

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
March 2, 2016
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; S. Davis; J. Guernon; G. Hungerford; T. Hungerford;
D. Mitchell; 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: Mr. Walter stated that he would like to amend the agenda to move items 7.C. and 7.D. and 10.A. up for discussion immediately following Item B under the First Selectmen's Report.

Motion made by Mr. Walter seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the agenda as amended.
Unanimous aye

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of February 17, 2016, Special Meeting of February 20, 2016, Special Meeting of February 23, 2016 and Special Meeting of February 24, 2016.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 17, 2016. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen agreed to table the approval of the minutes of the Special Meetings of February 20, 2016, February 23, 2016 and February 24, 2016.

4. Correspondence:
 - A. Raised Bill No. 256 – An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study the Performance of Certain Limited Department of Motor Vehicle Functions by Town Clerks: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packet regarding Raised Bill No. 256. He stated that he is concerned the Town would not have the necessary equipment or staffing to take on any Motor Vehicle functions.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported that he had attended a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities meeting at the State Capitol regarding the state's budget deficit.
 - A. Chatham Health District Presentation: Mr. Walter introduced Mr. Mitchell, Acting Director of the Chatham Health District. Mr. Mitchell provided information on his background and distributed copies of the Chatham Health District's Update. He reviewed the information in the Update and stated that the District had agreed to his recommendation to eliminate the Assistant Director's position which was his previous role.

Mr. Mitchell's advised that Chatham Health's primary goal for 2016 is to improve customer service but noted that the organization must still maintain compliance with regulatory requirements. There was a brief discussion regarding how to best inform the public of the process for escalating concerns or complaints within the organization.

Mr. Mitchell distributed a cost analysis of using Chatham Health District vs. maintaining its own Health Department. He pointed out that that East Haddam has been a member of Chatham Health District for 14 years and the cost has only increased 2.28% over that period. He noted that his analysis projected the Town saved approximately \$397k by participating in the District.

- B. Elementary School Renovation Building Committee Discussion: Mr. Walter introduced Mr. Guernon, Chairman of the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee. Mr. Guernon stated that the Committee would like to modify item (iv) in its current charge. He stated that the current language only allows for the "resurfacing, sealing and repair of the parking lots" and restricts the Committee from pursuing needed safety improvements.

Mr. Guernon stated the Committee would like to redesign the parking lot to eliminate the need for pedestrians to cross the bus lane and to provide a turn-around option for the buses. He noted that the Committee had received excellent input from neighbors concerning the initial design and the architect redesigned a bus loop on the school grounds that solves both safety issues and avoids diverting traffic onto Algonquin Road. In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Guernon stated that he is not sure that the savings from reduced work on the roof and boilers will cover the cost of implementing the design.

Mr. Walter invited the Algonquin Road residents in attendance to comment on the current design. Ms. Hungerford stated that the Committee had kept the residents informed of their actions regarding a new design for a bus turn-around. She noted that the Algonquin Road residents are pleased with the new design.

There was a general discussion regarding the process for changing the Committee's Charge.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link to support scheduling a Public Hearing to discuss the Elementary School Renovations Building Committee's request to modify their Charge. Unanimous aye.

7. Unfinished Business

- C. East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Project Charge Amendment Resolution: Mr. Walter advised that the state has not yet responded to the Town's request for feedback on proposed revisions to the Charge.

D. Elementary School Renovations Building Committee Charge Amendment Resolution: Mr. Walter advised that the state has not yet responded to the Town's request for feedback on proposed revisions to the Charge. The Elementary School Renovations Building Committee requested a modification to this Charge. The discussion concerning their request is reported on above in these minutes under Agenda Item 5B.

6. Citizen's Concerns: In response to a concern raised by Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter advised that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Rep. Ziobron have voiced objections to the state's proposal to eliminate the requirement that there can be no outstanding property taxes on a vehicle in order to register it.

7. Unfinished Business:

A. Blight Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that an updated version of the draft Blight Ordinance has been provided to the Town's attorney for his review. He stated that he expects the final draft will be available for consideration at the Selectmen's next meeting.

B. Trowbridge Road/Middle School Property Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that the next step in the process for the land exchange is to move the item to a Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, that the Board of Selectmen endorse and refer to the Town Meeting for consideration and approval the exchange of a 19,674+/- square foot portion of the real property owned by the Town of East Haddam on the west side of Trowbridge Road with a street address of 73 Clark Gates Road, identified as Assessor's Lot 59 on Map 75, for a 19,674+/- square foot portion of the real property owned by Joseph Darmanin and Mary Darmanin on the west side of Trowbridge Road, identified as Assessor's Lot L001 on Map 82, all as more particularly shown on a map or plan entitled "Plan of Proposed Land Exchange Between May & Joseph Darmanin and the Town of East Haddam" prepared by Swamp Yankee Survey LLC and dated November 22, 2015, and that the First Selectman be authorized to negotiate and execute any documentation related to such exchange. Unanimous aye.

C. East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Project Charge Amendment Resolution: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on above in these minutes.

D. Elementary School Renovations Building Committee Charge Amendment Resolution: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on above in these minutes.

E. Shagbark Solar Project – Virtual Net Metering Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.

F. Budget Discussion, Deliberation & Budget Resolution: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to recommend to the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2016-2017, a budget of \$11,452,323.00 which represents General Government, Shared Services, Capital and Reserves. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business:

- A. Grant Acceptance – FY 2014/2015 Emergency Management Performance Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from Deputy Commission William Shea of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection advising that the Town had been awarded an Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,579.00 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled "FY 2014/2015 Emergency Management Performance Grant", and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- B. CIRMA Commitment Letter: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a Letter of Commitment for Budget Stabilization Program between the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency and the Town of East Haddam and the East Haddam Board of Education. In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi concerning the clause requiring the Town to agree not to bid out its liability, auto, and property insurance during the term of the program, Mr. Walter provided some insight regarding the relationship of CIRMA and its insured municipalities and stated that he believes that it is in the Town's best interest to maintain the agreement with CIRMA.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to authorize the Town to contract with CIRMA for a three-year budget stabilization contract for our liability, auto, and property (LAP) insurance for the period of 7/1/2016 to 7/01/2019. Unanimous aye.

- C. Volunteer of the Month: There were no Volunteer of the Month nominations for consideration at the meeting.
- 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:

- A. Public Hearing Request – Elementary School Renovation Building Committee (March 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. – High School Auditorium): Mr. Walter advised those in attendance of this Public Hearing Request.

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 Mr. Malavasi to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary