

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
August 16, 2017
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: K. Barrows; A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; L. Branscombe; C. Brownell; K. Budnick; D. Dill; R. Dill; T. Gelston; A. Jansky; J. Jansky; B. Lunt; C. Varricchio; 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 Mr. Malavasi, to approve the agenda as written.
Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of July 18, 2017; Regular Meeting of July 19, 2017 and Regular Meeting of August 2, 2017

Special Meeting of July 18, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 18, 2017 as written. Unanimous aye.

Regular Meeting of July 19, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 19, 2017 as written. Unanimous aye.

Regular Meeting of August 2, 2017: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 2, 2017 as written. Ms. Link abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence

- A. Letters from Governor Malloy/Office of Policy and Management/Town of Tolland: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Governor Malloy, dated August 2, 2017 to Secretary Barnes of the CT Office of Policy Management. He reviewed the contents of that letter and a follow-up letter from Secretary Barnes to the Town, dated August 7, 2017, requesting General Fund information for FY 2017 (estimated) and FY 2018 (projected). The Selectmen agreed that the governor is intending to have Connecticut towns, who are fiscally solvent, help support the cities who are in poor fiscal shape.

Mr. Lyman, also called the Selectmen's attention to a letter to Secretary Barnes, dated August 8, 2017, from the Town Manager of Tolland.

- B. Johnsonville Neighborhood Appreciation Day: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a flier in their meeting packets from the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) inviting the public to a Meet & Greet at Johnsonville on August 26, 2017. There was a brief discussion regarding the Church's plans for the property.

- C. Employee Appreciation Emails: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to copies of two emails in their meeting packets. The first email, from Kathleen Quinn, dated August 6, 2017, commended Library Director Gilroy for "*his outstanding customer service*". The second email, from David Sloan, dated August 13, 2017, praised local officers Smith and Karabinikoff who visited Mr. Sloan's house in response to a property damage complaint. Mr. Sloan stated that the officers "*went above and beyond*" and he hoped they could be publicly praised and thanked.

The Selectmen agreed that the emails should be included in the HR files of Director Gilroy, Officer Smith and Officer Karabinikoff.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Lyman reported the following:

- The annual Venture Smith memorial event will be held on September 9th at 1:00 p.m. at the First Church of Christ cemetery.
- He reviewed the details of the George Comer celebratory event which will be held on September 13, 15 and 16.
- He has been notified that the Swing Bridge will be refurbished in 2019/2020 and that the current plan is to build a walkway on the south side of the bridge. He advised the construction of the walkway will be paid for by state and federal funds. Mr. Lyman noted that a public informational meeting regarding the proposed project will be held on October 2, 2017 at 7:00pm.

- A. Shared Services Report – July/August: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of the July/August Shared Services Report in their meeting packets and review several items in the report.

6. Citizens' Concerns:

The following citizens' concerns were raised:

- In response to concerns raised by Mr. Gelston,
 - Mr. Lyman noted that Roberts Rules only requires motions and their outcome be reported in the board minutes. He noted, however, that if there is a material misrepresentation in transcription of Citizens' Concerns or Public Comment they would do their best to correct it.
 - Mr. Lyman reiterated that plans for a walkway on the Swing Bridge is to address safety concerns for people crossing on foot and bicycles. Further, that the cost would be absorbed by the state and federal governments.
- Ms. Barrows reviewed how she has recorded Citizens Concerns and Public Comment in the Old Saybrook board minutes.
- In response to a concern raised by Ms. Branscombe, Mr. Lyman stated that he has no figures regarding accidents involving pedestrians on the Swing Bridge.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that the state electrical inspector signed off on the Shagbark solar array. In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Ms. Varricchio advised that the Board of Finance discussed the need for a process to track the Town's solar credits at their last meeting; however, she cannot set up the process until the Board of Education receives its first bill from Eversource reflecting a net payment due after credits have been applied.
- B. Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment/Transfer Station Discussion: Mr. Lyman reviewed the research he had done on the Transfer Station. He outlined the goals he felt needed to be achieved and several potential solutions. He noted that education would play a significant role in improvements to the Town's rate of recycling.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution to re-establish a Transfer Station Committee:

RESOLVED: That a Transfer Station Committee of five (5) regular members and one (1) alternate member, be appointed, for the purpose of investigation and study of ways in which solid waste operating practices and policies in the Town of East Haddam can be improved at the Town's Transfer Station. This committee shall consider, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- Review statewide objectives for recyclable waste as a percentage of municipal solid waste and how this will impact our transfer station operation.
- Consistency of existing conditions within the framework of DEEP solid waste planning guidelines and the General Permit.
- Evaluate the expenses and revenue structure of the Transfer Station in order to develop a ten (10) year capital plan for continued operations.
- Evaluate an ordinance to reduce littering, including the creation of a review board for general use.
- Evaluate our existing Identification Sticker system to ensure only residents have access to our Transfer Station.
- Review Transfer Station operational practices for safety.

The committee shall report findings back to the Board of Selectmen within 60 days and shall make its report in the context of sustainability of the physical plant, effects on users, effects on taxpayers and economic impact on local business.

The Selectmen discussed the Resolution and agreed to the following changes:

- The Transfer Station Committee shall consist of five (5) regular members and two (2) alternate members.
- Add: Evaluate potential regionalization opportunities.

- The last paragraph shall be revised to read: *“The committee shall report findings back to the Board of Selectmen within 60 days and shall make its final report in the context of sustainability of the physical plant, effects on users, effects on taxpayers and economic impact on local business within 120 days.”*

The final resolution after discussion is:

RESOLVED: That a Transfer Station Committee of five (5) regular members and two (2) alternate members, be appointed, for the purpose of investigation and study of ways in which solid waste operating practices and policies in the Town of East Haddam can be improved at the Town’s Transfer Station. This committee shall consider, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- Review statewide objectives for recyclable waste as a percentage of municipal solid waste and how this will impact our transfer station operation.
- Consistency of existing conditions within the framework of DEEP solid waste planning guidelines and the General Permit.
- Evaluate the expenses and revenue structure of the Transfer Station in order to develop a ten (10) year capital plan for continued operations.
- Evaluate an ordinance to reduce littering, including the creation of a review board for general use.
- Evaluate our existing Identification Sticker system to ensure only residents have access to our Transfer Station.
- Review Transfer Station operational practices for safety.
- Evaluate potential regionalization opportunities.

The committee shall report findings back to the Board of Selectmen within 60 days and shall make its final report in the context of sustainability of the physical plant, effects on users, effects on taxpayers and economic impact on local business within 120 days.

The Resolution with suggested changes passed by a unanimous aye vote.

- C. Senior Center Usage Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that CIRMA had confirmed that Town Boards, Commissions, etc., are covered by the Town’s insurance for events in Town facilities and where beer and wine are served and, further, it is following an appropriate process for ensuring that external organizations have insurance coverage for the use of Town facilities where beer and wine are served. He also noted that the Commission on Aging is still discussing the use of the Senior Center by external organizations.

8. New Business

- A. Call for Town Meeting: Mr. Lyman reviewed the call for a Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Town Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of \$4,000 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, State Library, for the purpose of historic document preservation and appropriated to the Historic Document Preservation Fund (account 26041-43000); and that Emmett J. Lyman, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Document Preservation Grant.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift in the amount of \$10,000 from the East Haddam Lions Club for the purpose of lighting at the Heritage Park Walking Trail (revenue account 29545-44850) and expense account 29544230-57300).

Unanimous aye.

- B. Gift Acceptance – Greg Spencer Artwork Donations: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to a memo in their meeting packets from Town Clerk Denette, dated August 3, 2017, noting that the Town received a donation of two pieces of artwork from Greg Spencer. Ms. Denette’s memo asked that the Selectmen move the acceptance of the gift to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept a gift of two pieces of artwork from Greg Spencer and send acceptance of said gift to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EHVRC):

East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to the meeting minutes from the July 26, 2017 East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee meeting. The committee made recommendations to appoint Mark Walter as an alternate member to the committee. Mr. Lyman noted that Mr. Walter’s party affiliation was confirmed with the Registrars and he is a registered Republican.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to appoint Mark Walter to fill a vacant term as an alternate member on the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee with a term to expire at the completion of the project. Unanimous aye.

- D. 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.

- \$485.61 to David Sinnott.
- Unanimous aye.

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

- Mr. Dill stated that he appreciated the research Mr. Lyman had done on the Transfer Station but was disappointed that more of the previous committees' recommendations were not discussed. Mr. Lyman confirmed that the reports of the previous committees would be passed on to the new Transfer Station committee. He stated that he would also like to discuss revisions to the Transfer Station ordinance with Mr. Dill.
- In response to a comment from Ms. Barrows, Mr. Lyman reviewed the employee coverage at the Transfer Station and noted that it would be difficult, with the current budget, to add employees.
- In response to a request from Ms. Branscombe, Mr. Lyman re-read the motion in item A under Unfinished Business, Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment Discussion.
- In response to a comment from Mr. Brownell, Mr. Lyman noted that he had planned to remind the Selectmen to review the Plan of Conservation and Development during the Selectmen's Discussion portion of the meeting.
- Ms. Jansky stated that she supported the bag system as a motivation to improve the Town's recycling rate and Mr. Jansky noted that educating young people is key to better recycling rates.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

Mr. Lyman asked the Selectmen to begin their review of the Plan of Conservation and Development in preparation for a discussion of appropriate revisions.

A. Comer Memorial Events – (9/13, 9/15 & 9/16): Mr. Lyman reminded the Selectmen and public of the upcoming Comer Memorial events on September 13, 15, and 16, 2017.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary