

Board of Selectmen  
Municipal Office Complex  
Meeting Rooms 1/2  
September 19, 2018  
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: C. Brownell; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; d. D. Faipler (East Haddam News); J. Moreau; R. Pettinelli; R. Turner; 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 Mr. Smith, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of September 5, 2018.

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the September 5, 2018 meeting and Mr. Smith requested the following change:

Page 4, Agenda Item 9 – Public Comments: Revise the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet to read as follows: *“Mr. J. Jansky took exception to a statement by Mr. Smith which he interpreted as implying the Town is “subsidizing” the local haulers ...”*

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 5, 2018, as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.
5. First Selectmen's Report
  - A. Old Lyme Area Cable Advisory Council Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to information in their meeting packets regarding the Old Lyme Area Cable Advisory Council. He reviewed the Council's membership makeup and advised that the Town should have a representative from the Board of Selectmen attend the meetings. In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Mr. Lyman advised that the Council meets quarterly.
  - B. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: Mr. Lyman provided the following information concerning questions raised at the September 5<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting:
    - The state has provided information estimating that approximately 6 trees per mile are compromised. Mr. Lyman noted that the Town's informal counts indicate that 12 trees per mile are possibly damaged and/or dying. He stated that he and Director Lunt had met with the Board of Finance and discussed the problem and they will provide the BOF with a proposal on how Public Works can address the removal of trees.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Smith, Mr. Lyman reiterated that the general consensus is that FEMA will probably not participate in providing funds for tree removal.

- Regarding Mr. Moreau’s concerns about the Fire Department, Mr. Lyman advised that alcohol is not permitted in the firehouses or on any Town property without the express approval of the Board of Selectmen and that smoking is not permitted in any of the Town facilities. He discussed the Fire Department’s plans to purchase a new truck but stated that would not support buying a ladder truck. Mr. Lyman stated that the Ford LTD is driven by a number of Fire Department personnel. He discussed the Police Department’s donation of a jet-ski to the Fire Department and noted that the original donor of the jet-ski stipulated that it was for the exclusive use of the Police Department and, consequently, Mr. Lyman had instructed the vehicle be returned to them. He stated that Mr. Sarnik has been made Deputy Fire Marshal.

Mr. Lyman reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission where it was reported that \$400,000.00 is available for business loans. He noted that several East Haddam businesses have taken advantage of the MCRC loans and he hopes other Town businesses are aware of the MCRC loan program.

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

- Mr. J. Moreau thanked Mr. Lyman for his efforts to address concerns he had raised at the previous meeting and noted his following concerns:
  - He believes the time clock has been removed from the firehouses.
  - He is concerned about the process used in identifying a supplier for the fire boat the Town plans to purchase.
  - He believes the Deputy Fire Marshal is doing inspections while he is working on the clock as paid-staff.
  - The part-time staff’s scheduled hours have been reduced to one day per week.
  - He feels all of the Town’s public safety employees should be drug tested.

In response to his statement that the “butt” cans should be removed from outside the firehouses, Mr. Lyman advised that the Town does not have an ordinance prohibiting smoking outside of Town facilities.

- Ms. T. Dickinson expressed concern about the following:
  - Fire Department personnel taking department vehicles across the swing bridge for coffee at Dunkin Donuts.
  - Fire Department personnel’s behavior when exiting the Dunkin Donut parking lot.
  - The status of the Municipal Office Building’s compliance with ADA requirements.
- Mr. E. Dill expressed his concerns about the following:
  - He would like the Town to seriously consider exiting its contract with Chatham Health and replacing it with a full-time Sanitarian/Building Inspector position.
  - Many citizens believe an existing proposal for the development of the old Town Office Site is a “done deal” and he stated that he hopes the public will be included in discussions about the future development of the site.

- In response to a concern raised by Mr. R. Dill, Mr. Lyman stated that he had requested that Mr. Gerrish work with Mr. Ventres on a draft RFP for the East Haddam Village Revitalization project.

## 7. Unfinished Business

- A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee (EHVRC) Update: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to Letter to the Editor of the East Haddam News from William Gerrish, Chairman of the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee, inviting residents to the Commission's September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss plans for the development of the old Town Office Site. Mr. Lyman advised that the letter will be printed in the September 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the newspaper. He reviewed the next steps of the EHVRC and stated that they are drafting an RFP to post.

He stated that he is in support of paying the Main Street program fee of \$500.00 to retain their services on this project.

