

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
May 17, 2017
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; C. Brownell; R. Casner; J. Cozean; W. Cross; C. Dickinson; T. Dickinson; R. Dill; V. Garofalo; T. Gelston; J. Golec; B. Parker; 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 April 19, 2017 and Special Meeting of May 10, 2017.

Regular Meeting of April 19, 2017: Mr. Malavasi noted that, under the minutes for the Selectmen's discussion, all references to Kaitlin Hagan should be replaced with the name "Robin Callahan". Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2017 as amended. Unanimous aye.

Special Meeting of May 10, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 10, 2017 as written. Mr. Malavasi abstained from the vote and the motion passed with a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence:
 - A. Peddler Permit – Trinity Solar: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a materials in their meeting packet regarding issuing a peddlers permit to Mr. Brian Kelleher of Trinity Solar. He stated that citizens may note Mr. Kelleher as a vendor around Town.
 - B. User Handout from the Water Pollution Control Authority: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a notice from the East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority, dated May, 2017. He stated the notice provides citizens and businesses using the Town's sewer lines of do's and don'ts regarding the sewers.
 - C. Resident Letter – Bashan Road: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Cheryl Duey of 75 Bashan Road. He noted Ms. Duey complained about damage to her lawn from snowplows and advised that a barrier would be installed next winter to protect her lawn. He noted that all such barriers must comply with the set-back regulations so they don't interfere with the Town's right of way.
5. First Selectmen's Report:
 - A. Senior Services Update – Brad Parker/Commission on Aging: Mr. Lyman advised that he had invited Mr. Parker and representatives from the Commission on Aging (COA) to attend the meeting to respond to Mr. Malavasi's concerns regarding recent changes to the rules for use of the Senior Center by outside organizations.

Mr. Malavasi reiterated his concerns regarding changes implemented by the COA related to restricting use of the kitchen and serving of alcoholic beverages by outside organizations. Mr. Parker noted that the rules regarding use of the Senior Center should be expected to evolve over time. He stated that the kitchen is a licensed facility and is regularly inspected by the Health Department. As such, the COA felt it prudent to limit the use of the kitchen to Senior Center staff. He also stated that while, celebratory toasts were originally permitted, the COA was concerned about the expanding the use of beer and wine at events hosted in the facility.

Mr. Malavasi stated that he feels the Town ordinance related to the Senior Center does not give the COA authority to make such changes. The Selectmen agreed to leave this item on the agenda for further discussion.

- B. Shared Services Report – May: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of the May 2017 Shared Services Report, in their meeting packets and reviewed several items on the report.

Mr. Lyman also reported on the following items:

- Matthew Budzick, a former East Haddam resident, has been appointed to the Connecticut Supreme Court.
- State work on two bridges on Route 82 will begin soon. He warned citizens about traffic slow-downs around the worksite and stated that the bridge repairs will take approximately two years to complete.
- He reviewed the critical dates for the proposed 2017/2018 budget and noted that it includes a \$283k reduction in spending. Mr. Lyman reviewed the budget expenditures and proposed mill rates for several surrounding towns and noted that East Haddam’s budget and mill rate increase is well within the average for the area.
- He advised that a grand opening ceremony for the Town’s new disc golf course will be held on Saturday, May 20th.

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

- Ms. Branscombe stated that she was having trouble hearing the Selectmen and asked them to speak up. In response to her inquiry regarding the radio tower under construction at Mt. Parnassus, Mr. Lyman advised that the original plans called for a tower 60’ higher; however, the rules regarding the foundation for a tower of that height had changed after the base had been installed limiting the height of the tower.
- Mr. Dill stated that he agreed with Mr. Malavasi’s opinion that the Town ordinance for the Senior Center may not give the COA authority to make changes regarding the rules for outside use of the facility.
- Mr. Brownell expressed concern regarding the impact of traffic detouring around the bridge repair work on Rt. 82 on Petticoat Lane. He requested that the police be notified to monitor traffic more closely during the construction period.
- In response to a question from Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman clarified that there are approximately 25k visits annually to the Senior Center, not 25k visitors. There was a brief discussion regarding

items purchased for the Senior Center by the Senior Club. Ms. Dickinson also expressed her displeasure that Mr. Parker had “apologized to Ms. Pappas at CRT for Ms. Dickinson calling her”. She stated that she has every right to contact an organization and requested that Mr. Parker be reprimanded and a note placed in his personnel file.

- Mr. Gelston noted that it is not clear what the problem is with serving alcohol at the Senior Center that led to the change in the rules. He encouraged the COA to be specific in what their issues and concerns are so that the problem can be appropriately addressed.

In response to questions from Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman provided the following information:

- Regarding the state’s work on Route 82, Mr. Lyman clarified that one lane will be closed and only alternate one-way traffic will be accommodated and that no detour route(s) will be marked. There was a brief discussion regarding traffic concerns.
- He confirmed that no Town funds have been used to construct the Mt. Parnassus Tower. Mr. Gelston expressed concern about a delay in the project.
- The Town’s property re-valuation project is underway; however, he was not able to provide a specific wrap-up date.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. Cross, Mr. Lyman advised that cities and towns will not know what the impact of the Connecticut budget will be on their budgets until the state’s budget is finalized which could be as late as August. He noted that there are many versions of the state’s budget on the table and that cities and towns have done the best they can to craft their budgets using the information and expert advice available to them.
- In response to a question from Ms. Branscombe, Mr. Lyman confirmed that more information on the budget will be available at the May 24th Town Meeting. He encouraged citizens to submit their questions in advance to the email address included in the Citizen’s Guide to the Budget. It was noted that many residents did not receive the Guide in the mail and Mr. Lyman provided a supply for those in attendance.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman provided an update on Shagbark’s solar project and stated that the Town had incurred a minor legal fee of \$37 to complete an additional document related to the project. There was a brief discussion regarding the fees paid for the project’s building permit and Building Official Vincent Garofalo stated that he believed all permit fees have been paid to the Town and he expects the Building Department’s work on the project to come in within that permitted budget.
- B. Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment Discussion: There was no update on the agenda item.

In response to a request from Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman agreed to add the Ordinance Book Review to the next meeting’s agenda.

8. New Business

- A. Beer & Wine Service Request – Rathbun Library: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to an email in their meeting packets from Michael Gilroy, dated May 10, 2017. He noted that the Library is hosting an appreciation event on June 7th and would like to serve beer and wine.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve beer and wine service at the Rathbun Library for an “Appreciation Event” on June 7, 2017. Unanimous aye.

- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EHVRC): Mr. Lyman advised that the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee needs to be reactivated to work on repurposing the East Haddam Village area. He called the Selectmen’s attention to an application from Robert Casner in their meeting packets and an email from Mary Ellen Klinck informing him of her resignation from the committee. The Selectmen reviewed the list of Committee members.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mary Ellen Klinck from the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to appoint Robert Casner to fill a vacancy as a regular member on the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee with a term to expire at the completion of the project. Unanimous aye.

- 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.

- \$101.92 to Marianne Ziel.

Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to a question from Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman read the charge for the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee.
- Mr. Dill referenced a recommendation he made at the recent Board of Finance meeting that, in light of the current fiscal challenges, certain staff cuts should be considered. He disputed Mr. Lyman’s assertion that the cuts should not be made because the Building and Land Use departments’ responsibilities are very different. Mr. Lyman stated that there is a need for a full-time clerical position in the Building Department since the Town’s Building Official position is in transition. He agreed that all positions should be reevaluated once the move to the new Town Office Building is completed. Mr. Dill also suggested moving the Water Pollution Control Authority under the Public Works Department where there would be engineering oversight. Mr. Gelston supported Mr. Dill’s recommendation for staffing cuts.
- Mr. Garofalo introduced himself as the Town’s acting part-time Building Official. He stated that reducing the clerical staff coverage in the Building Department would be “catastrophic” for customer service. He further stated that it would be difficult for the Town to attract qualified candidates for a part-time Building Official position.

- Mr. Blaschik questioned whether there would be any impactful savings from cutting clerical positions.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. Budget Town Meeting (May 24, 2017): Mr. Lyman reminded the Selectmen and those in attendance of the date of the Town Meeting scheduled to discuss the proposed budget.
- B. Memorial Day Parade (May 29, 2017): Mr. Lyman reviewed the plans for the Memorial Day Parade.
- C. Budget Referendum (June 6, 2017): Mr. Lyman reminded the Selectmen and those in attendance of the date of the 2017/2018 Budget Referendum.

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 8:25 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary