

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

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

Also Present: F. Anderson; E. Blaschik; W. Cross; C. Dickinson; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; A. Gamble; T. Lambert; R. Smith; 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. Mr. Lyman called for a moment of silence in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.
2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Lyman noted that he would like to add the following item for discussion under New Business: 8.D. Wine Service Approval – Grange Hall. Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of November 16, 2016.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2016 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. RiverCOG Letter – County Health Department Proposed Legislation: Mr. Lyman presented a letter sent from the RiverCOG on behalf of all the River COG towns objecting to the state's recently proposed legislation to replace existing municipal health departments and regional health districts with eight county health departments, funded by municipal operating budgets. He noted that all 17 member towns signed the letter. He expressed concern about the cost of the proposed change and stated that East Haddam currently pays approximately \$94,000/year for its contract with Chatham Health District, while the state's proposal that municipalities pay 1.5% of the annual budget would result in a cost of approximately \$453,000/year for the town.

Mr. Lyman noted that the members of the RiverCOG will meet with the State Health Commission on December 14th to discuss the proposal.

5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman reported that on the following:

- Radio Tower: He provided an update on the Town's project to upgrade its emergency radio service and noted that the construction of the state's tower on Mt. Parnassus is underway which will facilitate improved connectivity.

- Foxtown Road Bridge: He reported that the state had informed him that the DOT will be making improvements to the Foxtown Road bridge.
 - Shanaghan Road: He advised that he has made site visits to Shanaghan Road and that the gates to prevent accidents on the platforms Eversource installed are in place. He noted that the gates will not be permanent; however, Eversource will have to put some large stones around the platforms as safety devices before the gates are removed. He stated that the gates also deter dumping in the area.
6. Citizen's Concerns: In response to a concern raised by Mr. Smith, Mr. Lyman advised that the purpose of the gates installed on Shanaghan Road is to prevent accidents on the platforms and to deter dumping of trash in the area.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that he had met with representatives of Shagbark who informed him that their financier for the solar project had withdrawn and that they are working with other financial companies. He advised that they assured him that the solar project would be completed by the stated deadline of June 10, 2017.

In response to questions raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman reiterated that the town has expended \$13,300.00 on Shagbark's solar project and that, as of June 10, 2017, its recourse is to cancel its contract with Shagbark and it can try to recoup the town's expenses.

- B. Goodspeed Airport Scenic Easement: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a revised draft of the Grant of Scenic Easement and Development Rights in their meeting packets related to the Goodspeed Airport property. He advised that Mr. Mellon had responded very favorably to the town's requests and Mr. Lyman said he was extremely happy with the changes to the document. Mr. Lyman responded to several questions from the Selectmen and noted that there would be no impact to the tax base of the property as long as it remained an airport.

8. New Business:

- A. Town Office Site – Opinion of Market Value Report: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the appraisal report for the Town Office Site in their meeting packets. He advised that the land was appraised at \$840,000.00 and the buildings at \$185,000.00. He noted, however, that the appraiser had adjusted the final appraised value for the cost of any remediation that may be necessary to the ground under the garage resulting in a net value of the land and buildings of \$625,000.00. He noted that he had expected a higher value for the property.
- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board/Commission/Committee changes discussed at the meeting.

C. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to one tax refund.

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

- \$491.95 to Nissan Infiniti LT.

Unanimous aye.

D. Wine Service Approval – Grange Hall: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Colleen Shaddox, dated December 7, 2016, in their meeting packets. He advised that the group hosting an event at the Grange Hall was offered a donation of mulled wine and would like permission to serve it at their event.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve wine service at the Grange Hall for a "Human Rights Vigil" on December 10, 2016. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: In response to a question from Mr. Cross, Mr. Lyman advised that Mr. Mellon owns several parcels of land along the Connecticut River and wants to protect the River, as much as possible, from further development. He confirmed that there is no current legal action between the Town and Mr. Mellon.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Town Meeting (December 13, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. – Town Meeting Hall): Mr. Lyman reminded the Selectmen and attendees of the Town Meeting scheduled for December 13th at the Town Meeting Hall.

B. Proclamation Discussion: Mr. Lyman advised the Selectmen that Mr. John Blaschik would be leaving East Haddam to join the Trappist Monks at Our Lady of the Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, Virginia and that there will be an open house on December 18th in the church hall of St. Bridget of Kildare Church in his honor. Mr. Lyman advised that he has prepared a Proclamation in honor of Mr. Blaschik's longstanding service to the Town of East Haddam and Mr. Malavasi stated he would like to add some items to the Proclamation. Mr. Malavasi and Ms. Link stated they would also sign the Proclamation.

Mr. Lyman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to cancel the December 21, 2016 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen 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 7:42 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary