

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
January 6, 2016
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; S. Link

Absent: E. Malavasi

Also Present: E. Blaschik; J. Dill; R. Dill; J. Moreau; L. Stuhlman; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

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.
2. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the agenda as written.
Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of December 16, 2015 and Special Meeting of December 22, 2015

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2015 as written. Unanimous aye.

In Selectman Malavasi's absence, the Selectmen agreed to table the approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 22, 2015.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter advised that the Council of Governments (COG) is considering providing accounting and other services to the regional Land Trusts in order to make their recordkeeping more consistent. He stated he would continue to keep the Selectmen informed on further developments.
 - A. Chatham Health District Update: Mr. Walter called the Selectman's attention to a letter in the meeting packet from Peter Hughes, Acting Chair of the Chatham Health District, dated December 17th and advising that, "...*Thad D. King is no longer the Director of Health for the District as of December 15, 2015 ... [and] the District Board appointed Don Mitchell, Acting Director of Health for a sixty (60) day period...*" Mr. Walter advised that the District is in the process of re-doing its budget to take into account that Haddam has left and joined with Killingworth. He noted that Killingworth/Haddam does not yet have a budget and he is looking into whether there is a contract for the towns remaining in the Chatham Health District.

Ms. Link stated she would like to compare the revised Chatham Health District budget with financial information from Killingworth/Haddam before making a decision on what

the Town should do regarding Health Department services. She recommended keeping this item on the Agenda under Unfinished Business.

- B. Electricity Contract: Mr. Walter noted that at the December 16th meeting the Selectmen gave him the authority to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Town with the most qualified low bidder for electricity supply for the number of years most beneficial to the Town, contingent upon the selected bid being equal to or less than \$0.0828/kWh. He stated that he had entered into a 3-year agreement with Constellation Energy for \$0.0783/kWh which must be approved by the Board of Finance and at a Town Meeting.
- C. Budget Calendar: Mr. Walter called the Selectman's attention to several potential dates for the 2016/17 budget planning meetings. He asked the Selectmen to review the dates and let me know their preferences.

6. Citizen's Concerns: The following citizens' concerns were discussed:

- Mr. Dill noted that the Town's Land Trust and Conservation Commission manage a large amount of land and he expressed concern about them losing their autonomy if their affairs are managed by a regional authority.
- Mr. Dill support's Ms. Link's recommendation to compare the two Health District's budgets and also recommended researching why Haddam elected to join the Killingworth Health Department rather than stay with the Chatham Health District.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Dill, Mr. Walter stated that, in Mr. Malavasi's absence, the Selectmen would table the discussion of the Expense Consulting contract.
- Mr. Blaschik stated that he also supports the recommendations to do additional research before making a decision about staying in the Chatham Health District.

7. Unfinished Business:

- A. Blight Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Walter noted that this agenda item will be discussed in a Special Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on January 25, 2016.
- B. Emergency Communications Center Contract for Municipal Services Discussion: Mr. Walter stated that the Emergency Services Committee has reviewed the draft contract and recommended moving forward. He noted that they Committee will put their recommendation in writing before the Town signs the contract.

Mr. Walter called the Selectman's attention to a letter in the meeting packets from Samuel Totodo, President of Colchester Emergency Communications, Inc., dated December 19, 2015, advising that members of that organization had voted to "*... dissolve and cease operations as of June 30, 2016*". Mr. Walter stated that, in a separate letter dated December 16, 2015, Mr. Totodo advised that Colchester Emergency

Communications plans to sell their equipment, including the tower located on Buckley Hill.

- C. Trowbridge Road/Middle School Property Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that the Town is trying to schedule a public hearing on the exchange of the Trowbridge Road properties for later in the month. There was no additional discussion of this agenda item at the meeting.
- D. East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Project Charge Amendment Resolution: Mr. Walter advised that the Town will present the wording revisions for this Charge to the State for its approval before moving forward on the Resolution.
- E. Elementary School Renovations Building Committee Charge Amendment Resolution: Mr. Walter advised that the Town will present the wording revisions for this Charge to the State for its approval before moving forward on the Resolution.
- F. Local Plan for Emergency Medical Services Approval: Mr. Walter noted that the Selectmen had been emailed Ms. Quinn's latest revisions to the Local Plan for Emergency Medical Services; however, they do not include revisions OEMS requested earlier today. Consequently, he recommended that any action on this agenda item be deferred until the January 20th Selectmen's meeting.
- G. Expense Consulting Multi-Year Contract: Discussion of this agenda item was tabled until Mr. Malavasi's return.

8. New Business:

- A. Reappointment of Subregistrars for Burial Permits: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a memo in their meeting packets, dated December 28, 2015, from Town Clerk, Denette regarding this agenda item.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the reappointments of Wayne Mohrlein of Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home and Thomas Portelance of Spencer Funeral Home, Inc. as subregistrars for burial permits for the Town of East Haddam for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. Unanimous aye.

- B. Gift Acceptance – Heritage Park Lighting Project: Mr. Walter advised that various civic groups proposed lighting the flagpole and walking track at Heritage Park. He noted that donations to begin the project were received from the Community Lions and the Re-Elect Walter/Link Campaign.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept a gift from the East Haddam Community Lions for the Town of East Haddam in the amount of \$350.00 for the Heritage Park Lighting Project 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 Ms. Link, to accept a gift from the Re-Elect Walter/Link Campaign for the Town of East Haddam in the amount of \$300.00 for the Heritage Park Lighting Project and send acceptance of said donation to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (BOFC): No Board, Commission, or Committee changes were discussed at the meeting.

D. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to four tax refunds.

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

- \$ 56.84 to William Kalista
- \$438.22 to Cristene Garcia
- \$511.08 to Joseph Ardolino
- \$403.32 to Hyundai Lease Titling

Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, Mr. Walter advised that, to prevent people from using the beach area as a boat launch, the Parks and Recreation Department has a rope fence installed around the parking area. He stated that the parking area was also regraded and the improvements were paid for out of the Town's Maintenance budget.
- Mr. Dill asked about the status of installing caution signs on Beebe Road and Mr. Walter stated he would follow-up with the Public Works Department and make sure the project is prioritized. There was a brief discussion regarding tree removal work on Beebe Road.
- Ms. Stuhlman informed the Selectmen that there is a low hanging cable wire across Palmer Martin Road that has been temporarily and, she feels, poorly repaired. She noted that the problem has existed since late November and feels that it is a safety hazard. Mr. Walter stated he would look in to the matter.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: There was no additional Selectmen's discussion at the meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary