and stated that they would not be able to afford to do that if they are required to haul out of town.

Mr. Lyman noted the following two options were recommended by the Transfer Station Committee: (1) The first option would be to close the Transfer Station to commercial haulers and allow them to bring their loads directly to WWPC. The Town would continue to pay tipping fees but it would be the responsibility of the commercial haulers to cover transportation costs and any fees associated with recyclables/bulky waste in the MSW loads. (2) The second option would involve retrofitting our existing Transfer Station to adequately address the commercial hauler loads. The retrofit would include the construction of a tipping floor and covered structure in the upper portion of the Transfer Station. WMC prepared a price estimate to make these renovations and approximated the work to be between \$300,000 and \$450,000. Mr. Blaschik noted that neither of the options addresses the issue of the bins being out of compliance.

In response to a question from Mr. Jansky, Jr., Ms. Lunt advised that maintenance of Town equipment is not effective if the equipment is inadequate to the job. She stated that this is the case with the hopper/ compactor when it is used by commercial haulers.

Several members of the audience spoke in support of finding a solution that allows the commercial haulers to continue to use the Transfer Station. There was a discussion regarding the cost impact during the period the commercial haulers had to truck their loads out-of-town.

In response to a question from Mr. Casner, Mr. Walter advised that the Board of Selectmen have not made a decision regarding the use of the Transfer Station by the commercial haulers. Mr. Lyman stated that he would like to review all of the committee reports regarding the issues and educate himself further about potential options. He stated he wants to have a long-term plan in place before voting on this issue. Ms. Zemienieski agreed to provide him with all the committee reports. There was a general discussion regarding alternative solutions employed by other towns.

Mr. Walter closed the floor to further discussion of this agenda item.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve three five-year contracts for Municipal Bulky Waste Disposal Services, Municipal Waste and Recyclables Hauling Services and Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services with Willimantic Waste Paper Co., Inc. and send the multi-year contracts to the Board of Finance, then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

- A. Grant Acceptance – FY 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the Town's annual Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,573.00 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled "FY 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant", and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- B. Senior Center Beer & Wine Approval – Community Lions Club: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Marcia Masci of the East Haddam Community Lions Club, dated August 7, 2014, requesting permission to serve beer and wine at the Senior Center for their East Haddam Community Lions functions for the year 2015.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Senior Center by the Community Lions Club for their East Haddam Community Lions functions for the year 2015. Unanimous aye.

- C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (CONS): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Rob Smith, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, with recommendations for commission members.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to change the status of Charlotte Gelston from alternate member to regular member to fill a vacancy, with a term to expire June 30, 2016, on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to appoint Joseph Zaid as an alternate member to fill a vacancy, with a term to expire June 30, 2016, on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye

- D. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds for consideration at this time.

- E. Rathbun Library Grant Application Certified Resolution: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Laurie Prichard of the East Haddam Library System requesting a Board of Selectmen resolution authorizing an application for a State of Connecticut Public Library Construction Grant to off-set the expense of renovations to the Rathbun Library.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend to the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Mark B. Walter, First Selectman of the Town of East Haddam is empowered to apply for a State Library Construction Grant and to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Rathbun Library a certain contract with the Connecticut State Library, State of Connecticut, for a State Public Library Construction Grant. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: The following public comment was heard at the meeting:

- Ms. Stricker recommended that the Town begin a discussion about consolidating the two libraries.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Stricker, Mr. Walter advised that the State Public Library Construction Grant was for \$200,000.00 and would be used to off-set the expense of new windows, a new HVAC system, roof repairs, etc. for the Rathbun library.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Stuhlman, Mr. Walter confirmed that the CCA meetings posted on the Town's website were open to the public but were not the informational meetings he discussed at the August 6th Board of Selectmen's meeting. He noted that he expected the informational meetings to be heavily attended and he is trying to schedule a suitable location.

- A member of the audience suggested using the Senior Center van to transport seniors to the informational meetings. Mr. Walter responded that it might be more effective to hold one of the meetings at the Senior Center.
- There was a discussion regarding Mr. Gelston's alternative plan for the CCA and the CCA in general.
- Mr. Cross read a letter drafted by Mr. Stuhlman in response to Attorney Poliner's letter of August 1, 2014 regarding the petition about the commercial kitchen and submitted it for the record.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Walter advised that the back taxes on the property in question were paid by the owner and so the property had not been sold at auction.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Lyman, Ms. Lunt advised that the employee that was building the stone wall at the Old Town Hall/Grange site had been injured and would not be able to complete the work. She advised that the Town is securing quotes to finish the work.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Malavasi, seconded by Mr. Walter, to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary

Recorded