

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1/2
January 2, 2019
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; R. Casner; R. Dill; A. Donner; D. Faipler; C. Read; R. Turner; L. Zemienieski

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 19, 2018.

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

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 19, 2018, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. USDA Letter Response – Municipal Building Accessibility Issues: Mr. Lyman advised that Silver Petrucelli and Downes Construction are collaborating on drafting a response to the December 11th USDA Letter regarding handicapped accessibility issues at the Municipal Office Complex.

5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman reported that the grand opening for the new Bone Mill Road bridge had to be postponed because the contractor was not able to finish installing the guard rail due to a large boulder in the way. Mr. Smith expressed his concern that no work appears to have been done on the site since the last Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Lyman reported that the state's bridge work on two sites on Route 82 has been completed and two-way traffic restored. He indicated that he thought that some road re-surfacing may also have been done at the two sites.

A. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: Mr. Lyman provided the following information regarding questions and concerns raised at the December 19th Selectmen's meeting:

- In response to a request from Mr. Smith, he had reviewed the feller buncher and chipper on-line and spoke with a representative from Distinctive Tree who informed him that they would not work near any wires but would be able to chip felled trees and stumps that are below the wire-line. Mr. Lyman stated he requested the company send him their fee schedule and he estimated the cost to be a minimum of \$8,000.00 per day.

He noted that the state had cleared a large area on Hopyard Road and the chips were spread quite deeply on the cleared site. He stated that some residents had expressed concern about the chips impeding future new growth and there was a general discussion regarding the contractor's ability to better control the distribution of wood chips. Mr. Smith stated that a representative from the CT DOT had informed him that they had been able to clear approximately 100 trees per day using the feller buncher contractor.

- Regarding Mr. E. Dill's offer to have Consumer Reports assist in repairing the storm damage to Ackley Road, Public Works Director Lunt recently informed Mr. Lyman that the road bed is too wet to work on and he stated that he has not yet received the draft "hold harmless" agreement from the Town's attorney.

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

- Mr. Read expressed concern about the delay in completing the Bone Mill Road bridge project and stated that he hopes the state will re-surface Route 82 at the two bridge construction sites to finish grade.
- Mr. Read noted that Hemlock Valley Road has been closed since late September and, in response to his question about the plans for repairing and re-opening road, Mr. Lyman advised that Public Works is drafting an RFQ for an engineer for the work. Mr. Smith stated that he feels that a temporary solution to make the road passable should be possible. Mr. Lyman agreed to provide a date for when the engineering RFQ will be published and a timeframe for beginning the repairs to the road.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Lyman advised that the state had not awarded the Town a brownfield grant for the clean-up of the old Town Office site. He stated that the federal EPA is accepting applications for brownfield grants through the end of January.

There was a general discussion regarding finalizing and publishing the RFQ and Mr. Lyman stated he will contact Mr. Gerrish to request an update on the status of the RFQ.

- B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Mr. Lyman reported that he has drafted the first of four articles regarding the Transfer Station and he expects it to be published in one of the next issues of the East Haddam News.

He stated that he is researching material for the next article. He further advised that he spoke with a representative from Willimantic Waste and, although the Town currently gets paid a small amount for recyclables, when our contract with them is renegotiated next summer, the Town will probably have to pay Willimantic Waste up to \$40 per ton to deposit recyclables at their transfer station.

- C. Citation Hearing Procedure Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.
- D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: There was no new update on this agenda item.
- E. Trailer Ordinance Discussion: There was no new update on this agenda item.

8. New Business

- A. Bid Award – Foxtown Road Bridge Replacement: Mr. Lyman reported that the Town has not yet received the state’s concurrence for this project and, therefore, the bid award would be postponed.
- B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EDC):

Economic Development Commission

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of the draft minutes from the December 6th Economic Development Commission meeting when a motion was made and approved to change the status of Irene Haines’ membership to a regular member of the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to change the status of Irene Haines from an alternate member to a regular member of the Economic Development Commission filling a vacant position with a term expiration of June 30, 2021. Unanimous aye.

- C. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to one tax refund.

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

- \$ 204.20 to William Claussen.
Unanimous aye.

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

- Mr. R. Dill commented that the EHVRC had sent the draft RFQ to the First Selectmen and stated that Mr. Gerrish should be notified that the Town had not received a brownfield grant from the state. Mr. Lyman stated that Mr. Ventres is updating the brownfield section of the RFQ and he would follow-up with him to see when that would be completed.

Ms. Zemienieski stated that she had a brief discussion with Mr. Gerrish regarding what happens after the RFQ is published and the Town receives responses. There was a general discussion regarding the administrative process in publishing the RFQ, the decision-making process after responses are received and what assistance can be expected from the Main Street Group.

- Mr. R. Casner commented that he feels the new building application fees, which were implemented October 1st, are higher than reasonable. He disputed that the fees represent the average for surrounding towns and stated that he feels they are not within an equitable range of the cost of the Building Official’s services during the course of a normal construction project. He also expressed his concern that there are no regular office hours for the Building Official and that inspections are scheduled at 6:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. He noted that it is difficult to have sub-contractors available for inspections at those hours.

Mr. Lyman agreed to provide Mr. Casner with the Building Official’s supporting documentation for his recommendation to raise the Town’s building fee schedule and Mr. Casner agreed to gather the fee schedules for several surrounding towns and submit them to the Board of Selectmen. He also stated that he feels there should be some public input allowed before the Town raises any of its fees.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Smith reported that he had attended a recent Sustainable CT seminar and would be providing information for a resolution for the Town to join the Sustainable Towns program.
11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded Ms. Link, to adjourn the meeting 8:44 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary