

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

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

Also Present: D. Berndtson; A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; L. Bonadies; D. Dill; E. Dill; T. Gelston; W. Gerrish; B. Lunt; M. Piscioti; Officer J. Rhoades; L. Salicrup; R. Turner; 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 December 5, 2018.

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 5, 2018, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence
  - A. Freedom of Information Request: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Paul Buhl, dated December 12, 2018, regarding a Freedom of Information Request.
  - B. USDA Letter – Municipal Building Accessibility Issues: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from the USDA, dated December 11, 2018, regarding several accessibility issues at the new municipal office building. Mr. Lyman advised that most of the identified issues have been resolved and that the architect for the project, Silver Petrucelli, is drafting a response to the USDA. He confirmed that there was no additional cost to the Town for repairing the non-complying items.

5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets which had been forwarded to his office from the Director of the Senior Center. He noted that the email appeared to be part of a nationwide threat campaign that had been sent to numerous public facilities. He stated that the Town's emergency response system worked according to plan and no threatening devices were found.

He also reported that the stop-lights for one-way traffic at the two bridge construction sites on Route 82 have been removed and that the Bone Mill Road bridge work should be completed by the end of the month.

A. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: Mr. Lyman provided the following information regarding questions and concerns raised at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting:

- Mr. Lyman asked Public Works Director Lunt to address Selectmen Smith's concerns regarding the removal of damaged/dead trees. Ms. Lunt stated that there are limited funds in the Public Works Department's budget for this project; however, she has contracted with a 2-person tree removal crew for assistance. Her first priority is to inspect and remove, if appropriate, trees for which she has received written notice from Town residents. She then prioritizes streets for which she has received numerous complaints about diseased/dead trees for tree cutting work. She advised that she meets with the crew regularly and discusses priorities but noted that they have some latitude when they are out in the field. Director Lunt listed the areas where tree-removal work has been done and responded to several questions from Mr. Smith.

In response to Mr. Smith's question about marking trees, Ms. Lunt advised that she had been instructed in her Tree Warden class not to mark diseased/dead trees and CIRMA also instructed her not to mark the trees.

- As a follow-up to Mr. Smith's question about the status of the Town-wide emergency communications project, Mr. Lyman reported that the Town had recently signed a Memo of Understanding with Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications for use of the Buckeley Hill tower and that the Mt. Parnassus tower construction is progressing.
- Regarding Mr. Smith's concern about the road work on Petticoat Lane, Ms. Lunt advised that due to the late September flooding and the contractor's unwillingness to push out the work schedule, the paving had not been completed in the fall. She stated that, to date, \$7,250.00 has been expended on the project.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizen's concerns discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Lyman reported that the towns of East Haddam and Haddam were not awarded the BUILD grant from the federal government for a walkway on the swing bridge.

EHVRC Chairman Gerrish reported that a sub-committee worked with Land Use Administrator Ventres to finalize the RFQ for the site, a draft of which was submitted to First Selectman Lyman. He noted that the Main Street Group will assist in disseminating the RFQ and stated that the committee plans to schedule an open house to familiarize contractors with the property. There was a brief discussion regarding the Town's application to the state for a brownfield clean-up grant.

B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Mr. Lyman reviewed the challenges of processing recyclables. In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman advised that he is in the process of drafting four educational articles on the Transfer Station that will be published in the East Haddam News.

Public Works Director Lunt noted that the state is launching a recycling educational campaign and plans to create an app to identify what is and what is not recyclable. She stated that her

department is not currently working with the Board of Education to coordinate sending out information about recycling to residents.

- C. Citation Hearing Procedure Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.
- D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman reiterated that the Public Hearing date for this ordinance is January 9, 2019.
- E. Trailer Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman reiterated that the Public Hearing date for this ordinance is January 9, 2019.
- F. Crisis and Strategic Communications Plans Services (Discussion in Executive Session): Mr. Lyman advised that the recommendations of the committee will be discussed in an executive session at the end of the regular meeting. In response to a question from Ms. Link, he confirmed that the financing of the recommendations would be discussed in an open session.

8. New Business

- A. Deputy Tree Warden Appointment: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Public Works Director Lunt recommending an appointment of a Deputy Tree Warden.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to concur with the recommendation of the Public Works Director/Tree Warden and appoint Steven Hedler as a Deputy Tree Warden.  
Unanimous aye.

- B. Beer & Wine Approval – Grange Hall (RTC): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from Karin Blaschik, dated December 17, 2018, requesting that the Republican Town Committee be allowed to serve beer and wine at their Holiday Party.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve beer and wine service at the Grange Hall for the "Republican Town Committee Holiday Party" on December 20, 2018.  
Unanimous aye.

- C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EHSCIP, HDC)

**East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Projects Committee**

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from Gregory Grinsfelder, dated December 5, 2018, noting his inability to continue to serve on the committee.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Gregory Grinsfelder from the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Building Committee.  
Unanimous aye.

**Historic District Commission**

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Will Brady, Chairman of the Historic District Commission, dated November 21, 2018, recommending reappointments to the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to reappoint William Brady as a regular member of the Historic District Commission for a five-year term to expire November 20, 2023 and Pamela Rubenbauer as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission for a three-year term to expire November 20, 2021. Unanimous aye.

D. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to two tax refunds.

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

- \$ 607.73 to Todd Passan, and
- \$1,063.64 to Toyota Lease Trust.

Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to questions raised by Mr. T. Gelston:
  - Mr. Lyman clarified the meaning of "Request for Qualifications";
  - Mr. Gerrish confirmed that the EHVRC would also like to "cast a wide net" for contractors and noted that is the reason it lobbied to join the Main Street Group, and that a deadline for responses to the RFQ has not yet been determined;
  - Mr. Lyman clarified that the purpose of the January 9<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing is to discuss and answer questions about the proposed Control of Animals and Trailer ordinances and confirmed that the draft ordinances would be on the Town's website for review prior to the hearing, and
  - Public Works Director Lunt clarified the function of the Tree Warden and noted that many municipalities have full-time Tree Wardens.
- Mr. Blaschik commented on the poor notification this past Saturday when the East Haddam bridge was stuck in the open position. He inquired if the Selectmen could encourage the DOT to do a better job with communications.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: There was no additional Selectmen's discussion.

A. Executive Session

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to enter into executive session at 7:49 p.m. for a discussion of School/Town Security, and to invite the members of the Crisis and Strategic Communications Committee that were present into this session. Unanimous aye.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:10p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

Ms. Link discussed the financing of this position should the Board of Education accept the recommendation presented. She noted that the funding for a School District Resource Officer would be budgeted in the police budget. She did comment that it would also have been acceptable to budget in the shared services budget.

Motion made by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept the recommendations of the Crisis and Strategic Communications Plans Committee and forward the recommendation for a School

District Resource Officer position to the Board of Education for their review and consideration.  
Unanimous aye.

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 9:20p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Link, Secretary