

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
September 6, 2016
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; C. Brownell; K. Budnick; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; J. Moreau; J. Nemergut; C. Read; J. Ventres; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Lyman advised that he would like to add the following item to the agenda: 8.G. – Beer & Wine Approval – Grange Hall

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of August 16, 2017

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 16, 2017 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Lyman advised that in response to a few questions that were asked at last night's Town meeting regarding the Heritage Park Lighting project he confirmed that the project was reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission and that the nominal distance between the lights is 60', however, the actual distance will be approximately 55'-57' and 40' at the corners.

A. Hurricane Preparedness: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email in their meeting packets, dated September 5, 2017, from the Region 3 Regional Coordinator for the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. He noted that the email provided storm preparedness tips for the hurricane season. Mr. Lyman also encouraged residents, especially those with special needs, to complete a form advising of their address and special need(s) for the Town to keep on-hand for emergency situations.

6. Citizen's Concerns: The following citizen's concerns were raised at the meeting:
 - In response to a question from Mr. Moreau, Mr. Lyman advised that the Ambulance Association will cut a check to the Town after they have closed their books for the fiscal year.

Mr. Moreau also expressed concern about the Superintendent of Schools receiving a raise during very tight budgetary times and when other Town employees were given very small salary increases. He noted that he did not know if that was a fact, but if it is, he hoped the Selectmen would express their disappointment to the Board of Education. He further expressed his disappointment in the Board of Education filling the vacant Assistant Principal position at the high school during these economic times.

Mr. Moreau also expressed his dissatisfaction that beer and wine had been served at the Fire Department's recent "Wetdown" celebration and of the staff's behavior at the event. He noted Colchester had to respond to a mutual aid call in East Haddam during the event. Mr. Lyman advised that the Fire Department had provided coverage during the Wetdown celebration and he is currently investigating why a mutual aid call went out for a Colchester ambulance.

- In response to a question from Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman advised that the Town dock is 26' and can accommodate boats of that size and larger.
- Ms. Gelston expressed her disappointment that First Selectman Lyman appeared to take credit for research on the operations of the Transfer Station when several citizens had previously done research and made a number of recommendations. She expressed criticism of the Transfer Station staff and disappointment in the East Haddam News article.
- Ms. Budnick advised that she had written the Transfer Station article for the East Haddam News as part of her reporting on discussions at the Selectmen's meetings. She stated she had not intended to have the article sound as if Mr. Lyman was taking all the credit for the research done on the Transfer Station operations and apologized if it had done so.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that the solar array is operational and running well. He stated that there will be an open house to celebrate the successful completion of the project on September 9, 2017.
- B. Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment/Transfer Station Discussion: Mr. Lyman solicited volunteers to serve on the Transfer Station Committee. In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman advised that no applications had been received to date.
- C. Senior Center Usage Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that he will attend next Monday's Senior Club meeting. In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the furnishings and other items the Club is concerned about had been gifted to the Town.
- D. Plan of Conservation and Development: Mr. Lyman advised that the Planning and Zoning Commission will be issuing an RFQ/RFP for consultants to assist with updating

the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. He encouraged the Selectmen to review the appropriate section of the Plan and be prepared to provide feedback.

8. New Business

- A. Wigwam Road Septic Easement Discussion: Mr. Lyman recognized Mr. Ventres and Mr. Nemergut. Mr. Ventres advised that he had been aware of septic concerns at 26 Wigwam Road for several years. He noted a recent septic failure had led to discussions about where a new septic system could be installed. Since it is not possible to construct a new system on the property, the owner is seeking an easement on abutting Town property to install a sub-surface septic system.

Mr. Ventres stated that there are four affordable housing units on the property and a new septic system would keep them viable. In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Ventres advised that the property owner paid for the engineer's drawings. The Selectmen agreed that, if an easement is to be issued, it should be at no cost to the Town.

- B. Bid Award – Replacement of Bone Mill Road Bridge: Mr. Lyman reported that eight contractors responded to the Town's construction bid request for this project. He noted that Public Works Director Lunt provided the consulting engineers report on their review of the bids. Mr. Lyman reviewed the low bid and read WMC Consulting Engineers' Award Recommendation.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director and design engineer Wengell, McDonnell & Costello, Inc. and award the contract for Replacement of Bone Mill Road Bridge over Hungerford Brook to TradeMark Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$191,190.00. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Lyman advised that the state will pay 47.5% of the cost of replacing the bridge. He reviewed the timeline for the project and noted that the final installation of the new bridge would not be earlier than January or February of 2018.

- C. Municipal Office Complex Propane Service and Supply Agreement Discussion: Mr. Lyman explained the bid process for propane service for this project and called the Selectmen's attention to materials related to the bids in their meeting packets. He noted that Osterman Propane LLC was the low bidder. Mr. Lyman advised that Osterman Propane LLC will provide the four propane tanks and piping to the building at no charge with a three year contract on the purchase of propane. He stated that the supplier agreed to sell the propane to the Town at Sellkirk plus \$.30 for the three year term and that the contract's term begins on the first delivery of propane, which is scheduled for December 1, 2017.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Town with Osterman Propane LLC for the purchase of propane for the new municipal complex at sellkirk plus \$.30 for a three year

period from December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2020, and send approval of the three-year contract to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Ms. Zemienieski stated that the erroneous reference to a 5-year term in the contract will be corrected before it is signed.
Unanimous aye.

- D. Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled ordinance. He noted that, by statute, it is the Board of Finance that sets the terms of the tax relief ordinance but the Selectmen can make a recommendation. He stated that both the Assessor and Finance Director would like to modify the ordinance by deleting the reference to its effectiveness being limited to specific Grand List years.

There was a general discussion regarding moving the recommendation for tax relief forward and waiting for their comprehensive review of the ordinance book to change the language of the ordinance. Mr. Lyman reviewed the procedure for changing Town ordinances and noted any amendment would have to be approved at a Town Meeting. Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to recommend to the Board of Finance that the ordinance be amended to eliminate the effective Grand List years, as recommended by the Assessor, prior to sending the ordinance amendment to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- E. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (MOBC)

Municipal Office Building Committee

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter dated August 10, 2017, from Charles Dickinson advising of his resignation from the Municipal Office Building.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Charles Dickinson as an alternate member on the Municipal Office Building Committee. Unanimous aye.

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

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

- \$832.54 to Nissan Infiniti LT, and
- \$711.69 to VCFS Auto Leasing Company.

Unanimous aye.

- G. Beer & Wine Service Approval – Grange Hall: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from Janis Truckenbrodt Hyatt, dated July 29, 2017,

requesting permission to serve beer and wine at the Grange Hall for a bridal shower on September 16th.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Grange Hall for a “Bridal Shower” on September 16, 2017. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

The following public comment was discussed:

- R. Dill thanked Selectwoman Link for stating that the Town should not incur any cost for the 26 Wigwam Road easement request.
- In response to a request from Mr. Dill, Selectman Malavasi provided him with a copy of the Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled ordinance.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. Read, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Bone Mill Road Bridge will be a wooden bridge with wooden guardrails.
- In response to a question from Mr. Read, Mr. Lyman advised that the tax abatement for the elderly and disabled is approximately \$50k per year. Mr. Read stated that he feels it is irresponsible to change the ordinance to an open-ended term in the current uncertain budgetary climate. Ms. Dill noted that the abatement is only offered to low-income senior and disabled residents.
- Ms. Gelston requested an application for the Transfer Station Committee.
- In response to a concern raised by Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman re-read WMC Consulting Engineers’ endorsement of the contractor who was awarded the contract to replace the Bone Mill Road Bridge.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion

- A. Comer Memorial Events (9/13, 9/15 & 9/16): Mr. Lyman reminded the Selectmen and public of the upcoming memorial events that will be held in honor of Captain George Comer.

Mr. Lyman also noted that a ceremony honoring Venture Smith will be held Saturday, September 9th, at the Congregational Church’s cemetery.

9. 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 8:01 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary