

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
June 21, 2017  
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; C. Brownell; B. Cross; C. Dickinson; T. Dickinson; T. Gelston; M. Grant; A. Jackman; C. Mansfield; R. Pettinelli; R. Smith; C. Varricchio; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Lyman stated that he wanted to add the following item to the agenda:

5.E. – Shared Services Report - June

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 7, 2017 and Special Meeting of June 12, 2017

Regular Meeting of June 7, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 7, 2017 as written. Unanimous aye.

Special Meeting of June 12, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 12, 2017 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

- A. Peddlers Permit – Southwestern Advantage: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Town Clerk Deb Denette, dated June 8, 2017, issuing a peddler's license to Paul Stevens of Southwestern Advantage. Mr. Lyman stated that Mr. Stevens had been properly vetted by the Town Clerk to sell educational systems in Town.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, it was confirmed that the Town does not receive any revenue from out-of-town peddlers.

Mr. Lyman read a letter from the Director of the Town's Facilities and Operations, dated June 20, 2017, thanking Michael Olzacki, Head Grounds Maintainer, for his efforts preparing the Town dock for the June 19<sup>th</sup> DEEP tour. Mr. Lyman reviewed the event and noted who was in attendance at the tour.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Lyman noted that there were a number of presentations this evening and as such he would be allowing public comment for that particular topic after each of the presentations.
  - A. Clean Energy Communities – Home Energy Solutions Presentation – Alison Jackman: Ms. Jackman stated that she works for Eversource's Clean Energies Program. She noted that East

Haddam joined the program in 2014 and, since that time, has earned a \$5,000.00 “Bright Ideas” grant. She stated the grant can be used to subsidize the fee for energy efficient audits for Town residents. She advised that the Town can instruct Eversource on how they would like to allocate the subsidies and Eversource will handle informing the public and all recordkeeping responsibilities. There was a general discussion about the program and Ms. Jackman responded to several questions from the Selectmen and the public. The Selectmen thanked Ms. Jackman for the information she had provided.

- B. Plan of Conservation & Development Update Presentation – Planning & Zoning: Mr. Brownell reiterated that the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) is updating the Plan of Conservation & Development and is available to respond to questions from the Selectmen and assist them in updating their sections. He recommended that the Selectmen consider what projects their Board would like to accomplish over the next ten years and how they plan on accomplishing them.

The Selectmen and Mr. Brownell discussed logistics for the project and Mr. Brownell stated that representatives of P&Z would be happy to meet with the Selectmen to assist them with their updates. He noted that P&Z would like to receive their input by the end of October.

Mr. Lyman opened the meeting to questions/comments from the public. Mr. Gelston discussed the value of open space and Mr. Mansfield noted that the Village revitalization project will be an integral part of the Town’s 10-year plan.

- C. Municipal Office Building Committee Update – Craig Mansfield, Chairman: Mr. Mansfield reported that Phase I of the Municipal Office building project is just about completed. He stated that the Committee negotiated a Guaranteed Maximum Price contract with Downes Construction for Phases I and II and also noted that some contractors have begun preliminary work on Phase II of the project. He emphasized that the committee is committed to using local contractors whenever possible and to bringing the project in on-budget.

Mr. Mansfield reported that the committee feels that the end of January 2018 is still a realistic timeframe for handing the building over to the Town. He responded to several questions from the Selectmen and the public. Mr. Lyman thanked Mr. Mansfield for the update.

- D. Town Wide Radio System Building Committee Update – Craig Mansfield, Chairman: Mr. Mansfield reported that the Town wide radio system project is progressing slower than the committee would like and noted a number of the issues they have been addressing. He reviewed several of the sites under consideration and noted that the committee is looking into how to access sites at a reasonable cost.

Mr. Mansfield advised that the committee will be meeting with the Board of Education to discuss the possibility of using the Middle School as one of their sites. He reviewed particulars about the Mt. Parnassus site and responded to several questions from the Selectmen and the public. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Mansfield for his update.

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

Mr. Lyman reviewed research done on citizens’ concerns raised in previous meetings and provide the following information:

- The state is responsible for mowing of the lawn at the intersection of Maple and Town Streets; however, he spoke with the Ballek's and they mowed the grass to improve the sight lines.
- Mr. Lyman discussed a letter received from Kevin Staehly recommending specific cuts in the Agriculture and Economic Development Commissions' budgets. Mr. Staehly had requested the letter to be reviewed at the Tri-Board meeting on June 12. Mr. Lyman noted that the letter had been submitted 4 hours prior to the meeting and was not properly vetted by the respective commissions so as a result was not offered for the June 12 meeting. He noted that the Ag Commission implemented Mr. Staehly's recommendation and the Economic Development Commission will consider Mr. Staehly's recommendation at a special meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- He reviewed emails from Parks & Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn outlining their policies and hiring practices for summer employees. It was noted that jobs are posted in a number of local and social media sources and that all of the local applicants that applied were offered positions.

