

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
August 17, 2016
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: E. Lyman; S. Link; E. Malavasi

Also Present: E. Blaschik; C. Dickinson; S. Dickinson; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; J. Dill; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; C. Mansfield; C. Read; R. Turner; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Lyman 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. Lyman advised that an additional Commission member change will be added to agenda item 8.A.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of August 3, 2016 and Special Meeting of August 12, 2016.

Mr. Lyman noted one change to the minutes of the August 3, 2016 meeting. The last sentence of the penultimate paragraph of the minutes should read: *"He stated that he was revising the form for clarity and he informed the police that any changes must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen."*

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2016 as amended. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 12, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:
 - A. Letter from DOT Regarding Traffic Control Signal and Pedestrian Control Features Upgrades: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter dated August 15, 2016 from Charles S. Harlow, P.E., Manager of Traffic Engineering with the CT DOT. He reported that the DOT had planned to remove the traffic signal at Route 151 and Joe Williams Road, however, he requested a signal remain in place at that location. Mr. Lyman stated that the DOT agreed with his request and the traffic signal will be upgraded. He confirmed that it will remain a blinking signal.
5. First Selectmen's Report

- A. Shared Services Report – August: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to the August Shared Services Report in their meeting packets and highlighted several items in the report.
- B. Building Projects Updates – Ron Turner, Craig Mansfield: Mr. Lyman introduced Mr. Turner and stated that he is the Town’s new Director of Operations.

Mr. Turner reported on the Elementary School renovation projects and stated that they are progressing ahead of schedule. He advised that the plans for the Fire Department project have been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and that the architect is preparing the project specifications to go out to bid.

Mr. Lyman noted that a member of the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee has submitted their resignation and he solicited volunteers for the vacant position.

Mr. Lyman introduced Mr. Mansfield and asked him to update the Selectmen on the progress of the town wide radio and the municipal facilities projects.

Mr. Mansfield reported that the state has started work on the Mt. Parnassus tower site and that the Board of Education is receptive to the idea of installing another tower on the Middle School property. He noted that the Committee is also investigating several other tower sites for the Town. Mr. Mansfield noted the importance of the Mt. Parnassus site and stated that the Town’s partnership with the state will save it a significant amount of recurring expenses over the years.

Mr. Mansfield reviewed the evolution of the Municipal Office Building Committee (MOBC) membership and noted the expertise in the current working group. He stated the Committee will continue to work with Silver Petrucelli and Associates architects. He advised that, at this time, the Committee is committed to using USDA low interest funding for the project even though it has resulted in delays to the project.

Mr. Mansfield reported that nine firms responded to the RFQ/RFP issued for a Construction Manager at Risk. He advised that, after reviewing the firms’ qualifications and interviewing their representatives, the MOBC has retained the services of Downes Construction and the contract had been submitted to the USDA and the Town’s attorneys for review.

Mr. Mansfield advised that representatives of Silver Petrucelli received feedback from a number of Town departments on the initial floorplan and several revisions will be made.

In response to questions from the Selectmen, Mr. Mansfield advised that the current completion date is projected to be December 19, 2017 but the Committee hopes to push that date back to November 2017. He confirmed that the original completion date was projected to be October, 2017 but noted that delays caused by USDA’s reviews of documentation negatively impacted that date. He also confirmed that the Committee is

committed to working with the Board of Education, and all Town departments, to resolve, to the best of their ability, any space concerns. Mr. Mansfield advised that they expect demolition of the Ray Building to begin at the end of December 2016.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Read noted that there is at least one other working outhouse in Town besides the one at the Millington School House as listed in the August Shared Services Report.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Goodspeed Airport Scenic Easement: Mr. Lyman advised that he had researched the history of Mr. Mellon's request for a scenic easement for the Goodspeed Airport property and provided some background information. He noted that it was not until the Centerbrook Architectural firm recently presented drawings for a revitalized Village area that Mr. Ventres and EDC Chairman Casner suggested the potential for scenic easement at the Airport could present problems. He stated that the Town has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Mellon's attorney and representatives from CT DEEP and the Gateway Commission to discuss the Town's concerns.

