

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Grange Hall  
December 2, 2015  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; S. Link; E. Malavasi

Also Present: E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; B. Cross; D. Dill; E. Dill; J. Dill; M. Elgart; J. Moreau; C. Read; P. Tripputti; S. Wheeler; R. Willis; L. Zemienieski; M. Ziobron

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. Ms. Link stated she would be taking notes on her iPad.

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 November 18, 2015

Ms. Link requested the following amendments be made to the minutes:

- Add the following sentence immediately following sentence #2 in the second paragraph of Agenda item 7C: *"Ms. Link stated that she thought the Town had already accounted for the savings from the bond re-issuance."*
- Replace "Mr. Walter" with "Ms. Link" in the following sentence in the last paragraph of the Selectmen's Discussion (Agenda item 10): *"Mr. Walter agreed to speak with the Superintendent about a high school student from the audio-visual program recording meetings."*

Mr. Malavasi requested the following amendment be made to the minutes:

- Add the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph of Agenda item 7C: *"He stated that there would only be a shortfall of \$13,307.00 since the total of the savings would be \$48,825.00 of the \$62,132.00 needed."*

Motion made by Mr. Walter seconded by Ms. Link to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter advised that he had received notice from Infrastructure Engineers, Inc. that they will perform an inspection of the swingbridge on December 16<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the firm indicated that they *"do not anticipate disruption to vehicular or pedestrian traffic"*.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported the following:

- 9-Town Transit reported that, over the past year, they gave rides to approximately 1550 individuals from the East Haddam/Moodus area.
- The Council of Governments issued recommended ice and snow control policies. Mr. Walter noted that East Haddam has had the policies in place for quite awhile.
- In response to a request from Mr. Malavasi, included in the Selectmen's meeting packets were the CVs of construction contract attorneys from Halloran & Sage and Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. Mr. Walter noted that he has scheduled a meeting with Attorney Doeg of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

A. Guest – Melissa Ziobron: Mr. Walter introduced Representative Ziobron who reported on her activities at the Capitol. Rep. Ziobron noted that the budget crisis is “very grave” with a current deficit of \$350-370M. She noted that the Republicans, Democrats and Governor have all come forward with different deficit mitigation plans and they are working to find common ground. She stated that she feels there is a need to make some long-term structural changes, and noted the example of changes to state employee salaries and benefit packages.

She stated she is also working with DEEP to find a solution to the problems at Bashan Lake. Ms. Ziobron responded to several questions from the audience and Mr. Walter thanked her for her update.

6. Citizen's Concerns: In response to a request from Ms. J. Dill, Mr. Walter stated he would provide her with the information she requested related to the Dutch Oil and New England Propeller tax abatements after the meeting.

In response to Ms. J. Dill's follow-up question on the contract for Expense Consulting, Mr. Walter noted that he expects the item to be on the agenda for the next Selectmen's meeting and, if the contract is approved by the Selectmen, it will be on the call for the December 29<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting. He agreed to provide Ms. Dill with a draft of the contract.

7. Unfinished Business:

A. Blight Ordinance Discussion: The Selectmen agreed to meet at 5:00 p.m. on January 25, 2016 to discuss this agenda item.

B. Emergency Communications Center Contract for Municipal Services Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets notifying Colchester Emergency Communications, Inc. of East Haddam's intention to terminate its contract. He reviewed several of the changes that had been made to the draft contract with Valley Shore and stated that he feels they are close to having a final contract.

Mr. Walter reported that the state provided the Town's Emergency Communications Committee with engineered specifications for the Mt. Parnassus tower.

C. 2013 STEAP Grant Post Referendum Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's

attention to a proposal outlining cuts for a majority of the Town departmental budgets to cover the cost of the improvements made at the Center for Community Agriculture and the related referendum to rescind the STEAP Grant. He noted that the cuts represented an equal allocation for each of the affected departments. The Selectmen discussed the proposal and Ms. Link recommended forwarding it to the Board of Finance for their consideration so that the departments could be notified before it is much later in the budget year.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to forward the recommendation for departmental budget cuts to the Board of Finance for their decision. Unanimous aye.

- D. Replacement of Bridge No. 02506 Route 82 Over Hemlock Valley Brook-Property Acquisition: Mr. Walter advised that the Town's attorney is drafting language for the easement requested by the state for this project. He stated they will also provide an estimate of potential future legal expense related to the project so the Town could decide whether or not \$500.00 is sufficient reimbursement for the easement.

- E. Legal Notice Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that the Tax Collector and the following Boards and Commissions have agreed to post their legal notices in the East Haddam Newspaper: Assessment Appeals, Historic District, Open Space, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses, Planning & Zoning and Zoning Board of Appeals. In response to a question, Ms. Zemienieski advised that the East Haddam Newspaper stated it will set aside a section of the paper for all legal notices and will include a disclaimer, drafted by the Town Clerk, that legal notices could also be posted in other publications. There was a general discussion regarding this issue and the potential savings expected.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve using the East Haddam News as the Town's primary legal notice advertising media subject to: (i) meeting all statutory posting requirements, and (ii) allowance for wider distribution in other publications for bids, RFP, RFQ and employment needs. Unanimous aye.

## 8. New Business:

- A. Electricity Contract Discussion: Mr. Walter distributed an analysis of the Town's supplier fixed price comparison for electricity and projected savings based on a 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year contract. He noted that the Town's consultant recommended the 3 yr. contract; however, in a meeting with the Superintendent and the Board of Education, they discussed a 2-year contract. There was a brief discussion regarding the risk involved with each scenario and the Selectmen agreed to enter into a 3-year contract.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to finalize prices and authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Town with Constellation New Energy, Inc. for electricity supply at \$0.0828/kWh for a three year period from December 2015 through December 2018, and send approval of the three-year contract to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting.  
Unanimous aye.

- B. Gift Acceptance – Heritage Park Flagpole: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a letter from Dutch Oil Co., Inc., dated November 19, 2015, noting that they provided a flagpole and accessories and the labor to install the flagpole for Heritage Park and wish to have these items presented as a gift to the Town. Mr. Walter noted the gift was made in memory of Mr. Dutch’s mother. Mr. Walter added that he recently received notice that the Community Lion’s Club will be making a donation toward the installation of electricity for a floodlight at the base of the flagpole and holiday lighting on the recently planted tree in that area.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept a gift of a flagpole, accessories and labor for Heritage Park valued at \$1,302.08 from Dutch Oil Co., Inc. and send acceptance of said gift to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

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

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

- \$265.63 to Toyota Lease Trust
- Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: The following public comments were discussed at the meeting:

- Mr. Erik Dill recommended that the First Selectmen review language related to ISO charges in the contract with Constellation New Energy, Inc. to ensure that there are no extra generation charges that can be included.
- Mr. Erik Dill also suggested that the Finance Department send all department heads a mid-year re-forecast of their budgets.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion: Mr. Malavasi reported that Comcast had informed him that if the Town supplies a DVR of their meetings, they will broadcast it on the public channel. Ms. Link advised that she had spoken with the Superintendent of Schools who indicated that the AV program has expressed an interest in recording Town meetings. The Selectmen discussed equipment needs and Mr. Walter asked Mr. Malavasi to see if there is any funding available to purchase AV equipment for the high school.

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 8:33 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary