

Board of Selectmen  
Municipal Office Complex  
Meeting Rooms 1/2  
January 16, 2019  
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; R. Dill; A. Donner; F. Faipier; V. Garofalo; J. Moreau; R. Turner; S. Wheeler; 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: Special Meeting of December 10, 2018 and Regular Meeting of January 2, 2019

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the December 10, 2018 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2018, as written. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the January 2, 2019 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 2, 2019, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence
  - A. USDA Letter Response – Municipal Building Accessibility Issues: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
  - B. Thank You – Public Works: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email from Ronald Turner, dated January 10, 2019, thanking Public Works Director Lunt for "... *having Steve Fay work with the town maintenance department during Mike Olzacki's absence*".
5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman reported the following:

- He spoke with the Town's attorney and we should be anticipating the State Superior Court to provide a stipulated judgement giving permission for the East Haddam Free Public Library to offer its building to the Town. He noted that the donation of the library building will have to be accepted by a vote of the citizens at a Town Meeting.
- The Town's construction attorney is reviewing the RFQ/RFP for the engineering for Neptune Road and the RFP for the repairs to Hemlock Valley Road/Bonfoey Road will be submitted for the attorney's review shortly.

- The opening for the Building Official's position will be posted shortly.
  - To date, approximately \$40,000.00 has been spent on the removal of damaged/dead trees.
- A. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: Mr. Lyman provided the following information regarding questions and concerns raised at previous Selectmen's meetings:
- Regarding Mr. E. Dill's offer to have Consumer Reports assist in repairing the storm damage to Ackley Road, a "hold harmless" agreement was drafted for review by Consumer Report's attorney as well as CIRMA.
  - Regarding Mr. C. Read's concern about the delay in the construction of the Bone Mill Road bridge, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the work has been completed and the road is open to traffic. He stated that a grand opening ceremony for the bridge is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>.

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 advised that the Town's attorney is reviewing the draft RFQ for the project. He stated that a tentative timeline is as follows: release of RFQ by February 1<sup>st</sup>, responses due by mid-April followed by interviews of short-listed qualified candidates. Following that the short-listed candidates would be required to submit proposals with responses due by the summer of 2019, and the Town would make a decision on the contractor it will award the project to by the fall of 2019.
- B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Mr. Lyman reported that he has continued to have discussions regarding recycling concerns with Tim DeVivo from Willimantic Waste who is optimistic that state-wide organizations will begin processing recyclables. Mr. Lyman advised that they also discussed the cost of handling trash and the most significant change will be in the cost of Willimantic's acceptance of recyclables.

Mr. Lyman further reported that work on the rear door of the hopper at the Transfer Station will begin on January 17<sup>th</sup>, that reversing traffic flow will happen as soon as the work on the hopper is completed, and that he has continued his efforts to plan for a smooth implementation to the bag system. He noted that he has also been looking into developing an educational program about best practices for processing recyclables. The Selectmen discussed the expected increase in the fees for recyclables.

Mr. Lyman stated he would like the Board to take action on increasing the bulky waste fees from \$100.00/ton to \$120.00 per ton, noting that the Solid Waste Facility Ordinance authorizes the Board of Selectmen to determine the amount of fee per each assessed material based on actual disposal costs to the Town of East Haddam.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to authorize the Transfer Station to increase the fee for disposal of bulky waste from \$100.00 per ton to \$120.00 per ton effective February 1, 2019.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Transfer Station Committee recommended increasing the fee to \$140; however, based on informal discussions he has had about the fee, he feels \$120 is a fairer price and is more consistent with what the surrounding towns are charging.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Smith, Mr. Lyman estimated that the cost to truck solid waste to Willimantic Waste is approximately \$105 per ton. Ms. Link requested the Selectmen follow-up on the Committee's rationale for recommending \$140 per ton at their next BOS meeting. Unanimous aye.

- C. Citation Hearing Procedure Ordinance Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that, due to concerns raised at the Public Hearing, Mr. Ventres is making additional changes to the draft ordinance.
- E. Trailer Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman noted that the Public Hearing brought forth minimal questions about this ordinance from the public and it is ready to go to Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, that the ordinance entitled "Trailers" approved by the East Haddam Town Meeting on October 11, 1979 be amended and restated in its entirety and said amendments and restated ordinance be sent to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- F. Bid Award – Foxtown Road Bridge Replacement: Mr. Lyman reported that ten contractors responded to the Town's construction bid for this project. He advised that since this is a Federal Local bridge replacement project (80%-20%) award, concurrence from the State DOT, state engineering contractor, Close, Jensen & Miller and design engineer A. DiCesare Associates is required.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director, State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation and design engineer A. DiCesare Associates and award the contract for Replacement of Foxtown Road Bridge over Eight Mile River to Schultz Corporation in the amount of \$948,895.69. Unanimous aye.

## 8. New Business

- A. Municipal Open Space Funding Option Discussion: Mr. Smith called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packet related to this agenda item. He stated that the CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is again requesting the Town's endorsement of proposed legislation related to open space funding. He advised that the draft legislation allows municipalities to charge up to 1% of the cost of purchasing property, in excess of \$150,000.00, to fund the expense of acquiring and maintaining open space. The Selectmen discussed CLCC's request and Mr. Smith responded to several concerns and questions raised by Mr. Lyman and Ms. Link. He noted that the Town had sent a letter to its legislators last year supporting the bill.

The board decided to research this proposed bill over the next couple of weeks and bring this item to the next meeting for further discussion and vote.

- B. Sustainable CT Resolution and Discussion: Mr. Smith reported that he had attended training at CCM regarding the Sustainable CT program. He noted that it is a grassroots independently

funded program and, in support of its stated goals, offers the opportunity for a number of grants. He noted that the goals of the program dovetail with the charges of several of the Town's Boards and Commissions and stated he would be willing to serve as the Town's Sustainable CT representative and committee chair. There was a general discussion regarding the program and Mr. Smith responded to several questions from the Selectmen.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Sustainable CT is a comprehensive, statewide, action-oriented voluntary certification program, built by and for municipalities, with the vision that: *Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative and forward-looking. They build community and local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents and they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment.*

**WHEREAS**, Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs and provide grants and additional support to municipalities.

**WHEREAS**, East Haddam embraces an ongoing process of working toward greater sustainability, selecting which actions it chooses to pursue from the voluntary menu of actions provided by Sustainable CT.

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam that we do hereby authorize Robert Smith, Selectman, to serve as East Haddam's Sustainable CT contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorize him to complete the Municipal Registration on behalf of the Town of East Haddam.

**RESOLVED**, that to focus attention and effort within East Haddam on matters of sustainability, and in order to promote East Haddam's Board of Selectmen's local initiatives and actions toward Sustainable CT Municipal Certification, the Town of East Haddam Board of Selectmen establishes an advisory Sustainability Team.

**RESOLVED**, that the first meeting of the Sustainability Team must be held within 90 days of passing this resolution and that the Sustainability Team shall meet as frequently as needed, but no less than quarterly.

**RESOLVED**, that the Sustainability Team shall report annually to the East Haddam Board of Selectmen on the progress of its activities toward Sustainable CT certification, with reports and presentations made publicly available.

Unanimous aye.

C. Call for Town Meeting

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, 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, January 29, 2019 for the following purposes, to wit:

**Item 1:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000 for the purpose of replacing the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Roof. Funding for the roof as follows:

- 1) \$556,170 transferred from the Board of Education Capital Reserves Fund (332-10506-25790) to the Capital Projects Fund (33250013-58926-C0004).
- 2) \$159,245 transferred from the Capital Projects Reserve Fund (332-10506-25023) to the Capital Projects Fund (33250013-58926-C0004).
- 3) A special appropriation from the General Fund (undesignated fund balance) in the amount of \$684,585 (10549010-59700—General Fund Transfer to Capital Projects), such funds to be reimbursed to the General Fund by anticipated State Grant funds.

**Item 2:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to accept the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the ordinance entitled “Trailers”, approved by the East Haddam Town Meeting on October 11, 1979 be amended and restated in its entirety to modernize to current standards and practices. Said amended and restated text is on file at the Town Clerks Office during normal business hours.

Unanimous aye.

D. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EDC)

**Economic Development Commission**

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of a letter from Suzan Smith to EDC Chairman Casner, dated January 8, 2019, advising that she was resigning from the Economic Development Commission because she had accepted the position as the Town’s Economic Development Administrator.

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

E. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds for consideration at the meeting.

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

- Building Official V. Garofalo responded to comments made by Mr. R. Casner at the last Board of Selectmen’s meeting regarding the new building application fees and the Building Official’s inspection and office hours. Mr. Garofalo stated that the new fees were modest and in-line with those charged by surrounding towns. He noted that the fees were not increased to make a profit but, rather to cover the cost of running the Building Department and are based on the current, realistic cost of construction.

Mr. Garofalo discussed his office hours and advised that his inspection schedule is recorded on Outlook. He stated he feels the criticism of his schedule is unwarranted and responded to several questions from the Selectmen. He confirmed that when he drafted the new fee schedule, he had reviewed the fees of several surrounding towns.

- Mr. J. Moreau stated that he would like to address comments made by Fire Chief Auld at an October meeting of the Board of Selectmen regarding Mr. Moreau's criticisms of several practices of the Chief and other staff. Mr. Moreau read his comments concerning this issue from a prepared statement.

Mr. J. Moreau also commented that he would not be in favor of the Town adopting a fee on the sale of property for municipal open space funding.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that Conservation Commission members have been installing a bridge on an open space parcel behind the Ray of Light Farm. He noted that the access road they are using to bring in the lumber leads to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Burial Grounds and is in extremely bad repair. He stated they would like to use some of the Conservation Commission's gravel to repair the road and requested that, at its convenience, the Public Works Department truck the gravel to the site and volunteers would spread it. The Selectmen had no objection to Mr. Smith's request.

Ms. Link stated that the Board of Education (BOE) had approved the Crisis and Strategic Communications Plans Committee's recommendation to create a School District Resource Officer position. She noted that the BOE had requested public input on the committee's recommendations and, consequently, the committee will reconvene to develop a plan to solicit public input.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded Ms. Link, to adjourn the meeting 8:21 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Link, Secretary