

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

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; S. Link; E. Malavasi
Also Present: E. Blaschik; 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. Mr. Walter congratulated the UConn's Women's basketball team on winning the NCAA tournament.
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: Special Meeting of February 8, 2016, Special Meeting of February 20, 2016, Special Meeting of February 23, 2016, Special Meeting of February 24, 2016, Regular Meeting of March 2, 2016 and Regular Meeting of March 16, 2016.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 8, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

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

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 23, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 24, 2016. Mr. Walter asked that the last sentence of paragraph two, under item #2A – General Budget Review Workshop, Parks & Recreation, be amended to read as follows, "*Ms. Quinn agreed to cut her request for additional funds in exchange for a few days of labor from a Public Works employee*", rather than "*three days of labor*". Unanimous aye to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2016 as written. Ms. Link abstained from the vote and the motion passed with a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence:

- A. Building Official Letter Regarding Shagbark Solar Farm Permit Fees: Mr. Walter advised that using the Building Department's regular fee structure, which is based on the cost of a project, Shagbark would incur a fee of approximately \$30,000.00 for the installation of its Solar Farm. He noted that it is not unusual for the Selectmen to waive part or all of a fee for a project that benefits the Town. Mr. Walter stated that he had asked the Building Official to estimate the actual cost of reviewing/inspecting Shagbark's project and he called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packet from Building Official Russ, dated March 31, 2016. He noted that Mr. Russ estimated it would cost the Town approximately \$16,000.00 to review the plans and inspect the work, including the cost of hiring a 3rd party consultant/inspector to assist.

The Selectmen discussed fees charged for other large commercial projects and the pros and cons of reducing the permit fee for the Shagbark Solar Farm project. Mr. Malavasi expressed concern about setting a precedent by reducing the fee to the estimated actual cost of the Building Officials time, etc. Ms. Link expressed concern that, since the Building Official had no prior experience with a solar project of this size, there was a potential that he might under-estimate his time and the Town could lose money. Mr. Walter noted that inspections of solar projects are not as complex as those for typical building projects and the Selectmen agreed that it would be reasonable to reduce the permit fee by 25%.

Motion made by Mr. Malavasi, seconded by Ms. Link, to authorize a 25% reduction in the Building Department permit fee and third party consultant inspection costs for the Shagbark Solar Farm, contingent upon Shagbark's agreement to pay any additional Building Department expense from the project that exceeds 75% of the standard permit fee. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter noted that the Building Department Official is preparing a proposal to change the building permit fees.

- B. East Haddam Police Union First Annual Fundraiser: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a solicitation letter from the Police Union in their meeting packets that was mailed to Town residents. There was a general discussion regarding the letter. Mr. Walter stated that a statement will be added to the Town's website advising that the letter is legitimate.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email from CCM, dated March 28, 2016, in their meeting packet, advising that there are 39 new state mandates for municipalities and 8 new mandate relief bills.
- A. Director of Operations Position: Mr. Walter reported that the Town hired Mr. Ronald Turner for the position of Director of Operations effective June 1, 2016. He noted that Mr. Turner is retired from the State Police where he was in charge of facilities and its statewide evidence program. In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Walter advised that Mr. Turner will not require benefits and his town salary is not at the top of the pay-range.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizen's concerns discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Blight Ordinance Discussion: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to move the proposed Blight Ordinance to a Public Hearing on April 27, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. There was a general discussion regarding the final changes that were made to the draft. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter noted that the draft will be posted on the Town website prior to the Public Hearing.

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

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

8. New Business:

- A. Volunteer of the Month (April): Mr. Walter advised that April is generally reserved for nominations of student volunteers. He called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packet from Laura Corbett and Mary Little-Finnegan, School Counselors at Nathan Hale-Ray High School, dated March 17, 2016, recommending Everest Peacock and Elizabeth Ryan as Volunteers of the Month. The letter stated that, *"These two candidates represent the best of a field of highly qualified students all of whom value and are committed to community service"*.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to name Everest Peacock and Elizabeth Ryan as volunteers of the month for April 2016. Unanimous aye.

- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (REC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email from Parks & Recreation Director Quinn, dated April 5, 2016, advising that Cynthia Deming had submitted her resignation from the Recreation Commission and that the Commissioners recommend the Board of Selectmen appoint Dan Carbo to fill the vacancy.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Cynthia Deming from the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter thanked Ms. Deming for her work on the Recreation Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Link, to appoint Daniel Carbo as a regular member to fill a vacancy with a term to expire July 1, 2016 and authorize his

reappointment for an additional 3-year term to expire July 1, 2019 on the Recreation Commission. 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 as presented.

- \$243.26 to Nissan Infinity LT
- Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

A. Budget Public Hearing (April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. – High School Auditorium): Mr. Walter advised those in attendance of this Public Hearing.

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of the Citizen's Guide to the 2016-2017 East Haddam Town Budget that was distributed with the weekly East Haddam Newspaper. He noted that the Town saved \$600.00 by sending the Guide out with the newspaper.

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 7:49 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary