

Board of Selectmen  
Municipal Office Complex  
Meeting Rooms 1/2  
August 21, 2019  
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: D. Barlow; J. Bielot, D. Berndtson; A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; C. Brownell; R. Casner; L. D'Aquila; R. Dill; A. Donner; D. . Faipler; M. Gilroy; B. Kiley; B. Lunt; R. Turner; C. VanValkenburg; 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: Regular Meeting of August 7, 2019 and Special Meeting of August 14, 2019

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 7, 2019, as written. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the August 14, 2019 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 14, 2019, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman recognized Ms. D'Aquila who reported that the July mutual aid rate for the Ambulance Association was 5.8%. She noted that their goal is to get the mutual aid rate to 5%.

- A. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: Mr. Lyman provided the following additional information regarding questions raised at previous meetings:

- Per Mr. Smith's request at the last meeting, Mr. Lyman distributed information from the Assessor's office concerning the appraisals of the two library buildings.
- As a follow-up to Ms. Link's inquiry Mr. Lyman advised that work has begun on Beebe Road and he commented that he feels the crew is doing a thorough job. Ms. Link noted that Beebe Road seems to have replaced Wickham Road as a through road and that she feels it has been widened leading to an increase in traffic speed.

Mr. Lyman provided the following additional information:

- Paving at Fire Company No. 1 was delayed slightly due to weather and additional unanticipated work. Mr. Lyman noted he was informed that no vehicles can drive on the re-paved area until August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- He approved a request from the Johnsonville Bridge contractors to work through some weekends rather than commute back to New York.
- A Stop-The-Bleed seminar was recently conducted by the Ambulance Association.

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

- Mr. R. Dill stated that he concurred with Ms. Link's opinion that construction on Beebe Road has led to a widening of the road.
- Mr. C. Brownell expressed concern about the use of the Town's boat launch/dock at Goodspeed Landing. There was a general discussion regarding this topic and Mr. Lyman confirmed that construction of the launch/dock was funded by a state grant that promoted opening up river towns to boating traffic to attract tourism to the Towns and provide an opportunity for economic development.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. D. Berndtson, Ms. Lunt confirmed that Public Works has an on-going project to remove damaged/dead trees and has retained the services of a contractor, 2-3 days a week, for the foreseeable future.
- In response to a question raised by Mr. C. Brownell, Ms. Lunt stated that she does not believe speed bumps deter speeders and advised that, in her opinion, the best deterrent is a regular police presence on Town roads. Mr. Dill reiterated that he feels there must be some acceptable alternatives to speed-bumps.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Lyman advised that he expects the RFP will be finalized at the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EHVRC and will be issued on September 19<sup>th</sup>. He further noted that he anticipates the project to come before a Town Meeting or Referendum in May or June of 2020.
- B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: There was no new update on this agenda item.
- C. Citation Hearing Procedure Ordinance Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an updated draft of the Control of Animals Ordinance in their meeting packets. He noted that a potential date of September 5<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled for a second Public Hearing concerning this ordinance.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to hold a second Public Hearing to review and discuss the revised draft language for a Control of Animals Ordinance. Unanimous aye.

- E. Cemetery Committee Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- F. Transfer Station Waste Agreement: Mr. Lyman distributed copies of an email from Public Works Director Lunt, dated August 21, 2019, forwarding a proposal from Willimantic Waste to address the Town's concern about the pricing for recyclable waste. There was a brief discussion regarding the proposal and the Selectmen agreed to review the information and then consider a motion on the acceptance of the agreement at their next regular meeting.
- G. Building Department Fees Discussion: The Selectmen agreed to postpone a discussion of this agenda item until after Ms. Link meets with Building Official Thody.
- H. East Haddam Free Public Library Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets related to this agenda item and he reviewed a tentative timeline to move forward with acceptance of the East Haddam Free Public Library building. He advised that Ms. Zemienieski is putting together a spreadsheet of three-year history of expenses for the buildings. The Selectmen briefly discussed the list of capital improvements needed for each building as well as using the libraries' endowments to fund some of those improvements. Mr. Lyman noted that there are numerous alternatives to the current arrangement of the Town's library system. Mr. Smith requested one of the library board members present at the meeting provide input on this agenda item.

Ms. D. Barlow, Chairwoman of the Library Board, introduced herself and agreed that there are many alternatives to the current system that could be considered. She stated, however, that she believes the first step in evaluating and making a decision on the best option is for the Town to accept the East Haddam Free Public Library building.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Link, to hold a Public Hearing on September 4, 2019, to discuss the conveyance of real and personal property from the East Haddam Free Public Library and Reading Room Association, Inc. to the Town of East Haddam. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

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

9. Public Comment: The following public comments were discussed at the meeting:

- In response to a question from Mr. R. Dill, Ms. Zemienieski advised that she had provided Mr. Gerrish, Chairman of the EHVRC, with a copy of the final RFP and stated she expected he would distribute it to his committee members in advance of next week's meeting. Mr. Lyman stated that he did not believe there was anything in the document that would require a Planning & Zoning Commission review at this time. Mr. Brownell stated that he was surprised that the Planning & Zoning Commissioners have not been given an opportunity to provide input regarding the RFP.

- Mr. R. Casner noted that the Economic Development Commission had received comments from contractors that the Town's building fees are excessive. He stated that Mr. Thody's analysis confirms that the current fees are not representative of those charged by neighboring communities. He expressed his opinion that the existing fee structure is not fair to building contractors and encouraged the Selectmen to move forward and approve Mr. Thody's recommended changes as soon as possible.
- In response to Mr. C. Brownell's concern that the Planning & Zoning Commission regular meeting is scheduled on the same evening as the planned Town Meeting to vote on the Plan of Conservation & Development, Mr. Lyman advised that they had taken that into consideration when scheduling the timeline for the various steps for the Plan of Conservation and Development. The Town Meeting was deliberately planned to be in the Municipal Office Building on a night that P&Z met so the P&Z Commissioners could easily attend.

#### 10. Selectmen's Discussion

Ms. Link expressed her concern that the final hiring decision for police officers is solely the First Selectman's responsibility. She recommended that, since the police officers in Town interact heavily with the schools, a broader committee which is more representative of the community should be established to make final hiring decisions. There was a general discussion concerning her recommendation and Mr. Lyman noted that he follows the hiring guidelines stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement with the police union. Ms. Link expressed her disappointment that Mr. Lyman would not consider her recommendation.

Mr. Smith stated that several citizens had expressed concern to him that, at their last regular meeting, the Selectmen voted to waive the bid requirement for the repairs to the High School baseball field. He advised that Mr. Turner had informed him that the situation was an exceptional occurrence due to timing constraints. Mr. Smith noted, further, that he found the bid Mr. Turner had gotten was very reasonable.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Smith, Public Works Director Lunt advised that, generally, one of her staff accompanies the tree removal contractor; however, when a staff person is not available, the contractor will work in areas such as Early Road, where there is low traffic and no overhead wires. Mr. Smith noted that low traffic areas with no overhead wires are ideal sites to use mechanized tree removal equipment which could operate much more efficiently than the manual crews.

- A. Town Meeting (August 27, 2019 at 8:00pm – Municipal Office Complex): Mr. Lyman reminded the Selectmen and public that a Town Meeting is scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 p.m., to consider adopting the new Plan of Conservation and Development and to accept a gift of a replacement birds nest swing.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Link, Secretary