

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
April 5, 2017  
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; C. Brownell; T. Delvenhal; T. Delvenhal; C. Dickinson; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; K. Carle; L. Lusignan; J. Moreau; K. O'Boyle; B. Parker; R. Parker; C. Riling; J. Roczniak; R. Smith; C. VanScoy; 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: Special Meeting of February 22, 2017; Regular Meeting of March 1, 2017 and Regular Meeting of March 15, 2017.

Special Meeting of February 22, 2017: Ms. Link requested the second sentence in paragraph one under Item 2 to be changed to "*She noted that the Governor's budget cut funding of the Circuit Breaker program in half.*"

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 22, 2017 as amended. Unanimous aye.

Regular Meeting of March 1, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 1, 2017 as written. Unanimous aye.

Regular Meeting of March 15, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 15, 2017 as written. Mr. Malavasi abstained from the vote and the motion passed with a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Comcast, dated March 29, 2017. It was noted that the letter was for marketing purposes.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Lyman reported on the following:
  - He had attended a CCM meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> where the following Senate Bills were reviewed:
    - SB27 – Concerning compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder.
    - SB8 – Authorizing a sales tax for municipalities.

- SB711 – Regarding increasing the reduction municipalities’ can apply to their minimum Board of Education budget requirements. Mr. Lyman reviewed the features of the proposed bill and its pros and cons.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman noted that CCM has not taken a position on any of the bills and their presentation was for informational purposes.

- Other items covered at the CCM meeting were:
  - A presentation on the Governor’s proposal to shift the cost of the Teachers’ Retirement Service to municipalities. He noted that TRS is currently funded at 40% and it is projected that the expense of the program will escalate quickly. He stated that CCM is strongly recommending a letter writing campaign to representatives be initiated.
  - A discussion on how to address the problem of crumbling foundations in the northeast section of the state. He advised that approximately 30,000 homes may be affected and that homeowners have no insurance coverage for the problem. He stated that the state has proposed to assess all homeowner policies a fee for an estimated 10 year period to establish a fund for grants and low-interest loans.
- It has been difficult getting the State to act on the Memorandum of Agreement for the Comer Memorial Park; however, he feels they now understand the urgency of moving this clean-up project forward.
- Connecticut Department of Transportation is proposing a 50% reduction in the 9-Town Transit schedule in 2017 and a 100% reduction in 2018. They also propose elimination of the Dial-a-Ride program. He noted that he expects to have more information later in the week.

Mr. Lyman reviewed a list of several new businesses in Town but stated that it was not possible to collect information on how many Town residents were employed by the businesses. He also reported that three local businesses have applied for, and been awarded, tax abatements. He stated that he feels the new enterprises represent a growth in the Town’s business community.

- A. Senior Services Update – Brad Parker: Mr. Lyman reviewed three letters received from the Community Renewal Team (CRT) and noted that the September 23, 2016 and October 27, 2017 correspondence were generic fundraising letters. He stated that the Town has a Memo of Understanding with CRT that states, *“Should any budget constraints arise during the term of this MOU then a remedy will be agreed upon between the vendor, the host site and Senior Resources”*; however, CRT did not reach out to the Town to work toward a remedy which both parties could agree upon. He noted that the Town was not aware that cuts were, in fact, going to be made until CRT’s correspondence of January 13, 2017.

Mr. Lyman introduced Mr. Parker who advised that a resolution to cuts in senior meals program is an evolving situation that changes, and improves, weekly. He reviewed the history of the program and noted that, while participants have increased, the subsidy to CRT has remained flat for the past 6 years. He also noted that CRT's fundraising efforts have been on-going and concurred with Mr. Lyman's statement that CRT made no effort to reach out to East Haddam, prior to January 13<sup>th</sup>, regarding any reductions to the numbers in the MOU the Town has with them.

Mr. Parker noted that staffing changes at CRT caused some of the communication problems and reviewed his efforts to maintain senior lunches at prior levels. He noted Gristmill Market has stepped in to provide meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays at a slightly increased contribution amount and that private donations have helped.

Mr. Parker stated that they are not turning away any participants at this time; however, the future of the program is bleak. He responded to several questions from the Selectmen.

Mr. Lyman noted that the Meals-On-Wheels program is important not just for the nutrition it provides but also for socialization and a regular check in on vulnerable seniors. He also advised that representatives from the Commission on Aging will attend a Board of Selectmen meeting in the near future.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Parker for his presentation and for his on-going efforts to maintain the previous level of meals for seniors.

6. Citizens' Concerns: The following citizens' concerns were discussed:

- Mr. Moreau read from a prepared statement regarding his concern and failure of confidence in the Firehouse Renovation project. He stated that he felt that the change in the project plans, resulting in an increased cost, which was approved at a recent Town Meeting should have come to a referendum. He is concerned that not bringing the project changes to a referendum sets a bad precedent. Mr. Gelston said he agreed with Mr. Moreau's concerns and stated that he feels the Fire Department's credibility was damaged.
- Ms. Rocznik expressed concern for the reduction in service of the 9-Town Transit Dial-A-Ride program. She stated that she has noticed that most of the ridership uses the service to get to the Middlesex Community College and health facilities in the Middletown area and loss of service will create a hardship for many individuals.
- Ms. Dickinson expressed concern that the Town alert system was used to notify emergency services personnel of the recent Town Meeting. In response to a question she raised, Mr. Lyman noted that sandwich boards and lawn signs were only used for elections, Town Meetings and referendums but not for regular Board meetings.

- Ms. Riling read a prepared statement expressing her concern about the Town's perceived delay in responding to CRT's notices of potential cuts in the senior meals program and stated that she feels Mr. Lyman owes Mr. Parker, the seniors and the community an apology. Ms. Dickinson and Mr. Gelston stated they shared Ms. Riling's concerns. Ms. Dickinson stated that it is her understanding that several surrounding towns responded more quickly and had a better outcome than East Haddam.

Mr. Lyman reiterated that CRT had not adhered to its MOU with the Town and Mr. Parker stated that he has had successful on-going negotiations regarding the program with CRT. Mr. Parker further noted that all towns serviced by CRT have been affected in some way and he feels East Haddam has fared very well due to their on-going negotiations with CRT and local private support.

Ms. Rozniak noted the Wheel donation program to raise funds for senior meals and Mr. Parker clarified how that program works. Ms. O'Boyle noted that Together We Rise made a significant donation to the senior meal program. In response to question from Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Parker stated that he wanted to set-up an account for donations to the senior meal program before he accepted any monetary contributions and that he is working on a permanent solution to the problem.

Mr. Gelston requested that Ms. Riling's written statement about the senior meal program and a related article from the East Haddam News be included in the minutes.

- Mr. Eric Dill noted that Consumer Reports had submitted a letter to the Town which he would like to have read into the minutes of the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Lyman stated he would have it added to the agenda for the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman advised that he could not speculate on whether or not East Haddam would consider implementing a sales tax. Mr. Malavasi noted that it is his understanding that the large cities are the main drivers of the municipal sales tax Senate Bill.
- Ms. Carle advised that Phil Yuris, Gillette Castle State Park Supervisor, is the recipient of the International Museum Theater Alliance IMTY award, for Leadership in support of Museum Theater, for his past and ongoing support of The East Haddam Stage Company, Resident Theatre Company at Gillette Castle State Park. IMTAL is dedicated to supporting the use of theatre and theatrical techniques in museum and historical settings.

## 7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that Shagbark's solar project is moving forward and the only concern is whether or not Eversource can complete their part of the project in a timely manner.
- B. Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment Discussion: Mr. Randy Dill distributed a packet of materials regarding a Citation Review Board for the Selectmen's consideration.

He reviewed the materials included in the packet and offered to discuss his proposal after the Selectmen have had a chance to review the materials. The Selectmen thanked him for his work on the proposal.

## 8. New Business

- A. Fair Housing Resolution: Mr. Lyman explained that, in order for the Town to participate in any Small Cities grants, it must have a fair housing policy in place that is updated each year. He advised that the Board of Selectmen would need to adopt a resolution for fair housing. He noted that the Town is currently the recipient of two Small Cities grants on behalf of the East Haddam Senior Housing Corporation for the Oak Grove Senior Housing Complex renovations.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adopt the fair housing resolution as presented. Unanimous aye. (A copy of the resolution is attached to the minutes.)

- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (IWWC): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email of resignation, dated February 14, 2017, from Laura Magaraci.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Laura Magaraci from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Unanimous aye.

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

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

- \$125.30 to Ryan & Heather Burke,
- \$ 36.39 to Roxanne Berryhill,
- \$238.91 to Vault Trust, and
- \$184.82 to Mark & Alyson Karpiej.

Unanimous aye.

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

- Ms. Dickinson noted that there has been on-going concern expressed by several citizens about poor communication by Town officials and requested a solution to the problem.
- In response to a question from Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman advised that the Town Clerk's office and the libraries post information about Fair Housing requirements.
- Ms. O'Boyle expressed her appreciation at seeing democracy at work at the Board of Selectmen's meetings. She acknowledged that democracy could be messy at times but she was happy to note that it seems to be working in East Haddam. Ms. Link agreed but

stated that she feels participants should be careful to afford each other respect when having an exchange of viewpoints.

- Mr. Moreau stated that he believes, if municipalities are required to share the expense of the Teachers Retirement Service, they should have more input into the negotiations of the pension contracts. Ms. Dickinson stated that municipalities, at some point, have to just say no to the state.
- Mr. Randy Dill stated that if the state requires municipalities to reimburse it for 100% of the expense of a resident state trooper, the municipality should have the right to expect the trooper to spend 100% of her/her time serving the municipality which is not the case at present.
- Mr. Gelston expressed concern about the state's unfunded mandates and stated that he hopes the shifting of costs to municipalities will precipitate a change in how state contracts are negotiated. He said he feels the state needs to be challenged on some of their proposals.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: The Selectmen discussed the following items:

- In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Ms. Zemienieski reviewed the list of members on the Firehouse Renovation Building Committee.
- Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Board of Finance had moved the budget dates to the following:
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> - Public Hearing
  - May 24<sup>th</sup> – Town Meeting
  - June 6<sup>th</sup> – Referendum

Ms. Link asked that the minutes reflect her appreciation of the efforts Mr. Parker has made, and continues to make, to sustain the senior meals and Meals on Wheels programs.

Mr. Malavasi stated that, in light of legalization efforts, many Recreation Directors are supporting a change to the term "recreational marijuana". He advised that he will speak with Director Quinn to ask her to participate in supporting a change in terminology.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Link, Secretary

**FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION  
TOWN OF EAST HADDAM**

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal Fair Housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut Fair Housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of East Haddam is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Town of East Haddam hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the chief executive officer of the Town of East Haddam or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of East Haddam and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Adopted by the **Town of East Haddam** Board of Selectmen on April 5, 2017