

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1/2
March 20, 2019
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: D. Andersen; B. Auld; E. Blaschik; K. Cazassa; L. D'Aquila; E. Dill; R. Dill; R. Gaudio; T. Levesque; J. Moreau; J. Reynolds; T. Reynolds; J. Sarnik; J. Spencer; R. Turner; 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 Mr. Smith, to approve the Agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of February 20, 2019 and Special Meeting of February 25, 2019

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the February 20, 2019 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 20, 2019, as written. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting. Mr. Smith requested the following change be made in the first bullet point under item 7 on Page 3: Change "*Representatives Needleman and Haines*" to "*Senator Needleman and Representative Haines*".

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 25, 2019, as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence
 - A. Resident Appreciation Letters: The following letters from residents were reviewed:
 - Email from Kandie Carl, dated February 28, 2019, thanking the Public Works Department for their work on Sims Road.
 - Letter from Helen and Robert Hine commenting on the assistance they received from Officer Smith relative to the sale of their motorcycle.
 - Email from Russell Marth, dated March 11, 2019, complimenting Recreation Director Conroy and the Parks and Rec Commissioners for their hard work and helpfulness.

5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman reported on the following:

- The Town hired William Thody to fill the Building Official position. He stated that Mr. Thody is currently the Building Official in Guilford and will begin his duties in East Haddam on April 8th.
- Chatham Health District hired Russell Melmed as their new Director. Mr. Melmed will assume that role on April 23rd.
- Public Works hired a temporary employee, starting March 25th, to fill a short-term vacancy.

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

6. Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns raised at the meeting

7. Unfinished Business

A. East Haddam Village Revitalization (EHVRC) Update: Mr. Lyman reported that the RFQ for developers of the old Town Office Site had been posted and that a mandatory walk-through of the site is scheduled for March 29th. In response to a question from Ms. Link, Ms. Zemienieski confirmed that the final RFQ and related documents are available on the Town's website.

B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Mr. Lyman reported that a new rear door to the hopper has been installed and that side is again being used. He stated that they are preparing to change the traffic flow to better monitor the use of the Transfer Station, and the bag system will be implemented in the near future.

Mr. Lyman reported that he had met with local haulers and representatives from EDC on March 19th to discuss the haulers concerns about not having access to the Transfer Station. In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Lyman confirmed that he expected all of the recommendations proposed by the most recent Transfer Station Committee will be implemented by the end of this spring. There was a brief discussion regarding the haulers concerns and the status of the Essex facility.

C. Citation Hearing Procedure Ordinance Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman reported that he will follow-up with Mr. Ventres on the status of revisions/clarifications to the draft Control of Animals ordinance.

8. New Business

A. Sustainable CT – Sustainability Team: Mr. Smith reported that he is in the process of setting up a core team for this project. He stated that he had invited Mr. Ventres and Mr. Turner to sit on the core team and noted that he had received an application from Candice Nero. In response to questions raised by Ms. Link, Mr. Smith reiterated that he does not expect the project will result in much expense to the Town, other than a small amount of Mr. Ventres' and Mr. Turner's time, and that grants are available for funds to hire interns. He confirmed that they will advertise and solicit volunteers to participate on the team.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Link, to appoint Candice Nero as a member of the East Haddam Sustainability Team to serve until the desired certification level has been achieved. Unanimous aye.

- B. CIRMA Commitment Letter: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to the CIRMA Letter of Commitment for its Budget Stabilization Program, dated January 24, 2019. He noted that the Town has participated in the program since 2004. He stated that the premium split is 51% paid by the Board of Education and 49% paid by the Town. Mr. Lyman further noted that CIRMA has agreed to cap rate increases for this year's coverage at -3%, plus exposure, for municipalities that participate in the Budget Stabilization Program.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to authorize the Town to contract with CIRMA for a three-year budget stabilization program for our liability, auto and property (LAP) insurances for the period of 7/1/2019 to 7/01/2022. Unanimous aye.

- C. Cemetery Committee Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets, dated March 5, 2019, from the two-member Cemetery Committee stating that they are not clear on what their responsibilities are and restating their request "*...that the Committee be a full committee, consist of at least five members and have a charge whose duties include, but are not limited to, creation of its budget, oversight of its spending, development of policies, development of by-laws to include rules and regulations to regulate all of the Town owned cemeteries, grant pursuits and to work with the Land Use Commissions to identify and secure property on which to locate future burial grounds.*"

Mr. Lyman stated that there has been steady improvement in the condition of the cemeteries since the Facilities Department assumed the maintenance of them and stated that he would ask Mr. Ventres to research whether there is any appropriate space to locate future burial grounds. Mr. Smith endorsed development of a formal charge for the committee and, at his suggestion, Mr. Lyman agreed to speak with Mr. Brownell regarding the committee's concerns.

Ms. Zemienieski confirmed that she has a copy of a binder with information compiled by Dr. Karl Stofko on all of the Town's cemeteries if the board would like to review it.

- D. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EDC): Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Mr. Casner, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, recommending changes to the Commission's membership. Mr. Lyman noted that Mr. Robidoux had submitted a resume per Mr. Smith's request.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to appoint Michael Robidoux as an alternate member of the Economic Development Commission to fill a vacant five-year term to expire on June 30, 2020. Unanimous aye.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Link, Ms. Zemienieski confirmed that volunteer applications are posted on the Town's website and that vacancies are posted on the website and, from time-to-time, advertised in the local newspaper.

- E. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds considered at the meeting.

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

- Ms. J. Reynolds noted recent media coverage of the problems within the Ambulance Association and the Town's increased dependence on mutual aid and expressed her concern about public safety.

Mr. Lyman reviewed the steps that have been taken to correct the problems and responded to several questions from Ms. Link. Ms. Link asked that a deadline be set to see a positive turn-around in the mutual aid rate. Ms. L. D'Aquila stated that a plan was developed to address problems within the Ambulance Association that are contributing to the increased mutual aid rate. She reviewed the plan and responded to several questions from Ms. Link.

Ms. J. Reynolds advised that, in April, the Ambulance Association board will participate in a follow-up meeting with the oversight individual from Middlesex Hospital Emergency Medicine to review how the plan is working. She noted several conflicts in the board's plan with what was recommended by the Middlesex Emergency Medicine oversight staff. Ms. D'Aquila confirmed that it has not yet been decided whether the new Emergency Medical Services Director will respond to emergency calls.

Ms. J. Reynolds suggested combining the Town's volunteer fire and ambulance emergency crews but Mr. Lyman advised that that may not be possible due to contractual agreements.

- Mr. T. Reynolds stated that the Fire Department appears to have a well-organized training program and suggested creating a training operations group for the two organizations. He emphasized the urgency of the situation and stated that the Town must act quickly. He recommended the Selectmen set-up a joint meeting with representatives from the ambulance and fire departments and put all issues on the table so they can be resolved.

Mr. Smith agreed with Mr. Reynolds assessment regarding the urgency of the situation and stated he would like to discuss a resolution to the mutual aid rate at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

- Mr. J. Moreau reiterated his concerns regarding the volunteer emergency services departments and encouraged the fire, ambulance and Board of Selectmen to sit down and talk out the issues. Mr. Smith agreed that a solution must be found sooner rather than later.
- Ms. J. Reynolds stated that no ambulance volunteer intentionally ignores emergency calls.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Smith and Ms. Link advised that they will not be able to attend the Board of Finance's budget meetings this weekend. Ms. Link stated that she did not agree with the other Selectmen's decision to fill the new SRO position with an existing officer and encouraged Mr. Lyman to be prepared to explain the rationale for that decision at the BOF meeting this weekend.

In response to Mr. Smith's request, Mr. Lyman confirmed that he would keep the Selectmen appraised of the progress in the Ambulance Association's efforts to bring the mutual aid rate down.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded Ms. Link, to adjourn the meeting 8:07 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary