

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
November 16, 2016  
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; W. Cross; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; C. Riling; 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: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 19, 2016 and Regular Meeting of November 2, 2016.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2016 as written. Mr. Malavasi abstained from the vote and it passed with a majority of ayes.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 2, 2016 as written. Ms. Link abstained from the vote and it passed with a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence

- A. Support Letters – CT Surface Transportation Block Grant Program: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packet related to a Transportation Alternatives Grant for which the Town of Haddam is applying. He stated that the grant would provide funding to install sidewalks from the Swingbridge to the intersection of Route 154 in Tylerville. He noted that Haddam plans to install the sidewalks in anticipation of the DOT approving a walkway addition to the Swingbridge.

Mr. Lyman advised East Haddam's support of Haddam's plans would be also benefit the towns' request that the DOT add a walkway to the Swingbridge. He stated that he had submitted a letter of support for Haddam's grant application with his signature as First Selectmen, however, he would also like the Board of Selectmen to submit a similar letter of support.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, that the Board of Selectmen send a letter in support of Haddam's application for a CT Surface Transportation Block grant to the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments. Unanimous aye.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the proposed walkway would be part of the DOT's 2018 Swingbridge rehabilitation project.

## 5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman reported that he had attended an event where State Comptroller Lembo discussed the state's deficit. Mr. Lyman noted that the current deficit was recently reported as \$1.3 billion and noted that Mr. Chris Keating, Capital Bureau Chief for the Hartford Courant did a presentation and indicated that funding to cities and towns will probably be maintained at or close to the current level. Mr. Lyman noted that it is a challenge for the Town to develop its budget because the state does not inform us of the amount of funding it will provide until after the Town's budget is finalized.

- A. Shared Services Report – November: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the Shared Services Report in their meeting packets and reviewed several of the items on the report.
- B. Major Capital Projects Update – November: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the Major Capital Projects Update in their meeting packets and reviewed the status of the four projects. He noted that the Firehouse Renovations Project Building Committee was informed that any changes to the planned renovations would have to be approved at a Town Meeting.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the current Board of Education building is for sale. The Selectmen briefly discussed the state's construction of a radio tower on Mt. Parnassus.

- C. Shanaghan Road Report: Mr. Lyman reported that he conducted a site visit to Shanaghan Road with representatives from Eversource. He stated that Eversource will install safety boulders at the edge of the platform and have been removing trash from the site. He advised that Eversource will install gates at each end of the road to prevent vehicles from entering to dump trash.

## 6. Citizen's Concerns: The following citizen's concerns were discussed:

- In response to a concern raised by Ms. Gelston, Mr. Lyman advised that the gates that will be installed on Shanaghan Road will not prevent foot or horse traffic.
- In response to a concern raised by Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Town recommended including sports fields as an approved use of the Mellon property in the proposed scenic easement language. He further stated he would review the minutes of the Gateway Commission meetings related to the scenic easement discussions to ensure that the Town is being properly updated regarding any new developments.
- In response to a concern raised by Mr. Cross, the Selectmen reviewed the schedule of approvals for the Town's budget and noted that the Board of Selectmen hope to submit

their proposal for the Town's 2017-18 Budget to the Board of Finance in March. Mr. Lyman also confirmed that the Town must estimate the amount of state funding it will received because state does not inform us of the actual amount until after our budget is finalized.

- In response to a concern raised by Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the paving work on Rolling Hills Road has been completed and the work was done within budget. He further advised that the road will have to be accepted as a Town road at a Town Meeting.
- In response to a concern raised by Mr. Cross, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Town has a contract for paramedic services with Middlesex Hospital for the current year and that the River COG is working on the issue.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: There was no new update on this agenda item.

8. New Business:

A. Call for Town Meeting:

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the following call for town meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Town Meeting Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam, at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday December 13, 2016 for the following purposes, to wit:

**Item 1:** To consider and act upon the recommendation that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements with the Transportation Commissioner of the State of Connecticut for the receipt of State Aid for town highways in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut.

**Item 2:** To consider and accept the Annual Town Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.

**Item 3:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift in the amount of \$8,000 from Consumers Union of United States, Inc. for the purpose of lighting at the Heritage Park Walking Trail (revenue account 33050-43000-G1601 and expense account 33055011-58820-G1601).

In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Board of Finance had approved the FYE Annual Town Report. Unanimous aye.

- B. 2016 Homeland Security Memorandum of Agreement Resolution: Mr. Lyman stated that the Selectmen vote on the Homeland Security Memorandum of Agreement Resolution every year. He explained the process of pooling and accessing funds for Homeland Security related projects and purchases.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Emmett J. Lyman, as First Selectman of the Town of East Haddam is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of East Haddam and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Unanimous aye.

- C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EDC): There were no Board/Commission/Committee changes discussed at the meeting.
- D. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to two tax refunds.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to award tax refunds in the amount presented.

- \$453.16 to Nissan Infiniti LT, and
- \$189.72 to Joseph Broder.

Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to a question from Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the proposed lighting for Heritage Park would be solar and would broadcast in toward the walking path.
- In response to a question from Mr. Cross, Mr. Lyman confirmed that agenda item 7, Shagbark Solar Project, had been discussed earlier in the meeting and that there was no new update on the project.
- In response to questions raised by Ms. Dickinson:
  - Mr. Lyman advised that he does not believe that, at the current time, the Town can afford to purchase any additional open space. He stated that, to be

considered, a new open space purchase would have to be extremely unique and financially attractive.

- Mr. Lyman advised that the Selectmen would like to get started early on the 2017-18 Town budget and their preference is to hold some of the working sessions on Saturday. He noted that the schedule for the working sessions has not yet been developed.

#### 10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. 2017 Board of Selectmen Meetings: The Selectmen reviewed the proposed 2017 Board of Selectmen Meetings schedule and agreed to cancel the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the following dates as the meeting schedule for the Board of Selectmen for the 2017 calendar year: January 4 & 18, February 1 & 15, March 1 & 15, April 5 & 19, May 3 & 17, June 7 & 21, July 19, August 2 & 16, September 6 & 20, October 4 & 18, November 1 & 15, December 6 & 20, and January 3 & 17, 2018. All meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Grange Hall. Unanimous aye.

- B. East Haddam Public Schools Community Budget Forum (November 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.): Mr. Lyman advised the Selectmen of the Public Schools Community Budget Forum scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Selectmen briefly discussed dates for their 2017-18 budget working sessions.

- 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 7:51 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Link, Secretary