

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1/2
February 6, 2019
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: C. Behilo; D. Berndtson; E. Blaschik; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; A. Donner; F. Faipler; T. Gelston; I. Haines; A. Jansky; J. Jansky; 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 Ms. Link, to approve the Agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of January 16, 2019

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the January 16, 2019 meeting. Mr. Lyman noted the following correction on Page 3, Paragraph 2: "\$105 per ton" should be changed to "\$157 per trip".

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

4. Correspondence
 - A. USDA Letter Response – Municipal Building Accessibility Issues: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of the Town's response to the USDA regarding several ADA compliance issues raised regarding the Municipal Office Complex. He noted that the majority of their concerns have been corrected and the remaining issues will be addressed as soon as the weather gets warmer. He advised that the letter was sent out on January 22, 2019.
 - B. Memo from Town Clerk Regarding Number of Electors: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a memo in their meeting packets from Town Clerk Denette, dated January 29, 2019, reporting on the number of registered voters in the Town of East Haddam.
 - C. Resident Letter to Public Works: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from Richard and Geraldine van Etten, thanking Public Works Director Lunt her and "... *the Road Crew for the outstanding job they did in removing the dangerous trees on the lower end of Clark Hill Road ...*".

5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman reported that the job opening for a Building Official was posted and several responses have been received. He advised that the final date for accepting applications is February 21st.

- A. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: Mr. Lyman reported that there were no questions from the previous meeting that needed follow-up.

6. Citizen's Concerns

In response to a question raised by Mr. C. Behilo, Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Transfer Station employees are weighing bulky waste coming to the Transfer Station and collecting the appropriate fees.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Update: Mr. Lyman reported that the draft RFQ for developers of the old Town Office Site has been submitted to the Town's attorney for review.
- B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Mr. Lyman reported that the committee's recommendations for modifications at the Transfer Station are moving forward. He noted that there is an application on the Town's website where residents can input the name of an item to determine whether or not it should be recycled.
- C. Citation Hearing Procedure Ordinance Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that Mr. Ventres is working on several revisions/clarifications to the draft Control of Animals ordinance.
- E. Municipal Open Space Funding Option Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packet related to this agenda item. There was a general discussion regarding the proposed legislation.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, that East Haddam be added to the list of municipalities interested in participating in the pilot program under Committee Bill No. 5254, an Act Establishing a Pilot Program Authorizing Municipalities to Impose a Buyer's Conveyance Fee on Real Property to Fund the Purchase and Stewardship of Open Space. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

- A. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EHVRC)

East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee

Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the draft minutes of the January 23, 2019, East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee meeting. He advised that, at that meeting, the Committee discussed the standing of Michael Gionta as a regular member and noted that Mr. Gionta had not attended a meeting since the Committee was reestablished. Mr. Lyman reported that Committee Chairman Bill Gerrish had spoken with Mr. Gionta who offered to help as best he could but stated that, for the most part, he would not be available for the EHVRC meetings. Mr. Lyman stated that the Committee members were reluctant to ask that Mr. Gionta be removed from the Committee but felt that one of the alternate members that participates on a regular basis would be better suited to fill the regular member position. The Committee, therefore, recommended that Michael Gionta be made an alternate member for the time being and alternate member Gerald (JT) Smith fill the regular member position.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to change the status of Michael Gionta from a regular member to an alternate member and Gerald Smith from an alternate member to a regular member on the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee. Unanimous aye.

B. Tax Refunds: There was one tax refund considered at the meeting.

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

- \$2,697.32 to Ann Marie Yodh.
- Unanimous aye.

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

- In response to a question raised by Mr. R. Dill, Mr. Lyman confirmed that EHVRC Chairman had authorized that the draft RFQ be submitted to the Town's attorney.
- Mr. R. Dill commented that he feels the state would eventually find a way to take the special revenue raised by the proposed Municipal Open Space Funding legislation. He also stated that he feels the cost would, more often than not, fall back on the seller.
- In response to several questions raised by Mr. T. Gelston, Mr. Lyman advised the following:
 - The EHVRC RFQ had been submitted to the Town's attorney and the Town was being charged its standard municipal rate.
 - The work on the back side of the hopper at the Transfer Station is not yet completed.
 - The reverse traffic-flow pattern will be implemented once the work on the hopper is completed.
 - The meeting he and Public Works Director Lunt had with the manager of the Willimantic Waste was a courtesy meeting and they discussed the on-going changes to the processing of recyclables.
 - Removal of diseased/dead trees is currently under 10% completed. It is a very expensive project and will probably take several years to complete.
 - They are waiting to finalize and release RFQ/RFPs for the repairs to the roads damaged by the September storms.
- In response to Mr. E. Dill's suggestion that a mechanical gate be installed at the Transfer Station and citizens be issued pass cards, Mr. Lyman stated that he is in favor of that idea, however, the decision was made to go low-tech initially and, if needed, consider installing something like that down the road.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. J. Jansky, Mr. Lyman stated that the manager at Willimantic Waste feels that if the Town converts to the bag-system, it would result in cleaner recyclables being deposited at the Transfer Station. Mr. Lyman confirmed that the Town would keep an open communication with the haulers about its plans to implement the bag-system and provide a reasonable transition period.
- Mr. C. Behilo recommended removing the option to take in construction and demolition waste at the Transfer Station and Mr. J. Jansky agreed with his recommendation. Mr. Lyman stated that he did not disagree but he is not going to take any action on that issue at this time.
- Mr. T. Gelston stated he did not agree with Mr. C. Behilo's recommendation regarding completely eliminating the intake of construction and demolition waste.

- D. Berndtson stated that when the bag system is implemented, the Transfer Station employees will have to oversee the deposit process.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Ms. Zemienieski stated that the meetings for the Selectmen's Budget Review Sessions are posted on the Town's website. Ms. Link stated that she would prefer it if the Budget Review Session meetings were also posted on a more public forum such as the East Haddam News and/or the Town's Facebook page. Both she and Mr. Smith agreed that the sessions should be recorded and posted on YouTube.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman stated that the contractor that Public Works uses for tree removal work does not have a regular schedule with the Town but generally works 1-3 days a week taking down dead/diseased trees.

In response to a question from Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman advised that he had spoken with the Chairman of the Transfer Station Committee who informed him that the rationale for recommending a \$140/ton fee for bulky waste was intentionally set high to discourage people from bringing bulky waste to the Transfer Station.

Mr. Lyman advised the Selectmen and public that there would be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Bone Mill Bridge this Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

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

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary