

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Grange Hall
July 15, 2015
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: B. Auld; E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; S. Daigle; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; I. Hawes; C. Mansfield; T. McCabe; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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 July 1, 2015, Special Meeting of July 2, 2015, and Special Meeting of July 14, 2015.

Motion made by Mr. Walter seconded by Mr. Lyman to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 1, 2015. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter seconded by Mr. Malavasi to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 2, 2015. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter seconded by Mr. Lyman to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 14, 2015. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a communication he received from a resident regarding the planned herbicide treatment on Moodus Reservoir and stated that the communication incorrectly states that "*... 12,000 pounds of 2,4-D had been used in Bashan Lake over a three year period.*" Mr. Walter advised that the product used at Bashan Lake, Navigate, contains 27.6% 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, butoxyethyl ester (BEE). As such the use of 12,000 pounds of Navigate over a 3-year period means that 3,312 pounds of 2,4-D BEE were applied. He further stated a public informational meeting regarding this issue is scheduled for July 16.

Mr. Walter distributed a prototype flier that will be used by the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission (MCRC). He advised that the MCRC promotes small business expansion through loans and consulting services. Mr. Walter advised that the Commission recently received \$1M in State funds which can be used for business loans. He reviewed several small businesses in East Haddam that have been recipients of MCRC loans.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter stated that he had no additional information to report on beyond the items on agenda.

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

7. Unfinished Business

A. Blight Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman and Mr. Malavasi requested additional time to review the draft blight ordinance. Mr. Walter stated that he would like to vote on this agenda item at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting and asked Mr. Lyman and Mr. Malavasi to provide him with their feedback or suggested revisions prior to the meeting.

B. Emergency Communications Center Contract for Municipal Services Discussion: There was no new update on this agenda item.

In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Mansfield advised that he expects the State to begin construction on the Mt. Parnassus tower by the end of the year. He stated that the Town will request an extension for the assigned radio frequency; however, the delay of the Mt. Parnassus tower could present a problem. He stated that, consequently, it is critical to create the Town Wide Radio System Building Committee so that the planned tower at the Town Office Site can be installed. He noted that the tower at the Town Office Site will be portable so that it can be moved to another site, if needed, in the future.

C. Trowbridge Road/Middle School Property Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that this item is on the agenda for discussion at the next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. He stated that Mr. Ventres will create a map of the two properties for that meeting. Mr. Walter further stated that he has asked the Town's attorney to prepare the paperwork for the transfer and that he has been in communication with the property owner.

8. New Business

A. State Police Contract (Resident State Trooper): Mr. Walter advised that this item was not yet ready for discussion.

B. East Haddam Police Staffing Discussion: Mr. Walter introduced Trooper Hawes and asked him to speak about the recommendation to hire two additional full-time police officers to the Town. Trooper Hawes reviewed his analysis of the Town's police coverage and the proposal to hire two additional officers to provide more consistent coverage in the evenings and on weekends.

Mr. Malavasi noted that an additional full time officer was approved during the recent budget process and expressed concern about the additional expense of a second full time officer. Mr. Walter and Trooper Hawes advised that the budget could accommodate the salary of a second officer and that no additional equipment would be required. Regarding Mr. Malavasi's concern about health benefits, Trooper Hawes stated that the candidates for the position are retired State Troopers who have full insurance benefits from the State and would not require Town benefits.

Mr. Walter introduced Ms. McCabe, Director of the East Haddam Youth & Family Services. Ms. McCabe spoke about her organizations drug and alcohol prevention program and stated that she believes the additional officers providing coverage in the evenings and weekends will provide valuable assistance to their efforts.

Mr. Mansfield noted the importance of maintaining the part-time officers for boat patrol and special duty events.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to support the First Selectman's recommendation to hire two full-time police officers for staffing in the Police Department.

In response to Mr. Malavasi request to cap the officers' salaries, Mr. Walter advised that the salaries for the police officers are negotiated in their union contract. Mr. Malavasi expressed concern that he had not previously heard about the potential for hiring a second full-time police officer. Trooper Hawes reviewed the qualifications of the applicants and noted that the impetus to hire a second officer was stimulated by the high quality of the pool of candidates and the retirement of Officer Tom Griffith.

Unanimous aye.

- C. Appointment of Assistant Emergency Management Director: Mr. Walter introduced Mr. Mansfield and asked him to speak about his request to appoint Steven Dorfman as the Assistant Emergency Management Director.

Mr. Mansfield reviewed Mr. Dorfman's background and qualifications and stated that appointing an Assistant Director strengthens the Town's Emergency Management chain of command. He stated that Mr. Dorfman will apply for a tax abatement but will not be paid a stipend for the position.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to appoint Steven Dorfman as the Assistant Emergency Management Director. Unanimous aye.

- D. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EHSCIP, CONS):

East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee:

Mr. Walter discussed the needed changes to the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee. He stated that Arthur Merrow does not wish to remain on the committee and that Michael Kerr did not participate in the last project. He recommended that both be removed from the committee. He advised that Deb Fiala was the Board of Education (BOE) representative on the committee and would remain as a citizen representative. He noted that the BOE requests Marc Piscioti to be named as the new BOE member and Joseph Spurgeon has completed an application to fill the last vacated position on the committee.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept the resignation of Arthur Merrow from the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee, with regrets. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to remove Michael Kerr from the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee, with regrets. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept the recommendation of the Board of Education to appoint Marc Piscioti as the Board of Education liaison on the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Joseph Spurgeon as a member of the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee. Unanimous aye.

Conservation Commission

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Rob Smith, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, recommending reappointments of all Commission members whose terms had expired.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to reappoint Paul Sienna and Marilyn Gleeson for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2016 as regular members on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to reappoint Robert Smith, Todd Gelston and Susan Merrow for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2017 as regular members and Peggy Carlson for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2017 as an alternate member on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

- E. Volunteer of the Month (July) - Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a Volunteer of the Month recommendation submitted by Mr. Dan D'Amelio. Mr. D'Amelio's nomination form stated, "*[Jake Woodworth] is very active in his High School ... Peer Ministry, EMPOWER group, organizing retreats, chaperoning Freshmen, establishing a Peace Pole at the school. He has well over 100 hours of Community service in his senior year*".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to name Jake Woodworth as volunteer of the month for July 2015. Unanimous aye.

- F. Tax Refunds: here was one tax refund for consideration at the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award a tax refund in the amount as presented.

- \$226.29 to Ronald H. Tarpill
- Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi to add the following item to the agenda:
8.G. – Bid Award - Tanker Refurbishment Bid. Unanimous aye.

G. Bid Award - Tanker Refurbishment Bid: Mr. Walter asked Mr. Auld to review the plans to refurbish the Fire Department's Water Tanker.

Mr. Auld stated that the Town budgeted \$350,000.00 to purchase a new water tanker; however, the Town's truck is in good mechanical condition and only the tank needs to be replaced. He stated that it will be more cost effective to refurbish the existing truck with a new tank than to purchase a new truck. He also advised that, due to the rigorous warranty requirements of the RFP, only the original manufacturer of the Water Tanker, 4 Guys, submitted a bid to refurbish the truck and he requested the Selectmen waive the requirement for two bids. He noted that he feels it would be best to have the original manufacturer do the work since they are most familiar with the truck.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to waive the requirement for a second bid to refurbish the Town's water tanker and award the contract for the Tanker Refurbishment to Four Guys Stainless Tank & Equipment, Inc. for \$124,844.00 plus a \$10,000.00 contingency. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: In response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, Mr. Daigle advised that they would explore securing a credit for the Town for the scrap metal from the old water tank.

In response to questions raised by Ms. Branscombe, Mr. Walter reviewed the recommendation to add two new full-time officers to the Town's police staff. Ms. Branscombe recommended scheduling police coverage on holidays when unchaperoned teen parties may happen.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, Mr. Walter advised that the municipalities' contribution for Resident State Troopers had increased to 85% of the cost. Mr. Walter further stated that, we were fortunate that our Resident State Trooper spends most of his time attending to East Haddam business.

Mr. Dill thanked the Selectmen for taking action on adding a street light for safety to the intersection at Route 149 and Eli Chapman Road.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Daigle, Mr. Walter stated that complaints submitted to the Animal Control Officer cannot be made anonymously and are public information.

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

- A. Moodus Reservoir Aquatic Herbicides Application Public Informational Meeting (July 16, 2015 @7:00pm – Grange Hall): Mr. Walter reminded those in attendance about this informational meeting.
- B. Town Meeting (July 22, 2015 @8:00pm – Town Hall): Mr. Walter reminded those in attendance about the scheduled Town Meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Walter advised that the repairs to the Bone Mill Bridge should be completed by December 2016.

In response to a question from Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Walter advised that he anticipates O'Connell Road Extension will be paved this fall.

- 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 8:23 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary