

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1/2
October 3, 2018
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: H. Aitken; B. Auld; D. Bartunek; E. Blaschik; C. Brownell; J. Curtin; K. Daigle; S. Daigle; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; B. Dutch; B. Lunt; C. Mansfield; R. Turner; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski, various members of the Fire Department 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 September 19, 2018.

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the September 19, 2018 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2018, as written. Ms. Link abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence: The following correspondence was discussed at the meeting.
 - Letter from Michael Gennaro, Executive Director of Goodspeed Musicals, dated October 2, 2018, thanking the Town and first responders for their assistance after last week's storm.
 - Letter from Theodore H. Nezames, P.E., Manager of Bridges, Bureau of Engineering & Construction, State of CT Department of Transportation, dated September 24, 2018, confirming a public information meeting scheduled for October 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office Complex. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss replacement of a culvert at the Shady Brook bridge on Route 151 which will require the road to be closed for approximately two weeks.
5. First Selectmen's Report
 - A. Board of Assessment Appeals – Fall 2018 Final Report: Mr. Lyman recognized Mr. E. Blaschik, Chairperson of the Board of Assessment Appeals, who reported that the Board of Assessment Appeals met on September 1st and considered five auto appeals. Mr. Blaschik stated that all five appeals were approved resulting in an adjustment to the Grand List of -\$8,380.00.
 - B. Storm Damage Report: Mr. Lyman discussed the damage caused by heavy rain the night of September 25-26, 2018. He reported that over 6" of rain had fallen resulting in extreme flooding and numerous washouts. Mr. Lyman advised that there was a good response from the Public Works staff and the Fire Department personnel; however, extensive damage to the Town's roads had occurred. He noted that, with a few exceptions, all Town roads are currently passable.

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a preliminary summary from Public Works Director Lunt advising that over \$2M in materials alone will be required to repair the damage. He stated that he has reached out to CIRMA, the Town's insurance company, and the Town's attorney's regarding the damage.

Mr. Lyman recognized Public Works Director Lunt, who advised that her summary and materials estimate are only preliminary and that many roads are undermined, noting that the edges will continue to deteriorate and should be addressed before the winter season. She stated that the Public Works Department is currently working on the major safety concerns; however, there are not enough resources in the department to complete the work before the winter and contractors will have to be hired.

In response to questions from Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman stated that Board of Finance will have to approve funding for the repairs and that he is looking into applying for a FEMA grant for the repairs. Mr. Smith noted that future estimates should include the cost of hiring contractors.

- C. Fire Department Report – Brian Auld: Mr. Lyman recognized Fire Chief Auld who read a prepared statement concerning Mr. Moreau's comments at recent Board of Selectmen meetings. He rebutted several accusations made by Mr. Moreau, thanked the Selectmen for their support, and invited the public to contact him directly if they have any questions or concerns about the Fire Department staff.
- D. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: Mr. Lyman provided the following information concerning questions raised at the September 19th Selectmen's meeting:
 - Regarding Mr. J. Moreau's concern about the lack of a timeclock at the Fire Department, Mr. Lyman advised that they had been unable to repair the old time clock and staff are temporarily filling out manual timecards. The Finance Office is currently training on a new human resources on-line system that will be implemented in the near future.

Regarding several other concerns raised by Mr. J. Moreau, Mr. Lyman stated the following:

- He had researched the issue of the Deputy Fire Marshal doing inspections while he is working on the clock and was satisfied that it had been properly coordinated and is not a regular occurrence.
- He had reviewed September's schedule for the paid staff and has instructed that corrections be made to future schedules.
- He had researched the concern that Fire Department personnel were at the Haddam Dunkin Donuts in department vehicles and was informed that they had been in Haddam on a mutual aid call and that the stop at Dunkin Donuts was made on their way back to East Haddam.

Mr. Lyman reported that he brought Mr. J. Moreau's suggestion that random drug testing be implemented at the Fire Department up to the Board of Fire Commissioners and all agreed with the recommendation. He stated that he is currently looking into making random drug testing a matter of policy.

- Regarding Mr. E. Dill's recommendation that the Town replace its contract with Chatham Health District with a Sanitarian/Building Inspector position, Mr. Lyman reported that the cost to do so could be prohibitive; however, he is researching alternative Health Districts.

- Regarding Mr. E. Dill's statement that many citizens believe that an existing proposal for the development of the old Town Office Site is a "done deal", Mr. Lyman reiterated that no plan for the site has yet been accepted by the Town, that an RFP will be issued shortly to solicit proposals from developers, and that the EHVRC will continue to gather public input.
- Regarding Ms. T. Dickinson's concern that pillars had been inappropriately installed on a Town employee's property, Mr. Lyman recognized Mr. Curtin, the contractor that did the road work at the site. Mr. Curtin stated that, due to transformers located on the other side of the road, the paving at the questioned site had to encroach on the stone wall bordering the street-side of the property. He noted that he and Public Works Director Lunt had negotiated with the property owner to remove the wall in exchange for installing the pillars. He stated that the cost of the work was far less expensive than it would have been to either take the land by eminent domain or rebuild the whole wall and noted that when the stone wall was removed, surveying pins were found located at its center.

Mr. Smith expressed his frustration that little detail of the project was included on the check he signed and stated he would review the engineering documents located at the Public Works Department.

Mr. Lyman noted a correction to a statement made in a recent East Haddam News article about the removal of damaged/dead trees in Town. He noted that the article incorrectly stated that the Town had received a \$134,000.00 grant from the state for the work. He advised that the Town has not received any funding from the state for the removal of dead/diseased trees.

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

- Ms. T. Dickinson reiterated her concern that the Town negotiated with a property owner to remove a stone wall that she believed was owned by the Town and noted that several trees were left in place. She stated that it did not make sense to leave the trees if the wall had to be removed.

Mr. J. Curtin advised that the stone was owned in common by the Town and the property owner and that all trees between the wall and the street and growing out of the wall had been removed.

Ms. T. Dickinson agreed to forward pictures and other information she had regarding her concern to the Selectmen.

- Regarding implementing random drug tests for Fire Department personnel, Ms. T. Dickinson stated that she feels all Town employees operating equipment and/or driving Town vehicles should be included in the policy. Director Lunt noted that Public Works currently has a random drug testing policy in place.
- Mr. S. Daigle stated that, given his experience in other fire departments, the Town has "top notch" Fire Department personnel, both the paid staff and volunteers. He supported Chief Auld's earlier comments and commented that he feels the "unjustified berating" of the volunteer and paid Fire Department staff needs to stop.
- Mr. D. Bartunek expressed concern about the continued closure of the Foxtown Road bridge and access for emergency vehicles. Mr. Sarnik responded that per our mutual aid agreements with Lyme and Salem they help to cover that area. Director Lunt stated that the bridge is scheduled

for replacement next spring. She noted that several “Road Closed” signs had been stolen and new signs have been ordered.

Mr. Smith noted the upcoming Conservation Commission’s event and expressed concern about access to parking.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee (EHVRC) Update: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to the draft minutes of the EHVRC’s September 26, 2018 meeting in their meeting packets and noted that there was good representation from the public at the meeting. In response to a question raised by Mr. Smith, he confirmed that the Committee will pursue the support of the Main Street group on this project.
- B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- C. Citation Hearing Procedure Ordinance Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- E. Trailer Ordinance Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- F. Crisis and Strategic Communications Plans Services: Ms. Link reported that the Committee had met three times and were impressed with Sullivan & LeShane’s presentation. She stated that most meetings were held in Executive Session since the Committee was discussing sensitive topics regarding crisis communications.

Motion made by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to waive the requirement for two price quotes and award the contract for a crisis communications plan and yearlong strategic communications plan to Sullivan & LeShane in the amount of \$14,000.00.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Smith, Ms. Link advised that the Board of Finance had earmarked funding for this project in the 2018-2019 budget should the Board of Selectmen decide to move forward with the project. Unanimous aye.

- G. 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 discussed at the previous Board of Selectmen’s meeting and that the process is similar to what is used for snow plowing and that using such a process had been approved by the Selectmen as a previous meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, 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.

Mr. Smith expressed concern that the proposed rate for a bucket truck and operator may be set too low and preclude other contractors from working for the Town. He stated that he feels it will be

quite possible that multiple tree removal contractors would have to be hired and he does not want to limit the Town's ability to hire them. Public Works Director Lunt stated that she was instructed to recommend one rate that all contractors would be paid and noted that this process works well for snow removal.

Mr. Smith abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

8. New Business

- A. Wine & Beer Approvals – Grange Hall: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from Patrick Murray, Moodus Drum & Fife, dated September 21, 2018, requesting permission to serve beer and wine at the Grange/Old Town Hall property during the October 19-20, 2018 Fife and Drum muster.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Grange Hall for the "Moodus Drum & Fife Muster" on October 19 & 20, 2018. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Jessica Blancato, dated October 1, 2018, requesting permission to serve beer and wine at the Grange Hall for a birthday party on November 11, 2018.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Grange Hall for a "Birthday Party" on November 11, 2018. Unanimous aye.

- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (COA): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from Victoria Riley-Pach, dated September 17, 2018, advising of her resignation from the Commission on Aging due to a change in her employment status.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Vicki Riley-Pach from the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

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

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

- \$ 280.50 to Raymond Flaherty,
- \$ 485.24 to Douglas Grimes, and
- \$ 119.08 to David Laflamme.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no additional public comment at the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

- A. Thunder in the Valley – Drum & Fife Muster – Grange Hall/Town Hall (10/20/18 @ 12:00 noon): Mr. Lyman informed the Selectmen and attendees of the scheduled event.

- B. Chatham Health Flu Clinic – High School (10/24/18 from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm): Mr. Lyman informed the Selectmen and attendees of the scheduled event and noted that Chatham Health will administer higher intensity doses to individuals age 65+. He noted that individuals should bring their insurance cards to the clinic along with a completed consent form which could be download from the Chatham Health District’s website.
- C. Drug Take Back Day – Municipal Office Complex Police Office (10/27/18 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm): Mr. Lyman informed the Selectmen and attendees of this scheduled event.
- D. Project Safe Halloween – Municipal Office Complex (10/31/18 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm): Mr. Lyman informed the Selectmen and attendees of this scheduled event.

Before entering into executive session Mr. Smith asked about the motion for expenditure for membership with the Connecticut Main Street Center organization to aid in our village revitalization.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve membership to the Connecticut Main Street Center at a cost of \$500.00. Unanimous aye.

- E. Executive Session – Transfer Station Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to enter into executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss the Transfer Station (International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 30) Collective Bargaining Agreement. Unanimous aye.

Selectmen returned to regular session at 8:34 p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

- F. Vote on Transfer Station 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 (International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 30 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 8:35 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary