

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
September 20, 2017
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: A. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; C. Brownell; R. Casner; D. Denette; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; I. Haines; J. Moreau; K. O'Boyle; C. Riling; C. Varricchio; 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: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of September 6, 2017 and Special Meeting of September 13, 2017.

Ms. Link suggested the following change to the September 6, 2017 meeting minutes: Page 2 – *“In response to a question from Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman advised that the Town dock ~~was built to accommodate boats 26'~~ is 26' and can accommodate boats of that size and larger.”*

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2017, as amended. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 13, 2017 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. Thank You Email to Public Works: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email from Ronald Turner, dated September 14, 2017, in their meeting packets. He noted that Mr. Turner thanked Public Works Director Lunt for her department's assistance in preparing the sites for two sheds.

5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman reported the following:

- Public Works is in the process of making improvements to the school bus turnaround on Trowbridge Road.
 - A ceremony honoring Venture Smith was held last weekend and several notable speakers made presentations.
 - He thanked Ms. Rocznik for initiating and pursuing the recent memorial events in honor of George Comer.
- A. Shared Services Report – September: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the September Shared Services Report in their meeting packets and reviewed several of the items on the report.

6. Citizen's Concerns

The following citizen's concerns were discussed the meeting:

- Mr. Dill shared his concern about eliminating the sun setting feature of the elderly tax relief program. He stated that he supports the tax abatement program but strongly encouraged the Selectmen to keep the sun setting provision in the ordinance.
- Mr. Gelston agreed with Mr. Dill. He also expressed concern regarding the financial aspects of preparing the Town Office Site for use after the municipal offices move to Moodus. He specifically inquired about the "ground contamination" and Mr. Lyman said he would get him the details regarding that issue and potential process and expenses involved for analysis and, if needed, clean-up, before the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.
- In response to concerns raised by Ms. Riling, Finance Director Varricchio advised that EDC's request to encumber \$15k did not have the proper paperwork and was, therefore, refused and Ms. Zemienieski stated that any project costing \$15k or more would follow the Town's purchasing ordinance and be put out to bid. Mr. Lyman advised that grant funding may be available for remediation of ground contamination but not for analysis.
- In response to a question from Ms. Riling, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Town had hired a part-time Economic Development Coordinator who reports to the First Selectmen but is given direction on projects by the Economic Development Commission. He stated that, at this time, he has no plans to hire a Town Planner.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that there was a good turnout at Shagbark's celebration of the installation of its solar array. He advised that the attorneys are drafting a Memorandum of Agreement to simplify the Town's payment process so that it can submit payments directly to the financial institution that underwrote the project.

In response to questions by Mr. Malavasi, Mr. Lyman advised that the Board of Education buildings will be the recipient of the solar credit and the Memorandum of Agreement will define the process.

- B. Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment/Transfer Station Discussion: Mr. Lyman noted that the Town has received one application for the Transfer Station Committee and he encouraged attendees to consider submitting an application. Ms. Link noted the limited timeframe for getting the work done on this project and emphasized a need to move forward quickly.
- C. Senior Center Usage Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to copies of emails in their meeting packets related to the use of the Senior Center. He advised the state had issued a Bulletin limiting the use of any senior center funded by a Small Cities Grant to senior activities only. He noted that he was advised verbally that the state has been lenient in cases where a civic organization requests to use the center and rent is not charged.

There was a general discussion regarding the restriction and Mr. Malavasi stated he did not feel the Town should discriminate on which organizations can use the center. He also requested that

the Senior Center Director send a notice out to Town organizations advising that the Senior Center is no longer available for their use.

- D. Plan of Conservation and Development: Mr. Lyman reviewed the Board of Selectmen's section in the Plan of Conservation and Development. He strongly encouraged the Selectmen to identify projects that the Town may want to pursue so they can be listed in the Plan. The Selectmen tentatively agreed to hold a Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on October 18th to discuss the Plan of Conservation and Development.
- E. Ordinance Codification Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a draft cover page related to the project for the Town's website. He reviewed the parameters of the ordinance codification project. Ms. Link stated that she would like a note added to the cover page emphasizing the draft nature of the ordinances that will be put on-line for review.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve and post ordinance project introductory letter, as amended, along with the draft ordinances on the Town's website.
Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

- A. Gift Acceptance – Senior Center Shed (Senior Club): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from the East Haddam Senior Center noting that the East Haddam Senior Club purchased a shed for the Senior Center and has presented this item as a gift to the Town.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept a gift of a shed for the Senior Center valued at \$5,900.00 from the Senior Club and send acceptance of said gift to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (AGC, EDC):

Agriculture Commission

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email dated September 12, 2107 from Ron Gross, Chairman of the Agriculture Commission noting recommendations on membership for the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to reappoint Mark Henderson for a two-year term to expire January 1, 2019 as an alternate member on the Agriculture Commission.
Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to change the status of Bonnie Buongiorno from alternate member to regular member to fill a vacant term to expire January 1, 2019 on the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to appoint Ronald Distefano to a vacant alternate member term to expire January 1, 2018 on the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

Economic Development Commission

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email dated September 12, 2107, from Bob Casner, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission noting recommendations on

membership for the Commission. He noted that the recommendations were to remove two Commissioners who have not participated on the Commission for an extended period of time.

Mr. Lyman stated that he is not comfortable with removing Commissioners without receiving a letter of resignation. He stated he would like to postpone this agenda item until he speaks with both of the EDC Commissioners in question directly.

C. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to three tax refunds.

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

- \$ 78.09 to John Paardenkooper;
- \$121.27 to Michael Shatto, and
- \$195.61 to USB Leasing LT.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: The following public comment was discussed at the meeting:

- Mr. Gelston stated that he feels not allowing organizations to use the Senior Center after business hours is too restrictive.
- Ms. Riling stated that she believes renting out Town facilities would build the Town's revenue stream and that the Town shouldn't discriminate among who can use the facilities.
- Mr. Brownell expressed his frustration that other Town departments weren't advised that an Economic Development Coordinator had been hired.
- Ms. O'Boyle stated she feels it is a conflict of interest to have the Town's Economic Development Coordinator working for Haddam at the same time. Ms. Denette advised that the Coordinator is not working for Haddam at the moment.
- Mr. Gelston expressed frustration about the limited number of hours allotted to the Coordinator.
- In response to a questions raised by Ms. Riling, Mr. Casner advised that he is providing direction to the Coordinator and is aware of how much contact she has with business owners and provided more information regarding references in recent EDC minutes to possible sidewalks in the 4-Corners area.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Blaschik, Mr. Lyman advised that the attorneys have been requested to draft a Memorandum of Agreement for the Shagbark project to allow the payment process to be streamlined.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: There was no additional Selectmen's discussion at the 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 8:25 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary