

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
September 7, 2016  
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; C. Brownell; W. Cross; C. Dickinson; T. Dickinson;  
D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; C. Read; 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 stated that he would like to discuss agenda item 8.A. following his First Selectman's Report.

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 17, 2016.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed under this agenda item.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Lyman reported on the following items:
  - Mr. Lyman reviewed the details of the contract with Middlesex Hospital in lieu of the state's cancelling funding for Hospital's paramedic advanced life support (ALS) program. He advised that the cost of the contract for East Haddam starts at \$9,000.00/year and increases, in yearly increments, up to an estimated \$45,000.00 in year 5. He noted that senior citizens on Medicare will be adversely affected if the Town does not participate in a paramedic ALS program. Mr. Lyman advised that the Town will participate in the Hospital's contract this year but noted that the RiverCOG is researching alternative options. In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the decision to participate in Middlesex Hospital's program can be reevaluated yearly. Mr. Lyman opened the meeting to questions/comments from the public.
  - In response to a question raised by Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman confirmed that seniors would not get billed for paramedic ALS ambulance services if the Town is participating in the Middlesex Hospital contract and that there will be a signed contract with a fixed fee.

- Mr. R. Dill suggested Mr. Lyman submit an article to the newspaper explaining the impact of the state's decision and the benefits of the contract with Middlesex Hospital.
- Ms. Branscombe raised a question about ambulance coverage for citizens on Medicaid and the Husky program.
- Mr. Cross noted that residents used to pay a membership fee to be covered by the volunteer Ambulance Association. He suggested that the Town might consider a similar program in light of the cost of the Middlesex Hospital paramedic ALS contract.
- Mr. Lyman reviewed the new floorplan for the Municipal Offices Building and advised that he spoke with Superintendent Reas who advised that the Board of Education is happy with the new layout of their area. Mr. Malavasi inquired about the level of security for the servers. Mr. Blaschik and Mr. E. Dill advised that the building would utilize a security card system for employees with as-needed area access but recommended Mr. Malavasi attend one of their next planning meetings to discuss IT security.

8A. Rolling Hill Road Discussion: Mr. Lyman provided the background on this agenda item. He advised that it will cost approximately \$90,000.00 to finish paving the road. He stated that one parcel in the sub-division is about to be sold and that Southern Connecticut Financial Services, Inc., the current owner of the sub-division, has agreed to contribute \$40,000.00 from that sale plus \$2,500.00/each from the future sale of the remaining three properties, toward the paving work. Mr. Lyman stated that the balance of the cost would be paid by the Town. He noted, however, that Public Works Director Lunt had advised him that several Public Works projects have come in under budget which will offset the cost of the Town's share of paving Rolling Hill Road.

Mr. Malavasi expressed his concern that Mr. Matthews should be accountable for a portion of the cost of the paving.

6. Citizen's Concerns: The following Citizen's Concerns were discussed at the meeting:

- Mr. R. Dill expressed concern about the cost of paving Rolling Hill Road considering it was part of a project that should have been fully bonded. Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Land Use Office and the Board of Selectmen did not keep on top of the outstanding bonded projects for the Rolling Hill Road sub-division to ensure their completion. He stated that the Town must develop a protocol that drives a regular review of the status of outstanding bonded projects and that the Town authority that required the bond should be responsible for certifying the projects are completed in a timely manner.
- Ms. Dickinson stated that she feels the Town is setting a bad precedent if it does not go back to Mr. Matthews for a portion of the cost of the Rolling Hill Road paving. Mr. Lyman stated he will discuss the Town's options with its attorneys. He also confirmed

that the Town will receive \$40,000.00 for the work up-front but will have to wait for the sale of the final three properties for the additional \$2,500.00/each.

- Mr. E. Dill noted that Public Works has paving equipment and may be able to do the work on Rolling Hill Road themselves. Mr. Lyman stated that he believes the project is beyond the scope of the equipment owned by Public Works but he will ask Public Works Director Lunt.
- Mr. Blaschik expressed his concern that the developer whose project at Rolling Hill Road failed is now a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission and passing judgement on other projects. He also stated that he feels it would have been ethical of Mr. Matthews to bring the paving bond to the attention of the Town.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Branscombe, Mr. Lyman confirmed that once Rolling Hill Road is paved and meets Town standards, it will be accepted as a Town owned road.
- Mr. Brownell introduced himself as the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and noted the Commission's need for a strong cross-section of development/building knowledge from its members. He expressed concern about the comments directed toward Mr. Matthews and noted that P&Z Commissioners are elected officials and the composition of the Commission is at the public's discretion. He advised that P&Z Commissioners are all required, and comply with the requirement, to recuse themselves from the discussions of agenda items that they could have an impact on. He further noted that when a Commissioner is required to recuse him/herself, they are not only excluded from the discussion, they are required to physically leave the meeting.

## 7. Unfinished Business

- A. Goodspeed Airport Scenic Easement: Mr. Lyman reported that he and several Town representatives met with Mr. Mellon's attorney and several others on August 18<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the discussions went well and Mr. Mellon's attorney confirmed that Mr. Mellon doesn't want any structures added to the property but the scenic easement would not negatively impact any of the concerns Mr. Lyman raised.

Mr. Lyman reviewed a draft letter addressed to Mr. Mellon thanking him for the productive meeting with his attorney and requesting explicit language be added to the easement allowing for public access to the property, for the future addition of public restrooms and a small education/exhibit center, and for the use of space to do repairs on the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Lyman distributed a copy of the draft letter to the Selectmen and requested their feedback before he sent it out.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Town is not objecting, in whole, to the scenic easement. Mr. Malavasi raised a concern that, while the Town is requesting the use of temporary space for future maintenance needed

on the wastewater plant, it is not requesting additional property for the possible need to enlarge the facility.

- B. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of the signed Amendment to Virtual Metering Credit Assignment Agreement in their meeting packets. He advised that the construction deadline has been extended. The Selectmen discussed the impact of the delay of the \$25,000.00 credit on the Board of Education's budget. Mr. Malavasi raised concern about Shagbark meeting the new construction deadline.

Mr. Lyman reviewed expenses incurred by the Town on the project, which totaled \$12,191.50 to date, and provided Mr. Malavasi with documentation of same. Mr. Malavasi expressed concern that the Town has begun to incur expenses, however, to date it has not received any of the agreed fees from Shagbark. In response to a question from Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman confirmed that Shagbark has locked in financing for the solar project.

8. New Business:

- A. Rolling Hill Road Discussion: This agenda item was discussed under the Selectman's Report and is reported on in the minutes above.
- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (CONS): Mr. Lyman advised that the Conservation Commission meeting was postponed and the reappointments have not yet been discussed.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to table this agenda item.  
Unanimous aye.

- C. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to two tax refunds.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to award tax refunds in the amounts presented.

- \$38.72 to Diane Rode
  - \$82.06 to Mark or Denise Hetzel
- Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to a question raised by Mr. Cross, Mr. Lyman advised that the Goodspeed Airport's scenic easement would be effective as soon as CT DEEP accepts it and that it would not preclude Mr. Mellon from selling the property. He further noted that the value of the property will be negatively impacted by the easement and, if the property goes on the market, he feels the Town should consider purchasing it.

- Mr. Dickinson stated he feels the airport is an asset but that its viability has been diminished. He suggested the Town approach Mr. Mellon to discuss making improvements to the airport.
- In response to Ms. Dickinson's concerns regarding the Town spending \$1,400.00 on improvements to an outhouse, Mr. Lyman noted that the outhouse is considered a historic structure and that the Historic District Commission required the repairs. Ms. Dickinson also expressed concern for unplanned expenditures for the Middlesex Hospital paramedic ALS contract and paving Rolling Hills Road.
- There was a general discussion regarding the delay of Shagbark's Solar Project.
- Ms. Branscombe recommended the Town investigate the possibility of negotiating a flat fee with its attorneys.

#### 10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. 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.

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. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary