

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
February 17, 2016  
Special Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; D. Dill; E. Dill; J. Guernon; M. Milewski; J. Moreau; C. Read; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:42 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 January 20, 2016, Special Meeting of January 25, 2016 and Regular Meeting of February 3, 2016.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 25, 2016 as written.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 3, 2016 as written. Ms. Link abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence:

- A. Letter from Office of Policy and Management – STEAP Grant for Center for Community Agriculture: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Benjamin Barnes, Secretary, Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, dated February 8, 2016, advising that the Town's request to repurpose the 2013 STEAP grant in the amount of \$431,200, originally intended for the Community Agriculture Center, had not been approved. Mr. Walter read the letter into the minutes.

Mr. Malavasi stated that he was pleased that Mr. Barnes' letter indicated that the Town's 2016 STEAP application is still active and will be reviewed "without prejudice". Mr. Walter and Ms. Link expressed concern that future STEAP grant applications made by the Town could be tarnished by 2013 grant.

5. First Selectmen's Report:

- A. Shared Services Report – February: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to the February Shared Services Report in their meeting packets and noted that there are many renovation projects currently underway. He said he has some concerns about funding all of the capital projects in the upcoming budget. He noted that department heads have updated their capital projects list every budget cycle so he feels the Town has a good handle on, and can prioritize, its capital needs.

Mr. Walter also reported that he participated in a meeting with state leaders sponsored by the Council of Small Towns (COST) and noted that the state representatives provided a gloomy outlook on Connecticut’s future due to large deficits in the state’s finances.

- 6. Citizen’s Concerns: No citizen’s concerns were expressed at the meeting.

- 7. Unfinished Business:

- A. Blight Ordinance Discussion: There was a brief discussion regarding this agenda item. Mr. Malavasi noted that it appears the updated draft is very close to being completed. The Selectmen agreed that a Public Hearing should be scheduled, after the board approves the draft, to discuss the proposed ordinance with citizens.

- B. Trowbridge Road/Middle School Property Discussion: Mr. Walter noted that a motion to move the exchange of these properties to a Town Meeting would take place after the issue is presented to the public at a Public Hearing.

- C. East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Project Charge Amendment Resolution: There was no update on this agenda item.

- D. Elementary School Renovations Building Committee Charge Amendment Resolution: There was no update on this agenda item.

- E. Building Projects Update: No building project updates were provided at the meeting.

- 8. New Business:

- A. RFP Award – Financial Audit Services: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a memo in their meeting packets from Cindy Varricchio, dated February 16, 2016, advising that the Board of Finance had voted unanimously to recommend Blum Shapiro be approved as the Town’s auditor for a 3-year contract.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to award the contract for Financial Audit Services to Blum Shapiro & Company P.C. for a 3-year contract for FY 2016 - \$39,000, FY 2017 - \$39,780, FY 2018 - \$40,575 with the option to negotiate for an additional two years and send said multi-year contract to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- B. Call for Town Meeting: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to materials in their

meeting packets regarding this agenda item.

Motion made by Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the following call for town meeting:

All electors and citizens eligible to vote in town meetings of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut (the “Town”) are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting of the Town is to be held at the Town Hall located on Town Street in East Haddam, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 8:00 p.m., for the following purposes:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to authorize the First Selectman to execute a three-year contract on behalf of the Town of East Haddam with Valley Shore Emergency Communication, Incorporated to provide emergency telecommunications and 9-1-1 services.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town shall negotiate and enter into a power purchase agreement for the Shagbark Lumber solar facility on terms and conditions substantially as set forth in the letter of intent dated November 3, 2015, and that Mark B. Walter as First Selectman is hereby authorized to execute such power purchase agreement on behalf of the Town.

Item 3: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$313,765.26 to Fund 3150—Dolbia Hill Road (\$88,495.29) and Fund 3151—Jones Hill Road (\$225,269.97) to fund the deficit created by these projects and their ensuing litigation.

Item 4: To consider and act upon the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to enter into a three-year agreement with Blum Shapiro & Company P.C. for Financial Audit Services; with the option to negotiate for an additional two years.

Unanimous aye.

C. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter solicited Volunteer of the Month nominations.

D. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board/Commission/Committee changes discussed at the meeting.

E. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds considered at the meeting.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment at the meeting.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion: Mr. Malavasi asked about a previous employee who was still listed on the Town’s dental coverage bill. Ms. Link noted that it sometimes takes several months for the insurance company to remove individuals from group coverage lists. Mr. Walter

stated he would look into the issue and make sure the Town is no longer paying insurance premiums for the individual.

A. Public Hearing - Bone Mill Road Bridge Design/Trowbridge Land Exchange (February 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. – Grange Hall): Mr. Walter reminded those present about the Public Hearing scheduled for February 29<sup>th</sup> and briefly reviewed the details of the two topics to be discussed.

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 8:12 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary