

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1/2
May 15, 2019
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; D. Brown; W. Cross; L. D'Aquila; C. Dickinson; T. Dickinson; R. Dill; C. Gelston; T. Gelston; D. Holahan; A. Jansky; B. Lunt; M. Masci; R. Masci; S. Wheeler; J. Zaid; 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 May 1, 2019

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the May 1, 2019 meeting. Mr. Smith noted that the last paragraph under item 5B (pg. 2) – Horizontal Alignment Treatments of State Roads in District 2 – should be clarified as follows: “...*Mr. Lyman request the DOT define, in writing, the Town's rights and responsibilities once the Town's portion of the project is completed*”.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 1, 2019, as amended. Ms. Link abstained and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence
 - A. Mill Rate Letter from Board of Finance: Mr. Lyman called the Selectman's attention to a memo in their meeting packets from William DiCristofaro, Chairman of the Board of Finance, dated May 7, 2019. Mr. Lyman reviewed the memo and stated that the mill rate adopted for 2019-2020 is 30.44. He noted that without the anticipated state funds, the mill rate would be 35.01.
5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman recognized Ms. D'Aquila who reported that the Ambulance Association's staffing agency and EMS Director are fully on board. Mr. Brown reviewed the mutual aid rates from March through the end of April, noting that they had been reduced from 50% in March to 11% for the last half of April. He noted that the rates had ticked up slightly over the first ten days of May and they are working on adjusting staffing coverage to bring them back down. He also reported that he had responded to several calls to avoid using mutual aid services.

- A. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: The following additional information was provided regarding previous meeting questions:
 - Everbridge Notifications for Swingbridge Outings: Mr. Lyman advised that he spoke with Emergency Management Director Mansfield and they agreed that, if state personnel make the Town aware of an anticipated extended outage of the bridge, a notice will go out to Everbridge subscribers. There was a general discussion regarding this issue and Mr. Smith

suggested that the Town should request more consistent notification from the state regarding Swingbridge issues.

- O'Connell Road Extension: Mr. Smith reported that he has not yet received the final report from the surveyor. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Link, he clarified his reasons for re-opening the discussion on the process used to agree to a quid pro quo with a property owner during the O'Connell Road Extension construction project and noted that his research indicated that an exchange was not necessary.

Mr. Lyman provided several documents which confirmed that the land boundary in question was, in fact, in the middle of the existing stone wall. He stated that it is the policy of the Town that, whenever taking of property affects a stone wall, the Town will rebuild the wall on the new property line. Mr. Lyman advised that, in the situation under discussion, the cost of installing the pillars was substantially less than what it would have cost to rebuild the stone wall and, consequently, the exchange agreed to resulted in a significant cost savings to the Town.

Mr. Smith stated that he feels a written policy should be implemented stating that whenever a taking of land is being considered, a survey of the property and staking of the boundaries is required.

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

- Ms. T. Dickinson reiterated that checks and balances should be in place when taxpayers money is being spent and suggested a 3rd party review should have been in place when the O'Connell Road Extension quid pro quo was agreed to. Mr. Lyman stated that the contractor and the Public Works Director had brought the issue to the attention of the First Selectmen at the time who acted as the 3rd party reviewer. Ms. Dickinson asked if the property records were appropriately notated with the new boundary line.
- Mr. T. Gelston thanked Mr. Smith for the research he had done on the O'Connell Road Extension issue and stated that he feels that the process that was followed was not adequate and he hopes that better procedures have been put in place.
- In response to Mr. T. Gelston's question regarding the current procedures for taking of property, Ms. B. Lunt advised that her instructions for such situations have been that she confer with the Land Use Administrator and review Town records and that, when a boundary is indicated by a stone wall, typically the boundary line falls in the middle of the wall. She further stated that if that policy is no longer acceptable, she will need clarification as to how she should handle future situations, including which situations would require a survey.
- Mr. R. Dill stated that there is a precedent for the Board of Selectmen to meet at a site visit at properties where there are boundary questions.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. M. Masci, Mr. Curtin advised that he had saved the "good" stones from the original wall to be used in the pillar construction.
- In response to a concern raised by Mr. T. Gelston regarding emergency vehicle traffic during Swing bridge outages, Mr. Brown advised that Valleyshore has a direct line to the bridge tender and they are generally notified when there are issues with the bridge. There was a general

discussion regarding improving the communication with the Town and it was agreed that the Town's Emergency Management Director should ask to be added to Valley Shore's notification list.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Lyman reported that the deadline for receiving RFQs from developers is 2:00 p.m. on May 16th.
- B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Mr. Lyman reported that Willimantic Waste was able to install a replacement ram in the hopper for \$2500.00 and is leasing it to the Town for \$300.00/month. He stated that Willimantic Waste will provide all maintenance for the equipment. Mr. Lyman noted that a new ram for the hopper would have cost approximately \$70,000.00 and taken three months to install. In response to a question raised by Mr. Smith, Mr. Lyman advised that Willimantic Waste completed all of the repairs to the hopper that were necessary.

Mr. Lyman advised that the project to re-route traffic at the Transfer Station will be implemented in the near future and the next step is to re-visit consideration of the bag system.

- C. Citation Hearing Procedure Ordinance Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- E. Cemetery Committee Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

8. New Business

- A. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board, Commission or Committee changes discussed at the meeting.
- B. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds considered at the meeting.

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

- In response to a question from Mr. T. Gelston, Mr. Lyman reviewed the issues under consideration concerning the Cemetery Committee.
- In response to a question raised by Ms. A. Jansky, Mr. Lyman confirmed that there will be public meetings scheduled to educate Town residents about the proposed bag system. He stated that he is not certain whether a public vote would be held at a Town Meeting prior to implementing any such system.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

- A. Memorial Day Parade Discussion: Mr. Lyman reviewed the route for the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Smith stated that he will participate in the parade and Ms. Link advised that her plans are not yet finalized.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Link regarding an invoice for survey work performed, Mr. Smith advised that the Town acquires most open space with a survey attached; however, the Conservation Commission surveys all parcels that do not come with one. He confirmed that the cost of the surveys is paid for from the Conservation Commission's operating budget.

Mr. Smith reported that he attended the May 14th Board of Education meeting and was impressed by the number of students and student groups that are excelling in their fields. He noted that there are 45 members on the track team and several are competing in state-wide events and a few are competing in national events. He suggested the Town would benefit by installing a track at the High School.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded Ms. Link, to adjourn the meeting 8:01 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary