

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
July 20, 2016
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: S. Link; E. Malavasi

Also Present: A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; M. Callahan; R. Casner; D. Denette; D. Denette; C. Dickinson; S. Dickenson; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; J. Dill; R Dill; S. Downs; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; S. Jezek; S. Jezek; G. Karagkiaouris; D. Lyman; E. Lyman; K. O'Boyle; C. Quinn; C. Read; R. Smith; P. Tripputi; C. VanScoy; S. Wheeler; L. Yacovino; L. Zemienieski

1. Selectman Link 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 Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 15, 2016, Special Meeting of June 22, 2016 and Special Meeting of July 11, 2016.

The Selectmen reviewed the above minutes.

Motion made by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 22, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 11, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:
 - A. DOT – 2017 Tentative Paving Program: Ms. Link called Mr. Malavasi's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, dated June 14, 2016, advising of "*routes ... selected for roadway resurfacing*". The Selectmen noted that the only road selected in East Haddam was SR609 (Leesville Road) to the Colchester town line.
 - B. Town Clerk – Point of Order: Ms. Link provided background on the Selectmen's request that the Town Clerk respond to a point of order raised at the July 11, 2016 Selectmen's meeting. She called Mr. Malavasi's attention to a memo from the Town Clerk, dated July 12, 2016, providing her response. It was noted that Town Clerk Denette advised,

“A point of order may be made by anyone present in the assembly if a breach of the rules has transpired. In this particular case, no breach occurred, accordingly the point of order was ‘not well taken’ and the meeting continued, as was appropriate.”

5. First Selectmen’s Report: There was no discussion under this agenda item.
6. Citizen’s Concerns: Several citizens expressed their concern with a perceived “lack of transparency” by the Selectman for conducting the interviews of applicants for the First Selectman’s position in Executive Session.

Mr. Gelston stated it is his desire for the town to have an open and transparent process for making appointments to fill vacancies in positions previously held by elected officials. He reiterated he did not want to participate in a process that was conducted in Executive Session.

7. Unfinished Business

A. First Selectman Vacancy as of July 1, 2016

1. Deliberation of Candidates: Ms. Link advised that she and Mr. Malavasi interviewed three of the four applicants for the position of First Selectman. She noted that interviews for town employees are often held in Executive Session and, after consulting with the Town’s attorney and the public information officer of the Freedom of Information Commission on the interview process, it was confirmed that they did not have to interview all of the applicants and that interviews of executive level employees did not have to be held in a public meeting.

Ms. Link and Mr. Malavasi reviewed the interview questions used and the scoring of the applicants. Mr. Callahan called for a Point of Order and raised a question about the scoring process. Ms. Link advised that his question was not a Point of Order and that he could raise it during the Public Comment part of the meeting.

Ms. Link advised that she and Mr. Malavasi discussed the candidates’ responses to the interview questions and, out of a total possible score of 36, Mr. Jezek scored 26, Mr. Smith scored 31.5, and Mr. Lyman scored 33.

2. Public Comment: Several members of the public expressed their concern with the process used to interview the applicants. Individuals expressed disappointment that they were not able to hear the candidates’ responses, that the scores were arrived at collaboratively, that interview questions were weighted equally, and noted that there were alternatives to excluding the public from the interview process while still being fair to the candidates. Mr. Gelston reminded the public that the option of petitioning for a special election is still available to them.

In response to questions raised by the public:

- The Selectmen confirmed that their appointment will be based on the applicant's score.
- Mr. Malavasi stated that he and Ms. Link did not always agree on scores but they were always able to find a middle ground.
- Town Clerk Denette advised that if there is a successful petition for a special election, the election could not occur any earlier than four months after the petition is validated.
- Republican Registrar of Voters Yacovino provided information on the potential cost of a special election. She further noted that it is a very busy presidential election season.

Mr. E. Dill observed that the attendance at tonight's meeting was the largest he has seen in a while. It was his opinion that citizens should be more involved in the operations of the Town's government on a regular basis and "not hide behind Facebook".

3. Appointment of First Selectman: The Selectmen reviewed their perspectives on the applicants' responses to the interview questions. They discussed the candidates' background and experience as well as their positions on the Town's current building projects. Ms. Link stated that all the candidates were good people who had contributed a lot to the Town. Mr. Malavasi noted that there is no precedent on how to choose a mid-term replacement for the First Selectman and he feels that, with the input from the Town's attorney and the public information officer from the FOI Commission, they came up with a principled solution.

The Selectmen also informed the attendees that there is no truth to the rumor that the remaining members of the Board of Selectmen are obligated to step in to fill a vacancy on the Board.

Motion made by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Malavasi to appoint Emmett Lyman to fill the First Selectman vacancy with a term to expire with the November 7, 2017 municipal election or if applicable, upon the conclusion of a special election called by petition of the electors of the Town of East Haddam in accordance with State Statute 9-222; said appointment will be effective upon qualification. Unanimous aye.

4. Town Clerk – Qualification of Appointed First Selectman: Town Clerk Denette swore in Mr. Lyman as First Selectman.

First Selectman Lyman thanked the board for his appointment and stepped in as chair of the meeting.

8. New Business:

- A. Grant Application with Middlesex Hospital for Paramedic Services: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the Grant Application with Middlesex Hospital for Paramedic Services. It was noted that the grant

application was negotiated by area selectmen with assistance from the RiverCOG and would allow the Town, in exchange for a grant of \$1 per capita, to continue to receive paramedic services through Middlesex Hospital, during FY 16-17, while maintaining the bundled service agreement between the East Haddam Ambulance Association and the hospital. An advisory committee of representatives from the towns using Middlesex Hospital's paramedic support will meet quarterly and report out on matters related to service and financial performance measures.

The Selectmen noted that the agreement is currently for a 1-year period and will be reviewed for performance before subsequent agreements are executed. Middlesex Hospital will bill quarterly. Mr. Lyman noted that it is the intention of Middlesex Hospital to increase the per capita amount by \$1 per year until a \$5 per capita rate is achieved.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, that the Honorable Emmett Lyman, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign a one year Grant Application with Middlesex Hospital for Paramedic Services, pending an approved appropriation from the Board of Finance. Unanimous aye.

It was noted that the towns of Middletown and Portland contract with Hunter's Ambulance for the service offered by the Middlesex Hospital and Ms. Link stated that the Town should take that into consideration when it evaluates whether or not to sign the grant for next fiscal year.

- B. Bid Award – Surplus Vehicles: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the Surplus Vehicles and Equipment Bid spreadsheet in their meeting packets. He advised that the sale of surplus equipment had resulted in total revenue of \$8,640.50 for the Town and that the successful bidders are required to agree to certify that they are purchasing the equipment "as is".

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to award the bids for the Surplus Vehicles and Equipment as presented. Unanimous aye. (Award list included with these minutes)

- C. School Drive/Road Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a memo in their meeting packets from Public Works Director, Beth Lunt, regarding a discrepancy in the "School" road name. He advised that in some instances it is listed as School Road and in others as School Drive; he noted that the High School uses School Drive. This problem has existed since 1992 and most deeds list the street as "School Road" but some use Drive.

Mr. Lyman recognized Mr. Casner, who advised that when the property was sub-divided, it was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission as "School Road". Mr. Casner strongly encouraged retaining it as such.

The Selectmen agreed to table this agenda item to do further research on the issue.

- D. Chatham Health District Representative: Mr. Lyman noted that Mark Walter submitted a letter of resignation to the Chatham Health District as East Haddam's representative on their Board of Directors. He noted that Mr. Walter's term ran until December 2016 and it is the charge of the Board of Selectmen to appoint a replacement to serve out the balance of Mr. Walter's term. Mr. Lyman advised that he is interested in serving out Mr. Walter's term.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to appoint First Selectman Lyman as East Haddam's representative to the Board of Directors of the Chatham Health District to complete the term to December 2016. Unanimous aye.

- E. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EDC, IWWC):

Economic Development Commission

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Robert Casner of the Economic Development Commission, recommending status changes and appointments to the commission. It should be noted that Gerry Rucker's term expired and he does not wish to be reappointed to the commission which leaves two vacant regular member positions.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to change the status of Donald Bergeron from an alternate member to a regular member position with a term to expire June 30, 2019 and change the status of Kevin Staehly from an alternate member to a regular member position with a term to expire June 30, 2021 on the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to reappoint Robert Casner, Frederick Weissbach and Pamela Rubenbauer for five-year terms to expire June 30, 2021 as regular members on the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to copies of letters in their meeting packets from Randolph Dill, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, dated June 22, 2016, recommending reappointments of commission members.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to reappoint Randolph Dill and Jennifer Burton-Reeve as regular members of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2018. Unanimous aye.

- F. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a nomination for Volunteer of the Month, received from Mark Walter, dated June 26, 2016. Mr. Walter nominated Gerry Porto because she is "*a constant advocate for the beauty of our town's buildings and gardens*" and because "*she spends countless hours watering and weeding our libraries and town buildings and greens*".

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to name Geraldine Porto as volunteer of the month for November 2015. Unanimous aye.

G. Tax Refunds: First Selectman Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to one tax refund.

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

- \$106.72 to CAB East LLC
- Unanimous aye.

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

- Mr. R. Dill supported using School Road (vs. Drive) going forward.
- In response to a question from a citizen in attendance, Mr. Moreau clarified the difference between basic and advanced life-support.
- Mr. Casner requested that, in addition to the First Selectman, the Board include at least one food-service business owner as a Town representative on the Chatham Health District's Board of Directors.
- Mr. E. Dill encouraged the Selectmen to consider alternative options to membership in the Chatham Health District.
- Mr. Moreau reviewed the levels of emergency medical support in the Town. He encouraged the Selectmen to educate themselves about how the current groups interact before negotiating a new contract with the Ambulance Association as well as before signing next fiscal year's grant with Middlesex Hospital.
- Ms. D. Dill provided information on how tax refunds occur.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Lyman thanked the Selectmen for the trust they have put in him.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary

Surplus Vehicles and Equipment Bid

Description	Bid Amount	Winner
1. 2002 International 4900 Dump Truck	\$3,525.00	Jason Morin
2. 1995 Ford 350 Mason Dump	\$1,525.00	Jason Morin
3. 2000 Ford 350 Senior Bus	\$ 475.00	Jason Morin
4. Propane Generator	\$ 105.00	Rudolph Dill
5. 11' Tenco Plow	\$ 353.00	Tom Catucci
6. MSC Band Saw	\$ 56.25	Thomas Tierney
7. Gravely 5265 Commercial	\$ 327.00	Michael Masci
8. 5.5 hp Pressure Washer	\$ 27.00	Tom Catucci
9. 5 hp Leaf Blower walk behind	\$ 31.25	Thomas Tierney
10. Stow Tamper	\$ 125.00	Rudolph Dill
11. Snap-On Sand Blaster	\$ 107.00	Michael Masci
12. Hand Truck	\$ 25.00	Jason Morin
13. 18 hp Stanley Hydraulic Pole Saw	\$ 355.00	Jason Morin
14. Miller Portable Spot Welder	\$ 53.00	Rick Roy
15. 40 cubic yard Roll-off Container	<u>\$1,551.00</u>	Michael Olsen
Total	\$8,640.50	