

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
January 17, 2018  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: E. Lyman; S. Link; R. Smith

Also Present: A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; T. Dickinson; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; I. Haines; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:01 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 January 3, 2018 and Special Meeting of January 8, 2018.

Ms. Link noted that she had not attended the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and, therefore, should not be listed as having submitted the minutes. Mr. Lyman stated he would replace her name with his on those minutes.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2018, as amended. Ms. Link abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

Mr. Lyman stated that he had not yet reviewed the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 8<sup>th</sup> and the Selectmen agreed to postpone the approval of those minutes.

4. Correspondence:
  - A. Press Release Governor Malloy – Transportation Projects: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a Press Release from the Governor in their meeting packets which included a list of CT DOT projects that have been postponed indefinitely. Mr. Lyman noted that the sidewalks along the swing bridge have been eliminated; however, the towns of East Haddam and Haddam are discussing looking into a federal TIGER grant for the project.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Lyman reported that he had researched a concern raised at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting regarding payments to store the furniture donated to the Town for the new municipal offices. He stated that the document brought to his attention was a quote OFI submitted to the Municipal Office Building Committee and the Committee chose not to have OFI store any of the furnishings. He provided information on the actual cost of moving the equipment and confirmed that no storage fees have been paid. He further stated that mold has not been found to be an issue with the donated furnishings and, per an article in the Hartford Courant, Alexion agreed to fully reimburse the State of CT for loans and grants along with all interest and penalties.
  - A. Shared Services Report – January: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the January Shared Services Report in their meeting packets and reviewed several items on the report.

## 6. Citizen's Concerns

In response to a concern raised by Mr. Dill, Mr. Lyman advised that the Town is planning to establish a committee to research the options available to capitalize on economies of scale for its library system.

In response to concerns raised by Mr. Dill and Mr. Brownell regarding changing the meeting location for several commission meetings, Mr. Lyman advised that several of the meeting rooms in the new municipal office building will be equipped with high-quality audio-visual/recording technology and the Town hopes to put all of its public meetings on-line.

In response to a concern raised by Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman clarified the depreciated value of the furnishings gifted to the Town and how the amount was determined. Mr. Edward Blaschik added additional clarification.

In response to a concern raised by Mr. Gelston, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the two state bridge projects on Route 82 currently underway in the Town will not be impacted by the state's postponement of DOT projects.

Mr. Brownell noted that the planned replacement of the Bone Mill Road Bridge was on the list of the state's postponed DOT projects and stated that he did not think the project was critically urgent. Mr. Smith pointed out that the Lyme Fire Department uses the bridge when responding to mutual aid calls in East Haddam and Ms. Zemienski noted that the Town has already signed a contract for the work with a contractor.

Ms. Haines responded to one of the options discussed regarding the library buildings and stated it is her opinion that the Town should not take on the responsibility of another empty building to maintain.

In response to a concern raised by Ms. Haines concerning the status of the bid for testing the Town garage site, Mr. Lyman stated that there was no update on the bid at this time.

In response to a concern raised by Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman advised that the Town does not have a formal list of "essential employees" who must come into work during extreme weather events and that the Public Works Road Superintendent supervises the snowplows whether or not Director Lunt can make it into the office.

In response to a concern raised by Ms. Gelston, Ms. Link noted that on the date in question, the Town's Fire and Ambulance services were fully engaged with a structural fire in Town and, consequently, mutual aid would have responded to Ms. Gelston's 911 call.

## 7. Unfinished Business

A. Ordinance Codification Discussion: Mr. Lyman reiterated that the Public Hearing to discuss the ordinance codification project will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. He called the Selectmen's attention to a draft Press Release in their meeting packets regarding the project.

B. Horizontal Curve Safety Project Update: Mr. Lyman reported that he has been informed that the state has several punch-list items to be completed this spring before the project can be turned over to the Town.

## 8. New Business

- A. Homeland Security Memorandum of Agreement Resolution: Mr. Lyman explained that the Homeland Security grant is a regional collaboration grant and that funding from same goes to our Region 3 REPT to benefit the Capital Region.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Emmett J. Lyman as the First Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of East Haddam of such documents, including, but not limited to executing and delivering all agreements and documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Ms. Link requested a list of custodial assets related to the grant be compiled and Ms. Zemienieski noted that there were none but agreed to follow up with the Emergency Management Director and provide the Selectmen with such a list if any items exist.

Unanimous aye.

- B. Call for Town Meeting: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, 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, January 31, 2018 for the following purposes, to wit:

**Item 1:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,710.00 from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the purpose of storage shelving for the Rathbun Historical Room for archival volumes associated with the Town of East Haddam (revenue account 33050-43000-G1801 and expense account 33055011-58820-G1801).

**Item 2:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift of various items of furniture to include cubes/work stations with chairs, demountable walls, file cabinets, conference room tables and chairs, chairs for main meeting room, several small round tables for offices, movable tables for Park and Recreation and miscellaneous electronic equipment for the Municipal Office Complex valued at approximately \$46,000.00 after depreciation.

**Items 3:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift of fourteen 5 drawer lateral filing cabinets for the Municipal Office Complex valued at \$2,100.00 from CitiFinancial.

**Item 4:** 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 \$400.00 from the East Haddam Art League for an art display system for the Municipal Office Complex (revenue account 33401-43000 and expense account 34050040-54500).

Unanimous aye.

- C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (WPCA): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to copies of letters from Andrew Lord, Chairman and Arthur Merrow, Vice-Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority, recommending member reappointments.

#### **Water Pollution Control Authority**

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to reappoint John Russell and Andrew Lord as regular members of the Water Pollution Control Authority for five-year terms to expire on June 30, 2022. Unanimous aye.

- D. Tax Refunds: The Selectmen discussed one tax refund.

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

- \$30.09 to Honda Lease.
- Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to a question from Ms. Gelston, Ms. Zemienieski clarified the purpose of the Public Hearing related to the Ordinance Codification project.

#### 10. Selectmen's Discussion

In response to a concern raised by Mr. Smith regarding the DOT contractor for the Hemlock Valley Bridge project storing equipment on Town property, it was noted that the state had secured an easement and paid the Town a fee to use the identified property for equipment storage during the project. Ms. Zemienieski agreed to provide Mr. Smith with a copy of the easement.

There was a general discussion regarding including the Board of Education (BOE) meetings on the calendar on the Town's website and Mr. Smith agreed to raise the issue at the next BOE meeting.

Mr. Smith suggested several additions/updates to the Town's website. He noted that his suggestion might cut down of the number of Freedom of Information requests the town received. His suggestions included posting labor contracts, job descriptions, employee salaries, citizen ability to report maintenance needs such as pot holes, and a "Rumor or Myth Buster" category. The Selectmen discussed his suggestions. Ms. Zemienieski noted that the labor contracts for both the Board of Education and the Town are already on the website.

Ms. Link stated that she feels that all of the Town's Boards and Commissions should hold their meetings in the new Municipal Offices meeting rooms once the facility is turned over to the Town. There was a general discussion regarding the meeting rooms and the recording equipment in them.

A. Move to Municipal Office Complex – February 21, 2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting: Mr. Lyman noted that the move to the new Municipal Offices Complex is scheduled for the week of February 19<sup>th</sup> and suggested cancelling the February 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Selectmen’s meeting. The Selectmen agreed with his suggestion.

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 8:04 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Link, Secretary