

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
October 18, 2017
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; C. Brownell; D. Denette; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; G. Guidi; R. Guidi; I. Haines; K. Nickerson; C. Riling; R. Rose; R. Smith; C. Varricchio; J. Ventres; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 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 October 4, 2017.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 4, 2017, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

- A. Resident Letter – Trailer Ordinance: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets, from Richard T. Laudonat, dated October 12, 2017. It was noted that Mr. Laudonat's letter reiterated his objection to his neighbor's parking a 38' recreational trailer on his property and noted the existing Trailer Ordinance limits the size of trailers that can be parked on a homeowner's property to 26'.

Mr. Lyman asked Mr. Ventres to address the Selectmen regarding this issue. Mr. Ventres acknowledged that the current Trailer Ordinance limits the size of recreational trailer to 26'; however, he feels that the ordinance is obsolete and should be updated to be inclusive of the size of the current products on the market. He noted, that there are many trailers in excess of 26' parked on the owner's property throughout Town and, if the ordinance is enforced in this case, it should be enforced in all cases. He further stated that enforcing an obsolete ordinance could lead to lawsuits that he is relatively certain the Town would lose. Mr. Ventres noted that it is his intention to update the Trailer ordinance as soon as the current Ordinance Book is adopted.

Mr. Lyman recognized Mr. Brownell, who is the Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Brownell acknowledged that Mr. Laudonat had attended a P&Z meeting and was not allowed to speak about his complaint since the other party involved

in the dispute was not present at the meeting. He noted that the homeowner in question had readily agreed to remove his friend's trailer from his property and has since done so.

Mr. Lyman recognized Ms. Denette who advised that the Town has a number of ordinances on the books that are outdated and, consequently, not enforced.

The Selectmen discussed the issue and agreed that it was a challenging problem. They agreed to instruct Mr. Ventres not to enforce the Trailer Ordinance in this case. They further agreed that the ordinance should be updated as soon as possible after the existing Ordinance Book is codified. Mr. Ventres agreed to draft revised language for the Selectmen's review.

- B. Goodspeed Musicals – Support Letter Swing Bridge Rehabilitation Project: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Michael Gennaro, Executive Director of the Goodspeed Opera House, dated October 11, 2017. He reviewed the letter and noted that it voiced the Goodspeed's "... *full support of the East Haddam Swing Bridge rehabilitation project and the addition of a sidewalk connecting Haddam and the bridge to the existing sidewalk in East Haddam*".
- C. Eversource Emergency Response Plan Exercise Notice: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Mark Fangiullo, Manager, Emergency Management, Eversource, dated October 11, 2017. He noted that the letter indicates that Eversource will be holding its annual Emergency Response Plan Exercise on October 31st.

5. First Selectmen's Report

- A. Shared Service Report – October: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the October 2017 Shared Services Report and reviewed several items on the report.

Mr. Lyman also reported the following:

- The Trowbridge school bus turn-around has been completed and implemented.
- A new hire at the Transfer Station will begin work in approximately 2 weeks. He will be replacing the attendant who recently resigned.

Mr. Lyman reviewed his memo dated October 12, 2017, addressed to All Department Heads, Boards and Commissions, regarding Reduced State Aid to East Haddam, which implemented a spending freeze.

6. Citizen's Concerns

The following citizen's concerns were discussed the meeting:

- Ms. Riling stated that she found the Selectmen's discussion regarding the Town's Trailer Ordinance interesting and suggested Mr. Ventres gather data regarding how many

recreational trailers exceeding the current 26' limit are registered with the Town. Mr. Ventres stated that he is in the process of gathering that information and would provide it to Mr. Lyman when he has completed his research.

- Ms. Guidi, Mr. Rose, and Ms. Nickerson shared their frustration with the new horizontal curve signs the state DOT has installed on their street. They said that they feel the number of signs being installed is excessive and the glare from them at night is blinding to drivers.

Mr. Gelston noted that the reflecting strip on the sign posts produce the most glare and suggested Mr. Lyman contact the State DOT and request those strips be eliminated. He further recommended collaborating with neighboring towns to express a joint objection to the signs. Mr. Lyman noted that he has drafted a letter to the DOT objecting to the project which will go out in the mail shortly. He agreed that it could be beneficial to collaborate with neighboring towns to object to the state's horizontal sign project.

In response to a statement made by Ms. Haines, Mr. Lyman stated that he had objected to the project when he became aware of the size and nature of the signs to be installed but the state DOT refused to halt or change the project. Ms. Haines read an email she had received from the CT DOT regarding East Haddam's agreement to participate in the project.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Shagbark Solar Project Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an Eversource report to Shagbark regarding their Virtual Net Metering (VNM) Credit. He noted that current VNM Credit is approximately \$21.7k and that Shagbark's agreement with the Town is that the Town will receive 10% of the VNM Credit. He noted that the initial VNM Credit, and the Town's share, is consistent with what was originally estimated for the project.

Mr. Lyman reported that the Town has not yet received the draft Memo of Agreement regarding the structure of its payments going forward.

- B. Solid Waste Facility Ordinance Amendment/Transfer Station Discussion: Mr. Lyman noted that there are currently four applications for the Transfer Station Committee. He noted that CT DEEP conducted a study at the East Haddam Transfer Station and will provide the Town with input from that study. There was a general discussion regarding the applicants for the Committee.
- C. Ordinance Codification Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that changes to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Ordinance were approved at a recent Town Meeting.
- D. 26 Wigwam Road Septic Easement Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that the draft Subsurface Sewage Disposal System Easement language for 26 Wigwam Road had been revised by the Grantee's attorney and approved by our Town attorney to include language

stating that the owner of 26 Wigwam road will be responsible for all costs related to the Easement.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, that the Board of Selectmen endorse and refer to the Town Meeting for consideration and approval a Subsurface Sewage Disposal System Easement on Grantor's land for the limited and exclusive purpose of installing, repairing, and/or maintaining a subsurface sewage disposal system in association with servicing the three (3) existing residential buildings located at 26 Wigwam Road, Moodus, Connecticut being more fully set forth on a map or plan entitled "SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIR PLAN (LANDS OF TOWN OF EAST HADDAM & VALERIE M. LAMING) LAMING PROPERTY 26 WIGWAM ROAD, EAST HADDAM, CONNECTICUT MAP 56 LOT 33, Scale 1"=20 feet, date 8-31-17 as prepared by Nemergut Consulting, 235 Route 80, P.O. Box 666, Killingworth, CT 06419, a copy of which map or plan has been simultaneously filed in the Office of the East Haddam Town Clerk and to which reference is hereby made (the "Approved Plan"), and that the First Selectman be authorized to negotiate and execute any documentation related to such easement. Unanimous aye.

- E. Senior Center Usage Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that Senior Center Director Parker will attend the November 1, 2017 Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss this agenda item.

8. New Business

A. Call for 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 Grange Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 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 accept a gift of a shed for the Senior Center valued at \$5,900.00 from the Senior Club.

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 \$777.77 in memory of Ruth May Hotyckey Ciucias for the Millington Schoolhouse Foundation Project (revenue account 72390-48810-88089).

Item 3: To consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

RESOLVED, that the Town of East Haddam hereby agrees to grant a Subsurface Sewage Disposal System Easement on Grantor's land for the limited and exclusive purpose of installing, repairing, and/or maintaining a subsurface sewage disposal system in association with servicing the three (3) existing residential buildings located at 26 Wigwam Road, Moodus, Connecticut being more fully set forth on a map or plan entitled "SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIR PLAN (LANDS OF TOWN OF EAST HADDAM & VALERIE M. LAMING) LAMING PROPERTY 26 WIGWAM ROAD, EAST HADDAM, CONNECTICUT MAP 56 LOT 33" Scale 1" = 20 feet, date 8-31-17 as prepared by Nemergut Consulting, 235 Route 80, P.O. Box 666, Killingworth, CT 06419, a copy of which map or plan has been simultaneously filed in the Office of the East Haddam Town Clerk and to which reference is hereby made (the "Approved Plan"), and that the First Selectman be authorized to negotiate and execute any documentation related to such easement.

Unanimous aye.

- B. Fee Schedule for Contracted Snow Plowing: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a memo in their meeting packets from Public Works Director Lunt, dated October 17, 2017, regarding her summary of fees for contracted snow plowing and her recommendation on the solicitation.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director and set the snow plowing rates as follows: Between 10,000 and 25,999 GVW without sander - \$115.00 per hour, and between 10,000 and 25, 999 with sander - \$140.00 per hour. Unanimous aye.

- C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EDC): Mr. Lyman reported that a certified letter had been sent to Economic Development Commissioner Rubenbauer. Ms. Rubenbauer contacted him and advised that she has had some health issues and said she reluctantly would resign from the EDC. Ms. Rubenbauer agreed to mail back her resignation form. Mr. Lyman stated that he would like to postpone a motion on Ms. Rubenbauer's resignation until the form is received.

- D. 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:

- \$ 14.85 to Maureen or Raymond Paquette, and
- \$185.77 to Michele A. Shea.

Unanimous aye.

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

- Ms. Denette noted that the legislative body, at Town Meeting, had voted to reinstitute the sunset provision in the Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief ordinance.
- Ms. Riling expressed her concern regarding the response time to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests by citizens. There was a general discussion regarding how surrounding towns receive and respond to FOIA requests. Ms. Varricchio advised Ms. Riling that she had materials she would give her after the meeting responding to one of her recent FOIA requests.

Ms. Denette advised that she has scheduled an informational meeting on the Freedom of Information Act on November 14th which will be open to the public.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. Thunder in the Valley – Drum & Fife Muster – Grange/Town Hall (10/21/17 @12:00 noon): Mr. Lyman call the Selectmen's attention to this event and encouraged the attendees to attend.
- B. Chatham Health Flu Clinic – High School (10/25/17 from 3:00-6:00pm): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to this event and encouraged everyone to get a flu shot.
- C. Drug Take Back Day – Police Office/River House (10/28/17 from 10:00am – 2:00pm): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to this event.
- D. Project Safe Halloween – Elementary School (10/31/17 from 5:00-7:30pm): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's and public's attention to this event and noted that Project Safe Halloween is generally very well attended.

In response to a request from Ms. Link, Mr. Ventres confirmed that he would provide the Selectmen with data from his research relative to the number of recreational trailers registered with the Town.

Ms. Link stated that she would like to institute a program that tracks the time/expense involved with FOIA requests.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, it was confirmed that a religious organization rents out the high school auditorium on Sundays. Mr. Lyman noted that rent and fees are paid by the church and noted that the Board of Education would have more information about the agreement.

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