- B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Mr. Lyman reported that he had instructed Public Works Director Lunt to implement Mr. Dill's suggested revisions to the traffic-flow at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email from the Town's attorney, dated September 14, 2018, opining that the Board of Selectmen can set a fee for a single bag of trash if such is considered "each assessed material" as stated in the Town's Transfer Station ordinance. There was a general discussion regarding this issue and Mr. Lyman and Mr. Smith agreed that, before implementing a bag fee, the subject should be discussed at a Town Meeting. Mr. Lyman agreed with Mr. Smith's recommendation to add a sunset clause to any revisions of the Transfer Station ordinance imposing a bag fee.

- C. Citation Hearing Procedure Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman suggested that the Board of Selectmen could act as the Citation Appeal Board but agreed that additional discussion of his suggestion is needed.
- D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.
- E. Trailer Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.
- F. Crisis and Strategic Communications Plans Services: Mr. Lyman reported that the next meeting of the Crisis and Strategic Communications Plans Committee is scheduled for 8:45 a.m. on September 21, 2018 and a consultant will make a presentation of their services at that meeting.

## 8. New Business

- A. Bid Award – Catch Basin Cleaning: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a memo in their meeting packets from Public Works Director Lunt, dated September 19, 2018. He noted that one bid was received for the catch basin cleaning project. He stated that the contract is for September 1, 2018 – August 30, 2019 and that the proposals will remain in effect for one (1) year, with the option to renew on a year-by-year basis, with the approval of the Town and the vendor, for two (2) additional years. Mr. Lyman advised that Ms. Lunt recommended contracting

with R. Bruce Briggs for the project based on his familiarity with the Town's drainage infrastructure and the Town's "positive experience both in quality of [his] work and reliability".

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to award the bid for catch basin cleaning to R. Bruce Briggs at \$24.99 per basin/headwell for the period of September 1, 2018 – August 30, 2019, with the option to renew on a year-by-year basis for two (2) additional years, with the approval of the Town and the vendor.

Mr. Lyman provided clarification on several questions raised by Mr. Smith. Unanimous aye.

- B. Fee Schedule for Contracted Tree Removal: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a memo in their meeting packets from Beth Lunt, dated September 19, 2018, regarding her summary and recommendation of fees for tree removal services. Mr. Lyman explained that this was the process approved by the Selectmen as a previous meeting and noted that if the Town used contractors other than the ones who submitted prices they would be paid at the set rates.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director and set the tree removal rates as follows: Bucket Truck & Operator-\$180.00 per hour, Bucket Truck Only-\$150.00 per hour and Additional Worker-\$50.00 per hour.

There was a general discussion regarding Public Works Director Lunt's recommendation and the Selectmen agreed to postpone the vote on this motion until further clarification was received.

- C. Call for Town Meeting: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, 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 Town Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 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 authorize the First Selectman to execute a three-year contract from January 2019 through January 2022 on behalf of the Town of East Haddam with Constellation Energy for electricity supply at a rate of \$0.0839/kWh.

**Item 2:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift of a 5,000-gallon water tanker valued at \$1,290.00 from Connecticut Water Company.

Unanimous aye.

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

**Gateway Commission**

Mr. Lyman explained that at the last Board of Selectmen meeting Harvey Thomas sent a letter noting that he no longer wished to be on the CT River Gateway Commission and Crary Brownell,

who is currently an alternate member on the Commission, had asked to be appointed as the regular member. The Selectmen discussed the two applications submitted to fill the then vacant alternate position.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to appoint Cary Brownell as the regular member for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2020 on the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to appoint Joel Ide as an alternate member for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2020 on the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to one tax refund.

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

- \$ 96.86 to Douglas Sanderson
- Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to a question raised by Ms. T. Dickinson, Mr. Lyman stated that Public Works Director Lunt had informed him that the paving of Petticoat Lane would be postponed until next spring due to the delays caused by the Nor'easters at the beginning of the year.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. T. Dickinson regarding pillars installed by the Town at a private residence on O'Connell road Extension, Mr. Lyman stated he would need additional information to research the issue. Ms. Dickinson agreed to provide more information.
- Regarding comments made by Mr. J. Moreau concerning Fire Department personnel taking fire vehicles across the swing bridge for coffee and the new fire fighter being on probation with Middlesex Hospital, Mr. Lyman stated that he is aware of both situations.
- Mr. E. Dill advised that the Motor Transport Association of CT offers a professional drug testing program.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Smith advised that he had attended a recent Board of Education meeting where the consolidation of schools was discussed. He stated that the BOE reported that the cost to consolidate two schools into one is anticipated to be approximately \$8-8.5M

A. 2019-2020 Budget Schedule Discussion: Mr. Lyman called Mr. Smith's attention to the proposed 2019-2020 budget meeting schedule and Mr. Smith stated that, at this time, he does not have any conflicts with the proposed schedule.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Link, Secretary