

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Grange Hall  
March 18, 2015  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; E. Lyman

Selectmen Absent: E. Malavasi

Also Present: L. Brascombe; A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; C. Cappitella; J. Dill; R. Dill; J. Dinardi; C. Jackson; P. Lacy; C. Mansfield; J. Moreau; A. Richard; C. Richard; J. Shea; P. Tripputti; 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. Lyman, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of March 4, 2015 and Special Meeting of March 11, 2015.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 4, 2015 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 11, 2015 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.
5. First Selectmen's Report:

A. Shared Service Report – February & March: Mr. Walter reviewed several items in the February and March Shared Service Reports.

Mr. Walter reported that the Board of Finance has set a budget and advised that there will be a Public Hearing on April 7, 2015 to review it with the public. He stated that the Town will mail residents a Citizen's Guide to the Budget prior to the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

6. Citizens' Concerns: In response to a concern raised by Ms. Dill, Mr. Walter stated that his office will make a priority of timelier posting of the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes. He noted that the delay is not purposeful but rather a result of heavy workloads.

In response to a question from Mr. Dinardi, Mr. Walter advised that the Town has been working on the Old Middle School project for seven years and that the estimates for its renovation and conversion to municipal office space have been higher than anticipated. He reviewed the Town's 10-year Capital Projects Plan and noted that he expects a Public

Hearing regarding the current proposal for the Old Middle School renovations will be scheduled for early April.

Mr. Edward Blaschik advised that Old Middle School Conversion Committee was dissolved and the current group is acting in an advisory capacity.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Shea, Mr. Walter stated that the auction of the Johnsonville property was a private sale and, since the sale has not closed, the Town has no information on what may be happening with the property.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Blight Ordinance Discussion: There was no new update on this agenda item.
- B. A.P. Gates Road/Warner Road Drainage Discussion: There was no new update on this agenda item.
- C. Wocl Road Discussion: There was no new update on this agenda item.
- D. Emergency Communications Center Contract for Municipal Services Discussion: Mr. Mansfield advised the Selectmen that he is optimistic about changes to the State's 911 funding formula.
- E. Transient Dock Facility Bid Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that Docko is working with vendors so that it can submit a bid that is within the Town's budget for the project.

8. New Business

A. Nutmeg Network Grant Resolution:

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Proposal for the OPM Grant Award will be for connecting the East Haddam Town Office Building to the Nutmeg Network. The amount of funding requested for the Nutmeg Network Connection is the combined amount indicated on the Desktop Estimate of Fibertech Costs based on State Contract #02ITZ0021MA (B-00-021). Costs are found under the headings "Total Fibertech Estimated Construction Cost" and "Pre Pay Amount of Annual Maintenance" for connecting the East Haddam Town Office to the Nutmeg Network via the Rathbun Library.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of East Haddam assumes responsibility for the annual maintenance after the first year (\$300/year for 20 years), as well as operating costs from the start of service (10 Mbps bandwidth for \$67.20/month, port fee of \$103.80/month).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the East Haddam Board of Selectmen authorized First Selectman Mark B. Walter to act on this endorsement by signing all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions related to this proposal to enter into a binding agreement with the Office of Policy and Management according to terms of the RPI grant program.

Mr. Walter asked Mr. Mansfield to provide the Selectmen with additional information about this Agenda item. Mr. Mansfield explained that the State of Connecticut is undertaking a project to lay fiber cables to create a new, secure, high speed internet network for municipalities. He advised that the State is offering grants for cities and towns to connect to the new system (Nutmeg Network). He advised that the Board of Education, the Rathbun Library and Fire Company 1 are already connected to the network and the purpose of the resolution is to enable the Town's municipal offices to take advantage of the grant funds in the future if it chooses. He stated that it does not obligate the Town Offices to sign-on to the Nutmeg Network.

In response to a question from Ms. Blaschik, Mr. Mansfield stated that some undesirable sites would be blocked from the network but the Town would continue to maintain its own firewalls.

The Selectmen voted on this issue and the motion passed unanimously.

- B. 2015 Small Cities Grant Resolution: Mr. Walter explained that in order for the Town to apply for Small Cities grants it must conduct a Public Hearing and noted that the Public Hearing was held earlier in the evening. He stated that the Small Cities grant application is on behalf of the East Haddam Senior Housing Corporation for Oak Grove Phase II renovations and the Board of Selectmen must now adopt a resolution authorizing the application.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93 – 3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of East Haddam make application to the State for \$800,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of East Haddam in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, to carry out approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of East Haddam.

Unanimous aye.

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

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

- \$684.57 to Anthony Hackett.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: In response to Mr. Dill's inquiry about the removal of the stop sign at Landing Hill Road, Mr. Walter advised that, because of the high snow piles blocking the view of vehicles traveling the roads, he did not feel it was prudent to remove the signs earlier. He stated that Public Works has the removal of the sign on its list of projects.

In response to a question from Ms. Dill, Mr. Walter advised that if the current Open Space purchase requests are approved at the March 24<sup>th</sup> referendum, the Town's share of the cost will increase its debt level and the amount is not reflected in the Board of Finance's proposed budget. Mr. Lacy inquired about the amount of Open Space the Town holds and Mr. Walter stated that approximately 21% of the acreage of the Town is held as Open Space. Ms. Dill expressed her concern about adding to the Town's debt when the cost of living in East Haddam continues to increase threatening the ability of residents on a low and fixed incomes to continue to reside here.

#### 10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. Open Space Referendum (March 24, 2015): Mr. Walter encouraged the public to attend the scheduled Open Space Referendum and cast their vote regarding the proposed Open Space purchases.
- B. Transitioning the Family Farm Program (March 26, 2015): Mr. Walter informed the Selectmen and the public about this event which is a cooperative effort of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, UConn Extension, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

and the Risk Management Agency/USDA and which is co-sponsored by the Lower Connecticut River Valley Regional Agricultural Council.

- C. Stronger Together Community Event (March 31, 2015): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to this event which he noted is being coordinated by Youth & Family Services.

Mr. Lyman stated that he had attended the March 17<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders Workshop regarding the Railroad Corridor Study and that he is troubled by the proposal and did not understand the logic offered by the meeting presenters. He encouraged the public to attend future meetings regarding this issue.

- 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 7:45 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary