

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Grange Hall
October 1, 2014
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: L. Branscombe; E. Blaschik; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:04 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 September 17, 2014.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2014 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

- A. Resident Letter of Appreciation: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from Suzy Miner, dated September 18, 2014. He noted that the email expresses Ms. Miner's appreciation for the police department's investigation of the theft of her wallet from her car. Ms. Miner specifically noted Officer Karabeinikoff's work on her case.

5. First Selectmen's Report

- A. Route 82 Bridge Replacement Update: Mr. Walter reported that the project is on schedule for completion by November 1st. There was a general discussion concerning the potential for the contractor to complete the work early.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizen's concerns discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Blight Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this Agenda item.
- B. A.P. Gates Road/Warner Road Drainage Discussion: Mr. Walter reiterated that there is an unresolved dispute regarding whether or not the property can be developed.
- C. Wool Road Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that the contract has been delivered to the property owner who informed him that he will have his attorney review it. Mr. Walter stated that he would follow-up on having a road sign installed.

- D. Emergency Communications Center Contract for Municipal Services Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that he has scheduled a meeting for October 2nd with the members of the Emergency Management Group to discuss this matter further. He reviewed the pros and cons of moving the KX 911 services to the Montville facility and there was a general discussion regarding the surrounding towns' 911 services.

8. New Business

- A. USDA Loan Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that he, Finance Director Varricchio and Facilities Director Mansfield met with a USDA representative on September 29th. He stated that he has signed paperwork for a maximum \$20,245,000 loan from the Federal Government for the Elementary School repairs, the Municipal Offices project and the fire house renovations. He noted that the Town is not obligated to borrow the full amount and the maximum interest rate that will be charged is 4%. He stated that all the projects have been pre-approved by the USDA and that the Town would have 5 years to complete the work.

Mr. Walter stated that, related to the agreement with the USDA, the Town will transfer \$50,000.00 from the Contingency Fund to the Capital Projects Facility Evaluation budget to take the required next steps on the Municipal Facilities old Middle School conversion project.

- B. Call for Town Meeting: The Selectmen discussed the call to send various items to Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Town Meeting Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2014 for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to transfer \$50,000 from the Board of Finance Contingency to the Capital Projects Facilities Evaluation budget to conduct an environmental study to determine necessary abatements, for architectural fees to redesign the building, for a second construction cost estimate and for the continued services of the construction management firm as requested by the Municipal Facilities Advisory Group for the conversion of the former Middle School.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the Town Meeting accept a grant for Federal Funds from the Highway Bridge Program for the purpose of the development of contract plans, specifications and estimates in conjunction with the replacement of the Johnsonville Road Bridge (Bridge

No. 04656) over the Moodus River at a total cost of \$350,200 with a 20% Municipal share in the amount of \$70,040 and 80% Federal share in the amount of \$280,160 and to appropriate the sum of \$70,040 for the purpose of the development of contract plans, specifications and estimates in conjunction with the replacement of the Johnsonville Road Bridge (Bridge No. 04656) acknowledging that there may be temporary borrowing from the General Fund to pay for costs prior to their reimbursement by grants for the Federal share in the amount of \$280,160.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Mark B. Walter, First Selectman, be, and hereby is, authorized to sign the agreement entitled "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of East Haddam for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates in conjunction with the Replacement of the Johnsonville Road Bridge (Bridge No. 04656) over the Moodus River utilizing Federal Funds from the Highway Bridge Program.

Unanimous aye.

- C. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a Volunteer of the Month nomination from Lenore McLean. He noted that Ms. McLean nominated Barbara Ringuette for her volunteer activities "...at all three schools for many, many years". She further stated that Ms. Ringuette is "...a Volunteer who is truly dedicated to the betterment of the Public School experience in East Haddam".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to name Barbara Ringuette as Volunteer of the Month for August, 2014. Unanimous aye.

- D. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter advised that there were no tax refunds for consideration.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. October 15, 2014 Board of Selectmen Meeting Discussion: Mr. Walter noted several conflicts with the October 15th Board of Selectmen's meeting date.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to cancel the October 15, 2014 Board of Selectmen's regular meeting and hold a Board of Selectmen's special meeting on October 22, 2014. Unanimous aye.

- B. Other Discussion: Mr. Malavasi stated that Scott Jezek did an excellent job moderating the forum on the Center for Community Agriculture. Mr. Walter stated he will send Mr. Jezek a thank you letter for his assistance.

Mr. Walter stated that he felt the forum went well and that most people are in favor of using the Harris Property for agriculture and learning but objected to the commercial

kitchen. He advised that he feels it would be best to eliminate the kitchen from the plans and further noted that an advisory group should be created for the project.

Mr. Lyman advised that he has been involved with farming for most of his life and he feels that it would be benefit the Town to offer some type of agricultural business incubator that can instruct farmers on to best process their crops, the legal aspects of the business and how to be successful.

In response to a question from Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Walter advised that he is working with Mr. McDonnell of WMC to draft specifications for a STEAP grant for the Transfer Station. He noted that he would also like to work with the Selectmen to draft official rules for the commercial use of the Transfer Station.

Mr. Malavasi noted that planning is underway for Project Safe Halloween and stated that he hoped the Selectman would be able to attend the event.

There was no additional Selectman's discussion at the meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary