

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
April 19, 2017  
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; C. Brownell; W. Cross; D. Denette; C. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; D. MacKenzie; J. Moreau; K. O'Boyle; C. Riling; J. Rozniak; R. Smith; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of April 5, 2017.

Regular Meeting of April 5, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2017 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

A. Letter from Consumer Reports: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Consumer Reports, dated March 21, 2017, and signed by Director Jennifer Stockburgher. Mr. Lyman noted that for the board's information he also included a list of previous Town projects that benefited from the Consumer Reports donation program. He noted that Ms. Stockburger requested that, going forward, community organizations and Town departments, "*solicit our office directly, without having to submit an official request through your office*".

Mr. Lyman stated that he felt it would be prudent for the Town to continue to participate in the process by meeting with the organizations and department heads that submit requests for funding to Consumer Reports.

B. Letter from Message Center Management, Inc.: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Message Center Management, Inc. (MCM), dated March 15, 2017, advising that MCM has signed an agreement with SBA Towers IX, LLC, "*...under which SBA may acquire all the shares of MCM*". Mr. Lyman noted that he did not anticipate any change to the Town's service agreement with MCM.

C. Letter from Tax Collector – Denise Dill: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Tax Collector Dill, dated April 12, 2017, in which Ms. Dill advised that she is giving back her 2.50% proposed salary increase. Mr. Lyman noted that the Town's policy in such instances is to repurpose the funds to one of the Town's service organizations such as the Food Bank or the Senior Center. Mr. Malavasi thanked Ms. Dill for her generosity.

D. Letter from Planning & Zoning Commission – Plan of Conservation and Development: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a memo from the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z), dated April 10, 2017, regarding the Ten Year Review of the Plan of Conservation and

Development (Plan of C&D). He noted that the memo states that P&Z would like to “...conduct a town wide survey to determine the goals and objectives of the community” and they have requested time on an upcoming Board of Selectmen’s regular meeting agenda to discuss the planned review with the Selectmen. Mr. Lyman encouraged the Selectmen to review the Plan of C&D so that they can have a constructive discussion with the P&Z representatives.

5. First Selectmen’s Report:

- A. Board of Assessment Appeals – Spring 2017 Final Report: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of the Spring 2017 Final Report of the Board of Assessment Appeals, dated April 11, 2017, in their meeting packets. He noted that total appeal awards reduced the Town’s Grand List by \$403,520.00. He recognized the Board’s Chairperson, Edward Blaschik, who advised that the Banner Country Club Corp. had withdrawn its application for a reduction to its assessed property value.
- B. Shared Services Report – April: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of the April 2017 Shared Services Report, in their meeting packets and reviewed several items on the report.
- C. Major Capital Projects Update – April: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of the April 2017 Major Capital Projects Update, in their meeting packets. He reviewed the projects on the report and, in response to a question from Mr. Malavasi, advised that the Town-Wide Radio Project committee has not yet expended much of the funding allocated to the project because of unexpected limitations on the Mt. Parnassus tower. Mr. Lyman stated that the committee is waiting to see how the state addresses the fact that it cannot add an additional 60’ to the tower as originally planned. He noted that the committee may have to modify its existing plan depending on what course of action the state takes.

Mr. Lyman also reported on the following items:

- CT DEEP has submitted an acceptable Memorandum of Agreement regarding the maintenance of the Comer property, clearing the way for the planned September celebration in honor of George Comer.
- He met with representatives of the state’s 9-Town Transit bus who reiterated their plans to discontinue the Dial-A-Ride program.
- He encouraged the Selectmen to review the updated Ordinance Book. Ms. Link and Mr. Malavasi noted that they have done an initial review of the Ordinance Book and Ms. Link suggested setting up a meeting to conduct their final review.

6. Citizens’ Concerns: The following citizens’ concerns were discussed –

- In response to an inquiry from Mr. Eric Dill, Mr. Lyman advised that the Town would like to meet with any Town organization/department that submits a request for funding through the Consumer Reports donation program.
- Ms. Riling thanked Tax Collector Dill for her generosity in giving back her salary increase and asked if the Town has developed any innovative strategies for reducing the tax burden on the public. Mr. Lyman noted that salary increase “give backs” are strictly an individual choice. Ms.

