

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Grange Hall
April 7, 2014
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; E. Lyman; E. Malavasi
Also Present: 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: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of February 27, 2014 and Regular Meeting of March 5, 2014.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 27, 2014 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 5, 2014 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

Mr. Walter reported that he had received a communication from Town Clerk Denette regarding creating a Board for the Code of Ethical Conduct Committee. He noted that there had been no need for the Committee to meet since its charge had been drafted in March, 2008. There was a general discussion regarding whether or not the Selectmen should appoint Board members at this time and the Selectmen agreed to create a file of volunteers for future reference. Ms. Zemienieski stated she would publicize the openings and collect applications.

5. First Selectmen's Report:

- A. Shared Services Report (March): Mr. Walter reviewed the March Shared Services report. He noted that the Town is hoping to get work started soon on the driveway on the Old Town Hall/Grange property. He stated that he had participated in a test of the Visitor Management System recently implemented at the high school and reported that it went well.
- B. Road/Drainage Issues Update: Mr. Walter provided an update on the washout problems on several Town roads, including Landing Hill Road, caused by runoff from the recent heavy rains. He noted that the problem was made worse because of a blockage in the antique aqueduct into which the water usually drains.

He provided information on the status of the request of the Shelter Rock Road residents to approve the street as a Town road and stated that he, Public Works Administrator Lunt and Land Use Administrator Ventres had made a site visit to the neighborhood. Mr.

Walter reported that Ms. Lunt will create a cost estimate for the road improvements needed.

Mr. Walter noted that the Town Meeting on the budget had been rescheduled from May 7th to May 6th and apologized to Mr. Malavasi for the conflict it caused with his schedule.

There was a general discussion on the Freedom of Information seminar that Town employees recently attended and Ms. Zemienieski provided feedback on the session.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizen's concerns discussed at the meeting.
7. Unfinished Business:
 - A. Tax and Business Incentive Program Applications: Mr. Walter stated that he is working with Mr. Simmons and the Town attorney to finalize the agreements for the two Tax Incentive applications.
 - B. Blight Ordinance Discussion: The Selectmen reviewed the Blight Ordinance draft and Mr. Lyman noted several concerns he has with the draft language and voiced his strong reservations about establishing such an ordinance. Mr. Walter provided examples of how a Blight Ordinance has worked well in other towns and recommended the Selectmen continue to review the draft and identify specific sections/language that they could work on to improve.
 - C. Wocl Road Discussion: In response to a request from Mr. Walter, Ms. Zemienieski agreed to set up a time for a site visit to Wocl Road.
 - D. Scoville Landing Emergency Right of Way: Mr. Walter reported that the Town needs to determine whether or not the removal of several trees would provide sufficient fire and emergency vehicle access to Scoville Landing.
 - E. A.P. Gates Road/Warner Road Drainage Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that the Town is making progress on this item.
8. New Business
 - A. Amendment to Senior Center – Beer and Wine Approval: Mr. Walter advised that Ms. Masci had called and requested that the Community Lions Club's original request to serve beer and wine at their events at the Senior Center be amended to include any night of the week. He called the Selectmen's attention to Ms. Masci's original request, dated March 7, 2014, a copy of which was included in their meeting packets.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Senior Center by the Community Lions Club for the East Haddam Community Lions meetings or dinners each month for the year 2014. Unanimous aye.
 - B. Grant Acceptance – Kitchen Gardeners International: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from Roger Doiron, Founding Director of Kitchen

Gardeners International, dated March 18, 2014, notifying the Town that the organization had approved a \$500.00 grant for the Green Committee's Food Bank "Victory Garden".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept a grant in the amount of \$500.00 from the Kitchen Gardners International, for the "Green Committee-Food Bank Victory Garden", and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (MFBAG, IWWC, EDC):

- Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Group

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to letters of resignation from the Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Group from Maryjane Malavasi and Patty Stricker, both dated March 3, 2014.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept, with regret, the resignations of Maryjane Malavasi and Patricia Stricker from the Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Group. Unanimous aye.

- Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission Chairman Dill, dated March 20, 2014, recommending three regular member re-appointments.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to reappoint Mary Augustiny, Daniel Jahne and Bryan Goff as regular members for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2015 on the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission. Unanimous aye.

- Economic Development Commission

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Deb Mathiasen of the Economic Development Commission, dated April 1, 2014, recommending a Commissioner status change and appointment.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to change the status of Ralph Parady from an alternate to a regular member position with a term to expire June 30, 2018 on the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Donald Bergeron to a vacant alternate member position, with a term to expire June 30, 2015, on the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

D. Discussion of Elementary School and Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Group Charges: Mr. Walter advised that, due to Board of Finance's decision to reduce proposed debt reserves to fund the projects, he would like to revise the charges of the Elementary School and Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Groups. He stated he would like to remove language related to the inclusion of the fire company and ambulance services in the Municipal Facilities project and also make some changes to the Elementary School

Building Advisory Group's charge. He asked the Selectmen to review the current charges and be prepared to recommend appropriate changes at a future meeting.

- E. Volunteer of the Month (February, March, April): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to four nominations for Volunteer of the Month in their meeting packets and noted the following:

- Mary Beth Iacobelli had nominated Tammy Spurgeon as Volunteer of the Month for her work as President of the Elementary School PTO, noting that Ms. Spurgeon, *"...consistently goes over and beyond to support not only the elementary students and teachers – she actively supports the district and town as well"*.
- Laurie Alt had nominated Stuart "Woodie" Wood as Volunteer of the Month for his work on the Zoning Board of Appeals. She noted that Mr. Wood has served on the Board since 1972 and is its current Chairman. She further stated that he, *"...epitomizes the unselfish dedication to community service that is an essential element in our Democracy"*.
- Lisa Maciorowski and Laura Truncali nominated Sylena Krackowsky and Nicole Muckenhirn as Nathan Hale-Ray High School's 2014 Volunteers of the Month. Among the many qualities they noted for the two students, they also stated that they both exhibit, *"... tremendous respect for others, personal integrity, and high standards of excellence, they raise the bar for their peers with their consistent and generous donation of time to volunteer service"*.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to name Tammy Spurgeon as Volunteer of the Month for February 2014. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to name Stuart Wood as Volunteer of the Month for March 2014. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to name Sylena Krackowsky and Nicole Muckenhirn as Volunteers of the Month for April 2014. Unanimous aye.

At Ms. Zemienieski's recommendation, the Selectmen agreed to set May 18th as the date for the Volunteer Recognition reception.

- F. 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:

- \$289.99, to Stephen Valard, and
- \$ 66.12, to George Poland.

Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion: In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Walter confirmed that the Animal Control Officer's job had been expanded to a full-time position

which includes maintenance work and reports to the Facilities Director. Mr. Walter detailed the job responsibilities in the new role and stated that the position is a salaried, non-union position. He further confirmed that the position had not been posted because the individual serving as the Animal Control Officer was capable of the expanded responsibilities. Mr. Malavasi expressed his dissatisfaction that a new full-time position was added without first discussing it at one of Selectmen's budget meetings.

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 8:29 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary

Recorded