6. Citizens' Concerns: The following citizen's concerns were raised:

- In response to a question raised by Ms. Grant, it was confirmed that the state owns the swingbridge and that there is one camera under the bridge keeper's house. Mr. Mansfield stated that he does not believe the camera maintains a recording of any kind.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. Gelston, Ms. Varricchio advised that the Town's financial adviser is William Lindsey with IBIC out of Madison, CT.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that he has spoken with the contractors of the solar array at Shagbark who told him they expect the system to be operational in July. He advised that Shagbark has sold the solar array to General Energy Solutions, USA, Inc. He called the Selectmen's attention to a letter of opinion from Attorney Roberts to Mr. Chen of General Energy Solutions, regarding the Town's agreement with Shagbark. Mr. Lyman noted that the letter confirms that the Board of Selectmen has not "... undertaken any official act to terminate" its virtual net metering credit assignment agreement with Shagbark.

In response to a question from Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the letter was requested by the company that purchased the solar array from Shagbark.

- B. Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment Discussion: This agenda item is tabled until the Selectmen until the updated Ordinance Book has been adopted.
- C. Senior Center Usage Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to emails in their meeting packets from Brad Parker, dated June 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, addressing the research he had done on Bethlehem's rental of its Senior Citizens' facility and the food service operation at the Center.

It was noted that, at the June 7<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting, Mr. Lusignan incorrectly referred to the town of Bethlehem's rental program; however, he meant to refer to the town of Bethel's program. Mr. Lyman noted he would ask Mr. Parker to research Bethel's town building rental program.

Mr. Lyman reviewed Mr. Parker's June 21<sup>st</sup> email and noted that a licensed food service operator must be present whenever the Senior Center kitchen is used. In response to comments from Mr. Malavasi and Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman noted that the Commission on Aging must get back to them regarding the issue of serving beer and wine at the Center during events hosted by outside organizations.

## 8. New Business

- A. Renewal of Grant Application with Middlesex Hospital for Paramedic Services: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of the Amendment to Agreement between the Town and Middlesex Hospital. He advised it is part of the annual renewal of the grant for paramedic services and noted that the hospital will not impose the planned \$1 per capita increase in cost this year.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, that Emmett J. Lyman, First Selectmen, is hereby authorized to sign a one year renewal of the Grant Application with Middlesex Hospital for Paramedic Services with a term from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Unanimous aye.

- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (REC, AGC): The following Board/Commission/Committee changes were discussed:

### **Recreation Commission**

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email in their meeting packets from Tiffany Quinn, dated June 13, 2017, advising of recommendations for reappointments and a new Recreation Commissioner.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to reappoint Madeline Francese and Charles Grillo as regular members for three-year terms to expire July 1, 2020 on the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to appoint Tina Piscioti as a regular member to fill a vacancy on the Recreation Commission with a term to expire July 1, 2020. Unanimous aye.

### **Agriculture Commission**

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter dated June 19, 2017, noting a resignation from the Agriculture Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Marianne Halpin as a regular member of the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

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

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to award a tax refund in the amount as presented.

- \$256.52 to Ally Bank.

Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to a comment from Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman stated that the Ambulance Association is an independent organization and, as part of their contract with the Town, any funds in its account in excess of \$400,000.00 revert to the Town on an annual basis. He further advised that the funds from the sale of the old ambulance will go into the Association's account; however, going forward, the Town will receive the funds resulting from the sale of old ambulances.
- In response to questions from Ms. Branscombe:
  - Mr. Lyman advised that it is the prerogative of Shagbark to sell their solar array and Mr. Malavasi noted that this is often the standard operating procedure in such projects.
  - Mr. Malavasi reiterated details about the Commission on Aging's actions regarding use of the Senior Center kitchen and serving beer and wine by outside organizations.
- In response to comments from Mr. Gelston:
  - Mr. Lyman stated that Shagbark sold the solar array hardware and business to General Energy Solutions, USA, Inc. and is leasing the land it is housed on to them. Further, that, per the agreement Shagbark signed with the Town for virtual net-metering benefits, the Town is not responsible for any of the hardware.
  - Ms. Varricchio stated that Blum Shapiro is the Town's auditor and that the Town signed a 3-year contract with them that is extendable on a year-by-year basis.
  - Mr. Lyman reiterated that the re-valuation residential inspections are projected to be completed by January 18, 2018.
- Ms. Dickinson recommended that the revaluation company update its schedule on the Town's website.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. Neighborhood Assistance Act Public Hearing (June 26, 2017 @6:30 p.m.): Mr. Lyman reminded the Selectmen and public of this public hearing.
- B. Budget Public Hearing (June 27, 2017 @ 7 p.m.): Mr. Lyman reminded the Selectmen and public of this public hearing and advised that it will be followed by a meeting of the Boards of Finance and Selectmen who will set a mill rate and send same to a Town Meeting.

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 9:01 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Link, Secretary