

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Town Hall Annex  
June 17, 2014  
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; E. Lyman and E. Malavasi  
Also Present: D. Dill; P. Lacey; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 4, 2014.

Mr. Walter stated that he would like to amend the minutes related to Agenda Item 5.E. - Budget Discussion to read as follows (revisions underlined): *"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)."*

It was further noted that the first sentence of paragraph 2 under Agenda Item 6, Citizens Concerns, should be corrected to state that, *"Mr. Lacey informed the Selectmen that six cities in the country have now joined People Against the NDAA..."*.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 4, 2014 as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a page from the Town's website, titled "Norwich Road (Route 82) Bridge Closure Update" and stated that the page would be updated with information about the project's progress. He also distributed an analysis completed by Recreation Director Quinn regarding the Town employees' salaries.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported that the Executive Director of the Connecticut Council Municipalities (CCM) had retired. He advised that he had recently attended a CCM retreat where the members agreed to try to shift the emphasis of the Council from re-active to pro-active and become a more powerful advocate on behalf of all municipalities.

Mr. Walter advised that he has heard from several citizens concerned about road problems resulting from the Route 82 bridge closure. He acknowledged that the detour roads are being

damaged by large trucks traveling over them and advised that Public Works is doing daily road repairs. The Selectmen agreed Mr. Walter should investigate whether or not the Town can enforce vehicle weight limits on those roads.

A. Shared Services Report – June

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of the June Shared Service Report in their meeting packets and reviewed several of the items in the report.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Lacey encouraged the Selectmen to adopt the People Against the NDAA (PANDA) resolution and provided them with materials supporting his concerns.

7. Unfinished Business:

- A. Tax and Business Incentive Program Application: Mr. Walter advised that the Tax abatement for Eddie's Autobody will be discussed at the Board of Finance's June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. He stated that once the Board of Finance approves the application it will be put on the agenda for the next Town Meeting.
- B. Blight Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Malavasi stated that a citizen had spoken with him about their concerns regarding blight and cruelty to animals on a particular property. The Selectmen discussed the nature of the citizen's concern and Mr. Walter advised Mr. Malavasi that the State has been made aware of the situation and is checking to see that the animals are being cared for.

There was no additional update on this agenda item.

- C. Scoville Landing Emergency Right of Way: There was no update on this agenda item.

- D. A.P. Gates Road/Warner Road Drainage Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.

- E. 2014 Neighborhood Assistance Act Approvals: Mr. Walter reported that a public hearing was held on the NAA proposals on June 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. and stated that the Town now needs to send the proposals to the State for final approval.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve and forward to the State for their approval two (2) projects requesting funding by the Neighborhood Assistance Act for 2014. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

- A. Gift Acceptance – Consumers Union: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Consumer Reports' Auto Test Division advising of three donations to the Town. Mr. Walter explained that the Consumers Union has made a monetary gift

totaling \$25,000.00 on behalf of the Board of Education and the Town of East Haddam to be used as follows:

- \$7,300 to the East Haddam Police Department for a 300M Speed Trailer
- \$8,700 to the Town of East Haddam for Welcome signs throughout town
- \$9,000 to NHRHS athletic department for a backstop for the boys baseball field

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept a gift from Consumers Union of United States, Inc. for the Town of East Haddam in the amount of \$7,300 for the East Haddam Police Department for a 300M Speed Trailer and send acceptance of said donation to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept a gift from Consumers Union of United States, Inc. for the Town of East Haddam in the amount of \$8,700 for the Town of East Haddam for Welcome signs throughout town and send acceptance of said donation to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept a gift from Consumers Union of United States, Inc. on behalf of the Board of Education in the amount of \$9,000 for a backstop for the boys baseball field. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter advised that he expected the individual groups would send a letter of thanks to the Consumers Union.

- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (REC, EDC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Tiffany Quinn, Recreation Director and an email from Bob Casner, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, recommending reappointments to their respective commissions.

### **Recreation Commission**

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to reappoint John Gowac, Edward Smith IV and Cynthia Deming for three-year terms to expire June 30, 2016 as regular members the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to reappoint Charles Grillo and Michael Michalski for three-year terms to expire June 30, 2017 as regular members the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

### **Economic Development Commission**

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to reappoint Debra Mathiasen for a five-year term to expire June 30, 2019 as a regular member the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to one tax refund.

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

- \$114.72 to George Hungerford.  
Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Second Budget Referendum (June 19, 2014): Ms. Dill advised that she had researched how other towns handled setting the mil rate when their budget is not finalized by June 30<sup>th</sup>. She recommended that, if the Town's budget fails the June 19<sup>th</sup> referendum, leaving the mil rate where it is and then send out supplemental bills after the budget and mil rate are finalized. Mr. Walter stated that he had received a legal opinion regarding what could be done if the Town's budget fails the referendum and he stated he would provide Ms. Dill with a copy of that opinion.

Mr. Walter advised that he had been informed that the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Adriaen Block's discovery of the Connecticut River is coming up and that he has been asked if East Haddam would like to participate in the celebrations.

Mr. Malavasi advised that he had presented a scholarship award at Class Night. Mr. Walter and Mr. Malavasi stated they would attend the high school's graduation ceremonies

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 8:05 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary