

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Grange Hall  
October 22, 2014  
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; E. Lyman;

Selectmen Absent: E. Malavasi

Also Present: L. Branscombe; E. Blaschik; K. Cavallo; D. Corbeil; S. Costomiris; W. Cross; A. Jansky; J. Jansky; M. Lambert; S. LaSalle; W. LaSalle; J. Moreau; J. Roczniak; L. Stuhlman; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski; J. Zwernemann and other citizens

1. First Selectman Walter called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:01 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 October 1, 2014.

The Selectmen agreed to table the approval of the Regular Meeting of October 1, 2014 in consideration of Selectman Malavasi's absence.

4. Correspondence:

A. Board of Assessment Appeals – Fall 2014 Final Report: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of the Board of Assessment Appeals Fall 2014 Final Report. It was noted that ten automobile appeals were approved resulting in an \$18,460.00 reduction in the Grand List.

5. First Selectmen's Report

- A. Route 82 Bridge Replacement Update: Mr. Walter reported that Route 82 in the Village had been reopened to traffic and stated that a punch list of items to be resolved is being created.
- B. Shared Services Report – September & October: Mr. Walter reviewed several items on the reports.

Mr. Walter also distributed materials and reported on the following:

- CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM)'s report on services Connecticut towns are sharing with their Boards of Education. Mr. Lyman noted that the majority of towns share Ground/Facilities maintenance with their Boards of Education and Mr. Walter confirmed that East Haddam does the same.
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) document on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Awareness for EMS. He advised that the Chatham Health District has scheduled an Ebola training class for East Haddam on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

- The Council of Governments (COG) which East Haddam belongs to has hired an executive director. Mr. Walter reported on several COG activities and noted that it is pursuing a grant for developing a RiverCOG Tourism Plan.

Mr. Walter reported that Town Attorney Poliner is scaling back his responsibilities and the Town has retained the firm of Halloran & Sage to do some of the legal work Attorney Poliner would have done. He noted that Halloran & Sage has agreed to the same hourly rate the Town has been paying Attorney Poliner.

Mr. Walter also reported that Fuss & O'Neil has been hired to conduct PCB/asbestos testing on the Old Middle School.

6. Citizen's Concerns: In response to a question from Ms. Costomiris, Mr. Walter advised that the Selectmen have received a number of applications for the Agriculture Commission but have not yet made any decisions. In response to a follow-up question from Ms. Stuhlman, Mr. Walter advised that a number of qualified applications had been received and the Selectmen want to ensure that the best qualified applicants are selected for the Commission.

In response to several questions from Ms. Stuhlman, Mr. Walter discussed the landscaping work done during the renovations to the Old Town Hall and the Grange. He stated that the Town has received a quote for work to rebuild the stone wall around the area with the statue from the stone-mason who had reconstructed the existing stone wall on the property. He advised that he would follow-up with the Garden Club to try to determine the wording on the previous dedication plaque.

Mr. Walter responded to several citizens' questions about the status of the Town's Center for Community Agriculture (CCA) project, the related STEAP grant and the expense for the architect's work on proposed building design.

Several citizens raised concerns about increases in property taxes.

Ms. Costomiris requested more detail be added to the minutes of the CCA Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes.

In response to questions from Ms. Costomiris and Mr. Cross, Mr. Walter reviewed the USDA Loan for the Town's capital improvement projects. He advised that the Town had been approved to borrow \$20,245,000.00 for Elementary School renovations and renovations to the Old Middle School. He noted that the cost of the Town's total capital projects, including work on the Fire Companies, is estimated to be \$40M; however, the Board of Finance has stated that the Town can afford between \$15M - \$19M for the projects. Consequently, the Elementary School Building and Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Committees have scaled their projects back to "bare-bones". He noted work on the Elementary School will be confined to replacement of the boiler and roof and repairs to the parking lot and that the Ray wing at the Old Middle School will be razed. Mr. Walter noted that acceptance of the USDA loan must be approved by vote at a Town Meeting.

Several citizens expressed concern about the condition of the cleared land on the Harris property. Ms. Stuhlman noted that invasive plants are taking over the area.

In response to a question from Ms. Costomiris, Mr. Walter advised that the Friends of the Harris property would be an advisory group which would bring their recommendations to the Town and work in partnership with the Board of Selectmen.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Blight Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that Halloran & Sage's Attorney Roberts would be taking over the work on the Blight Ordinance.
- B. A.P. Gates Road/Warner Road Drainage Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that the Town's Public Works department will prepare a recommendation for installing a transit drain to redirect the run-off.
- C. Wocl Road: There was no update on this agenda item.
- D. Emergency Communications Center Contract for Municipal Services Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that a meeting regarding this agenda item is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 pm at Fire Company #1.

8. New Business

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

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

- \$251.38 to Ronald Kukta
- \$271.69 to Honda Lease Trust
- \$ 76.16 to Steven Jensen
- \$101.00 to Dorothy Millen
- \$154.85 to Kathleen Willey
- \$ 35.15 to Diane Rode
- \$ 15.07 to Jamie Mackenzie
- \$ 78.68 to Casey Carle
- \$422.27 to Nissan Infiniti LT

Unanimous aye.

- 9. Public Comment: In response to a question from a citizen regarding the beaver dam on Daniels Road, Mr. Lyman advised that the beavers have moved to a different area; however, he expects that they will move back to their previous location once the trees grow back.

Mr. Blaschik noted that he is a member of the Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Group and is opposed to razing the Ray wing until a final plan for the project is developed. He stated that the Advisory Group's next meeting is scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup>. In response to a citizen's question, Mr. Walter advised that a contingency plan for the Municipal Facilities Building will be developed if the Advisory Group's recommended plan is voted down in a referendum.

Ms. Costomiris advised that she will be hosting a blind marathon runner who is also a motivational speaker and she invited runners and other interested people to stop by to meet him. Mr. Walter suggested she inform the Superintendent of the visit.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: 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. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary