

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM

Regular Meeting

November 9, 2015

Grange Hall

Deb Denette, Town Clerk and recording secretary was invited to join the Board at the table, which she did.

Mrs. Denette administered the oath of office to Greg Lauria and Harvey Thomas. Effective from Election night through November 5, 2019.

The November regular meeting of the East Haddam Board of Finance was called to order at 7:00 pm by Robert Bennett.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance:

Board of Finance Members:

Robert Bennett

William DiCristofaro

Greg Lauria

Harvey Thomas

Ray Willis

Others:

Mark Walter, First Selectman (arrived 7:35)

Deb Denette, Town Clerk and recording secretary

Denise Dill, Tax Collector

Cindy Varricchio, Finance Director

Erik Dill

Jeff King, Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group

Mr. Bennett stated that he would like to forego election of officers pending the arrival of Mr. Dutch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Willis to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 19, 2015 as amended to correct the date on the second paragraph of page five from 2010 to 2021. Mr. DiCristofaro seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to direct the newly elected Chairman, when chosen, to send a letter of gratitude to Susan C. Link for her eight years of service on the Board, particularly for the last few in which she served as chair. The Town of East Haddam, its citizens and taxpayers have greatly benefited from her tireless effort, her thoughtful counsel and even-handed leadership. We extend our best wishes to her for the future and take this opportunity to express our appreciation. Mr. Willis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. **Handbook for Boards of Finance for New Member:**

The "Handbook for Boards of Finance" was provided to new member, Greg Lauria.

b. **2015-2016 Budget for New Member:**

A 2015-2016 Budget book was provided to new member, Greg Lauria.

c. **Board of Finance Member List and Contact Information:**

Board of Finance contact information was distributed to all members.

d. **Board of Finance Liaison Assignments:**

The most recent liaison assignments were distributed. It was noted that the new Board Chairman may wish to make reassignments and added that the four capital projects committees need liaison assignments.

e. **Board of Finance Rules:**

The current Board of Finance Rules were distributed as adopted by the Board in 2012.

f. **Freedom of Information Educational Workshop:**

A Freedom of Information workshop is being hosted by the Town Clerk to be held on November 30th at the Grange, a flyer was distributed.

At the request of Mr. Thomas, introductions were made of the Board members.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Walter reviewed the October 2015 Shared Services report. Particular emphasis was given to the removal of light poles, the upgraded boiler, and the installation of a temporary oil tank at the elementary school. He also reviewed carpeting, roof repair, tree plantings, pest management issues and fall cleaning that is ongoing throughout Town. Mr. Walter advised that a Flagpole is being donated by Bruce Dutch in honor of his mother, and a tree is being donated in honor of Joanne Rocznik's late husband Ed at Heritage Park.

Responsive to inquiry from Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Varricchio advised that the removal of the fuel tanks was coming from Board of Education reserves and a state matching grant.

Under the area of Finance, Mr. Walter that the refinance of bonds resulted in a \$685,893 savings over the remaining life of the bonds. \$48,825 will be realized in this fiscal year.

Technology items were very briefly reviewed.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Varricchio stated that the elementary school building committee will need to decide to continue renting a temporary tank, purchase an above-ground tank. The existing tank aged out, however, it was in mint condition.

Mrs. Varricchio stated that she does not have month end reports from October ready at this time. She stated that the Board of Finance will need to address the aforementioned savings from the bond restructuring. She stated that it would be her recommendation that the funding be used to offset debt service. Mrs. Varricchio added that Bill Lindsay, the Town's Financial Analyst was a pleasure to work with.

Mr. Bennett inquired whether the Board should table election of officers pending full attendance. Discussion was held that if the Board failed to appoint a chair, the Selectman was statutorily charged with doing so, the timeframe for that to occur, however, was unknown without checking statute.

Mr. Bennett solicited nominations for Chairman, none were offered.

Mr. Thomas suggested starting with Secretary.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to nominate Mr. Bennett as Secretary. Mr. Willis seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Bennett sought a motion to close nominations, which was made and duly seconded. The motion closing nominations carried unanimously. The motion electing Mr. Bennett as the Secretary of the Board of Finance carried unanimously.

Again nominations for Chairman were solicited. None were offered.

Mr. Bennett solicited volunteers for Chairman, none came forward.

Mr. Bennett added that Mr. Dutch advised him that he did not wish to be Chairman.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to nominate Mr. Willis as Chairman. Mr. DiCristofaro seconded the nomination. No other nominations were offered. Mr. Bennett sought a motion to close nominations, which was made a duly seconded. The motion closing nominations carried unanimously. The motion electing Mr. Willis as the Chairman of the Board of Finance carried unanimously. Mr. Willis assumed the duties of Chairman at this time.

LIAISON REPORTS

Nothing noted.

GUESTS AND AUDIENCE

Nothing noted.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Special Appropriation Rescinded STEAP Grant:

Mr. Willis stated that this item will remain on the agenda until a funding source is found. He stated that it was his recollection that the Board of Selectmen was charged with making recommendations. Mr. Walter stated that he is meeting with staff and will bring forward recommendations.

Mr. Willis advocated for the use of contingency funds for the expenditure.

NEW BUSINESS

a. **Grant Submission Authorization—Control of Aquatic Invasive Species—Moodus Reservoir:**

Mr. Jeffrey King, President of the Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group detailed the request for a \$7,000 grant. Following the successful completion of a pilot project in August of 2015 to determine the effectiveness of an herbicide application to treat two invasive weeds in the Moodus Reservoir. This is the second phase of a long term project to gain control over fanwort and variable Leaf Mill foil, which now cover 80% of the littoral zone of the lake. The phase of the project expands the size of the herbicide application to an additional 39 acres treated with the EPA and CT DEEP approved herbicides clipper and reward. The herbicides will be applied in the June to July timeframe. It was noted that the Town already has a funding line for assuring lake quality; and it is from that line that the \$7,000 matching funds will come. It was noted that the deadline for submission was last Friday and that the grant has been submitted.

Mr. Thomas spoke of the benefits to the Town by assuring the quality of the lakes.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas to authorize pursuit of a grant for the Phase Two Project to eradicate and control Fanwort and Variable Milfoil in 30 acres of littoral zone of Moodus Reservoir, a 566 acre lake in East Haddam, CT. Mr. DiCristofaro seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

b. **2016 Meeting Schedule:**

A draft calendar was included with the meeting packet. Mr. Bennett suggested that members review the dates with their personal calendars to assure conflicts are eliminated, wherever possible. It was noted that the calendar would be voted on at the December meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Mr. DiCristofaro seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Denette
Recording Secretary