Riling and Mr. Lyman discussed the salary increases included in the 2017-18 proposed budget and Ms. Denette called a point of order noting that Roberts Rules do not allow for debate between the Selectmen and the public during these meetings. Ms. Riling rephrased her statements to an inquiry into who decides on employee salary increases.

- In response to inquiries from Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman clarified that the 7.4% increase in the proposed budget includes a potential expense for the Town's share of the state's teacher pension fund. Mr. Lyman also advised that the Senior Center lunch program and Meals On Wheels are in good shape and any senior that needs a meal is receiving it. He noted that Mr. Parker and representatives from the Commission on Aging had scheduling conflicts this evening; however, he plans on having them attend one of the next Board of Selectmen's meetings.
- Mr. Brownell stated that P&Z would like to move forward with their work on the Plan of C&D without delay and encouraged the Selectmen to add the review of the Plan of C&D with their representatives to the agenda of the next regular Selectmen's meeting.
- In response to a suggestion from Ms. O'Boyle, Mr. Lyman noted that Town department heads and Committee chairpersons are asked to attend the Selectmen's meetings when there are relevant issues on the agenda.
- Mr. Smith recommended the Town purchase a larger projector screen and room darkening shades for the Grange. Mr. Lyman noted current budgetary constraints but stated the Town would be receptive to donations of such items.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. MacKenzie, Mr. Lyman recognized Mr. Dickinson who advised that he tapes several Town meetings so that citizens who are unable to attend can view the meetings on-line.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Gelston, Mr. Lyman stated that he did not know what portion of the 7.4% increase to the budget comprises the expense of the state's shifting a portion of the cost of the teachers' pension program to the Town; however, he noted the amount included in the proposed budget for that potential expense is \$1,016,000.00.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. Cross, Mr. Lyman advised that he did not have the dollar value of the 7.4% increase at his fingertips.

## 7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman provided an update on Shagbark's solar project and reiterated that the only concern is whether or not Eversource can complete their connections in a timely manner.
- B. Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the proposal to amend the "Solid Waste" ordinance and provide for a citation hearing procedure. In response to a question from Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman stated that he did not anticipate any employees would be added to the payroll to staff a citation review board.

The Selectmen discussed whether to add the proposed amendment to the Ordinance Book immediately or wait until it has been approved. Mr. Lyman recognized Town Clerk Denette who stated that she would prefer waiting until after it has been approved to add the proposed

amendment to the Ordinance Book. In response to a question from Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman confirmed that this item would remain on the Board of Selectmen's agenda.

8. New Business

- A. Transfer Station Fee Waiver – Hadlyme Congregational Church: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a form in their meeting packets completed by the Hadlyme Congregational Church, dated April 17, 2017, requesting a Transfer Station Fee Waiver.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the application to waive Transfer Station fees for the Hadlyme Congregational Church for a microwave oven and electric range as requested in their April 2017 letter. Unanimous aye.

- 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 a tax refund in the amount as presented.

- \$218.34 to Honda Lease Trust.

Unanimous aye.

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

- Mr. Randy Dill distributed informational materials regarding software that allows for the collection, processing, and issuing of tickets and citations. He noted that the Town's tax collector may currently be using this or a similar software package.

He also noted that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commissions denied Parks & Recreations application for a \$750,000.00 project because it was incomplete.

- In response to a question from Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman reiterated that, per the request of the Town Clerk, the board would work towards codifying the revised ordinance book before adding the amended Solid Waste ordinance.

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

- Mr. Lyman advised that planning for the Memorial Day parade has begun and, based on the recommendation of Mr. Mansfield, the Town will close William F. Palmer Road to vehicle traffic and use it as the staging area in lieu of the Old Middle School. He noted that the parade committee will meet at 6:00pm on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Malavasi advised that he met with Robin Callahan of the Local Prevention Council to discuss the state's consideration of legalizing marijuana. He noted that Ms. Callahan will reach out to Recreation Director Quinn and encourage her to join other Recreation Directors around the state who are objecting to the terminology "recreational marijuana". He further advised that Ms. Callahan suggested drafting a letter to the editor for publication in the East Haddam News outlining their objections to the state's proposal. Mr. Malavasi stated he would be one of the signers of the letter and Mr. Lyman stated that he would also like to sign the letter.

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 7:50 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Link, Secretary