Selectwoman Link expressed concern that the Town's representative on the Gateway Commission did not inform Town officials of the scenic easement application. She stated that she feels it is critical that Mr. Lyman impress on the Town's representatives that it is their duty to regularly report back on issues that can have an impact on the Town.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman advised that he did not believe there is any financial gain in the scenic easement for Mr. Mellon.

8. New Business:

- A. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (MOBC, Gateway, ESRBC): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding several Board and Commission membership changes.

Municipal Office Building Committee

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets, dated August 6, 2016, from Karan Conover noting her resignation as an alternate member of the Municipal Office Building Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Karan Conover as an alternate member of the Municipal Office Building Committee. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to appoint Al Howat as an alternate member of the Municipal Office Building Committee until completion of the project. In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Mansfield advised that applications were

solicited for the alternate position and he reviewed Mr. Howat's qualifications. Unanimous aye.

Gateway Commission

Mr. Lyman advised that the CT River Gateway Commission appointments expired on June 30, 2016 and that the Town received two applications to fill the alternate position he vacated. The Selectmen discussed the applications.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to appoint Cary Brownell as an alternate member for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2018 on the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Unanimous aye.

Elementary School Renovation Building Committee

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email, dated August 16, 2016, from Brian Ouellette noting his resignation as a regular member of the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Brian Ouellette as a regular member of the Elementary School Renovation Building Committee. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Lyman reiterated his request for volunteers to fill the vacancy.

B. Tax Refunds: Mr. 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 presented.

- \$63.69 to Rodney Albert
- Unanimous aye.

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

- Mr. R. Dill advised that when there is a vacancy on any Board/Commission he has served on, the members recruited volunteers and/or reviewed any applications on file. He said the applicants are interviewed by the Board members and then the Chairperson would send the Board's recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for their action.
- Mr. R. Dill cautioned against negative comments about any individual at public meetings.
- Mr. R. Dill provided additional background on the history of Mr. Mellon's application for a scenic easement for the Goodspeed Airport. He noted that the first application was rejected and DEEP had expressed their surprise that the Town had not submitted any objections when it was resubmitted. He encouraged

the Selectmen to counsel Town representatives of their duty to inform Town officials of any issues that affect the Town that arise in the meetings of the Boards/ Commissions they sit on.

- Ms. T. Dickinson provided additional information on Mr. Mellon's scenic easement application and emphasized that the Town's representative on the Gateway Commission should be providing feedback to the Town on the Commission's actions affecting the Town. She questioned Mr. Thomas' reappointment to the Gateway Commission given the lapse in communication regarding Mr. Mellon's scenic easement application.
- Ms. J. Dill noted that the Gateway Commission's meeting minutes are available on-line and any interested individual can keep themselves informed of the Commission's activities.
- Mr. Read asked if there is any written list of responsibilities for Town representatives serving on external Boards/Commission.
- Mr. Gelston suggested citizens reserve judgement until the facts of the scenic easement issue are determined and encouraged Mr. Lyman to determine what those facts are. He stated that Mr. Mellon is a conservationist who has been generous with his assets and noted that he believes his intent with the scenic easement application is to maintain the beauty of the CT River. Mr. Gelston encouraged the First Selectmen to work with Mr. Mellon's representative on this issue.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. Annual First Day of School Campaign – Middle School (September 6, 2016): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's and attendees' attention to the planned event and noted that it will be held between 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
- B. Bone Mill Road Bridge Public Information Meeting (August 24, 2016 @7:00 p.m. – Grange Hall): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's and attendees' attention to this meeting and noted that the newspaper incorrectly listed it as Board of Selectmen's meeting. He thanked Mr. Read for his efforts on developing a design for the new bridge that suits the site.
- C. Board of Assessment Appeals Public Hearing (September 10, 2016 @9:00 a.m. – River House): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's and attendees' attention to this Public Hearing and Mr. Blaschik confirmed it was for vehicle appeals only.

In response to questions raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman stated that did not know the status of Shagbark's financing for its solar project and that the attorneys are drafting language for the contract amendments. He confirmed that the project is supposed to be constructed and operational by September 27, 2016.

- 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 8:17 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary