

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1/2
September 5, 2018
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; D. Boyle; C. Brownell; R. Dill; D. Faipler (East Haddam News); T. Gelston; G. Guidi; K. Guidi; A. Jansky; J. Jansky; J. Moreau; R. Rose; Officer J. Smith; 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: Mr. Lyman added the following New Business discussion topics to the Agenda:

- 8.C. Electricity Contract Discussion
- 8.D. Gift Acceptance – Water Tanker

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 15, 2018

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the August 15, 2018 meeting and Mr. Smith recommended that the August 15th minutes, and all minutes going forward, identify the public who speak at meetings by their first initial as well as their last name to avoid confusion when there is more than one person with the same surname attending the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 15, 2018, as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. Resident Correspondence: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the following correspondence, copies of which were in their meeting packets:

- Letter from Randy Dill, dated September 3, 2018, regarding issues of control and compliance at the Transfer Station.
- Emails from Robert Bradway, dated August 31 through September 1, 2018, requesting clarification of some of the recommendations made by the Transfer Station Committee.
- Letter to the Conservation Commission from John Buhl, dated September 4, 2018, advising that he will "*pursue a different project in a different town*".

5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman reported that he and the state's Circuit Rider had visited a number of the roads where new horizontal curve signs had been installed. He advised that the Circuit Rider confirmed that the

installation of the signs complied with the state's technical guidelines. He referred Mr. Lyman to the state's DOT Safety Engineer Joseph Ouellette regarding concerns about glare, excessive use of the signs, and the safety of the signs in general. Mr. Lyman stated that the Circuit Rider did not agree that the Town would have control over the signs once the State turns the project over to the Town.

Mr. Smith reiterated that he has concerns about the lack of consistency of the signs across all the Town's roads and noted he does not feel they conform with the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. In response to a question raised by Mr. Smith, Mr. Lyman advised that he has not yet contacted Safety Engineer Ouellette.

A. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: Mr. Lyman provided the following additional information regarding questions raised at the previous meeting:

- Related to an example discussed by Mr. T. Gelston and Ms. C. Gelston concerning the use of contractors to remove storm-damaged trees along Route 2, Mr. Lyman noted that the current circumstances are somewhat different. He noted, however, that the Town is considering all options to address the removal of its numerous damaged/dead trees.

There was a general discussion regarding this issue. In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman advised that Public Works Superintendent Steve Hedler is working on an estimate of the number of compromised trees in Town and the cost to remove them. Ms. Link requested Mr. Lyman have a draft budget created for the project comparing the various options available to the Town. In response to a question raised by Mr. Smith, Mr. Lyman advised that he believed it was the RiverCOG that was looking into submitting a request for FEMA funds for the removal of the area's damaged/dead trees.

Mr. Lyman stated that Public Works Director Lunt has been very creative in working with Eversource in economizing their involvement in removing compromised trees.

- Regarding questions raised concerning the tax status of the former Shadybrook and Johnsonville properties, Mr. Lyman reported that there are no outstanding taxes on either property and it is his understanding the neither of the owners have plans to remove the properties from the tax rolls. He added that significant repair and maintenance work has been done at both sites and provided some information regarding the owners' future plans for their properties.
- Regarding a comment concerning the lack of a budget line for rent in the Board of Education's budget, Mr. Lyman advised that the Board of Finance has built that expense into the Town's overall budget.
- He confirmed that there is no expiration date on the current Transfer Station stickers and advised that, when the new program is implemented, the stickers will have an expiration date.
- He advised that Town Meetings are the legislative body of small towns and, therefore, an affirmative vote at a Town Meeting would be required to make changes to East Haddam's ordinances.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Smith, Mr. Lyman stated that he did not agree that the Town is subsidizing the local haulers and, consequently, had not raised the question of its appropriateness to the Town's attorneys.

6. Citizen's Concerns: The following citizen's concerns were brought up at the meeting:

- In response to questions raised by Mr. Brownell, Mr. Lyman stated that that the right-of-way will determine whether or not a property owner is responsible for removing damaged/dead trees. Mr. Lyman also confirmed that the state has advised that vandalism to and/or removal of the horizontal signs will be considered a crime and will be prosecuted.
- Mr. Gelston reiterated that he feels the new horizontal signs are a safety hazard. He recommended the Town prioritize tree removal based on safety concerns and encouraged the use of professional tree-removal contractors since he believes they would be better trained and equipped than the Public Works staff. Mr. Gelston also re-stated that the Selectmen should consider the cost to the public of the Transfer Station Committee's recommendations before making any changes.
- Mr. Rose thanked Mr. Lyman for his efforts to push-back on the state regarding the newly installed horizontal signs and encouraged him to follow-up with the state's Safety Engineer and continue to lobby for the removal of some of the signs.
- Mr. Moreau noted that, at previous Board of Selectmen's meetings, he had raised concerns about the actions of some members of the Fire Department and stated that he continues to have the same concerns. He provided several examples of what he considered poor ethical behavior, bad policies, and safety issues.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Horizontal Curve Safety Project Update: This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and those discussions are recorded in the minutes above.
- B. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee (EHVRC) Update: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to August 22, 2018 committee meeting minutes and reviewed several items in those minutes.

There was a general discussion regarding the Main Street program and both Mr. Smith and Ms. Link recommended revisiting the idea of retaining their services with the EHVRC.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Smith, Mr. Lyman advised that the Town had received a full draft of the environmental report on the old Town Office Site. Mr. Lyman noted that a meeting is scheduled for September 7th to resolve any outstanding questions so the report can be finalized.

- C. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Mr. Lyman reviewed several of the Committee's recommendations and actions taken so far. He called the Selectmen's attention to a memo drafted by Public Works Director Lunt regarding Operational Procedures at the Transfer Station and discussed the bag program, the bulky waste fee, and Mr. Dill's proposal for revisions to the traffic-flow.
- D. Citation Hearing Procedure Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that he believes a program for managing citations can be created in-house and he will be discussing that option with our Technology Manager, Mr. Knittel and Data Integration Specialist Mr. Warner.

- E. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: There was no additional update on this agenda item.
- F. Trailer Ordinance Discussion: There was no additional update on this agenda item.
- G. Crisis and Strategic Communications Plans Services: Ms. Link reported that the first meeting of the Crisis and Strategic Communications Plans Committee is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on September 6, 2018.

8. New Business

- A. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EDC, GATEWAY): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the following Commission membership changes:

Economic Development Commission

The Selectmen reviewed a letter of resignation from Kevin Staehly, dated August 24, 2018.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Kevin Staehly from the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

Gateway Commission

The Selectmen reviewed a letter of resignation from Harvey Thomas, dated August 27, 2018.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept, with regret the resignation of Harvey Thomas from the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Unanimous aye.

- B. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds considered at the meeting.
- C. Electricity Contract Discussion: Mr. Lyman advised that the renewal of the Town's electricity contract is due in January 2019. He distributed an analysis of the Town's supplier fixed price comparison for electricity and projected savings based on a 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, 4-year, and 5-year contract. He advised that he had met with the Superintendent, Director of Operations and the Finance Director earlier in the day and they recommended contracting for a 3-year term.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to finalize prices and authorize the First Selectmen to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Town with Constellation Energy Resources, LLC for electricity supply at an approximate rate of \$0.08310/kWh for a three-year period from January 2019 through January 2022, and send approval of the three-year contract to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting. Unanimous aye.
- D. Gift Acceptance – Water Tanker: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from the Connecticut Water Company, dated September 5, 2018, and noted that they provided a 5,000-gallon water tanker for use by the Town for its community garden, and for any other irrigation needs, and wish to have this item presented as a gift to the Town. Mr. Lyman stated that their estimated value of the tanker is \$1,290.00

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept a gift of a 5,000-gallon water tanker valued at \$1,290.00 from Connecticut Water Company and send acceptance of said gift to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

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

- Mr. Dill advised that the EHVRC believes that the value of the Main Street program is that they will introduce the project to developers. He stated that the Commissioners would like Mr. Lyman to check out the references of Main Street.
- Mr. Dill stated that his revised traffic flow proposal for the Transfer Station was meant to solve several of the problems identified by the Transfer Station Committee with the least expense.
- Mr. J. Jansky took exception to a statement by Mr. Smith which he interpreted as implying the Town is “subsidizing” the local haulers and stated that the rates the haulers charge residents reflect the fact that the companies can dump the trash locally. He emphasized the only fair way to eliminate access to the Transfer Station by local haulers is to eliminate all commercial use of the Transfer Station. He further requested that the local haulers be given a reasonable time to transition to using a regional transfer station.
- Mr. Moreau commented that if the bag program is implemented, the local haulers should be able to dump those bags at the Town’s Transfer Station. Mr. Blaschik countered that customers would then feel that they were paying triple the cost since they would be paying for the bags, paying for the hauler, and paying taxes that support the Transfer Station.
- Ms. Zemienieski commented that education, particularly regarding what is and is not recyclable, would be instrumental in the success of many of the changes being considered at the Transfer Station. Ms. A. Jansky agreed and noted that the commercial haulers have established programs to educate their customers. She recommended that representatives from the Town’s commercial haulers be included in discussions on ways to educate the public regarding recycling.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion: Mr. Smith advised that the Conservation Commission has scheduled a stewardship event at the Patrell property on September 22nd to familiarize the public with what the Commission does. He stated that they will do a general clean-up of the property, work on establishing a new trail and, possibly, put in a picnic area.

Mr. Smith also commented on Mr. Buhl’s letter of September 4th. He stated that, contrary to what Mr. Buhl implied in his letter, the Conservation Commission does want to work with volunteers. He noted that, due to liability concerns, the Commission has established a policy that the construction of new bridges on Town property must be supervised by and adhere to the standards of the Commission. Mr. Smith stated that the Commission is working on formalizing its bridge construction standards.

A. Executive Session – Security/Police Schedules:

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to enter into executive session at 9:08 for discussion of Security/Police Schedules and to invite Officer James Smith into the session. Unanimous aye.

Selectmen returned to regular session at 9:46p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

B. Executive Session – Public Works Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to enter into executive session at 9:47p.m. to discuss the Public Works (Teamsters) Collective Bargaining Agreement. Unanimous aye.

Selectmen returned to regular session at 9:55p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

C. Vote on Public Works Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Haddam and General Teamsters Union Local 493 for the period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. Unanimous aye.

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 9:56p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary