

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

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

Also Present: A. Blaschik; W. Cross; C. Dickinson; T. Dickinson; D. Dill; E. Dill; R. Dill; A. Donner;
D. Faipier; A. Jansky; M. Masci; R. Masci; J. Moreau; C. Quinn; 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. He noted that Selectwoman Link had informed him that she was delayed and may not make it to the meeting.
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 April 17, 2019

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the April 17, 2019 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2019, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. Letter of Appreciation: Mr. Lyman called the Selectman's attention to a note from the Garden Club in the meeting packets. Mr. Lyman read the note which thanked "... *the town and it's workers for helping us make [improvements to] the gateway to our beautiful community*".

5. First Selectmen's Report

Mr. Lyman reported that Ms. D'Aquila could not attend the meeting to provide an update on the Ambulance Association's progress. He stated that VinTech is now on-board and there has been a noticeable reduction in mutual aid calls.

A. Board of Assessment Appeals – Spring 2019 Final Report: Mr. Lyman recognized Mr. Blaschik, Chairperson of the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Mr. Blaschik reported that, due to two weather delays, the Board had requested an extension to the deadline from the state. He stated that 23 real property appeals and one auto appeal had been considered and the Board reduced the assessment of 17 (74%) of the property appeals as well as the auto appeal resulting in a 10.82% reduction in the Grand List (-\$492,765.00).

B. Horizontal Alignment Treatments of State Roads in District 2: Mr. Lyman called the Selectman's attention to a copy of a letter in the meeting packet from the CT Department of Transportation, dated April 16, 2019, advising of planned Horizontal Alignment Treatments on State Roads in District 2 and requesting confirmation of whether or not a public meeting regarding the project is necessary.

Mr. Lyman advised that, since the horizontal treatment will be on state roads, the Town has no control over the project; however, he had responded to the DOT's request regarding the need for a public hearing that, due to the "*immediate and negative*" reaction of East Haddam residents to a similar project three years ago, "*A public Hearing is very much in order for us and must include full sized samples and well documented installation plans*".

There was a general discussion regarding the state's proposed project and Mr. Smith recommended Mr. Lyman request that the DOT define, in writing, the Town's rights and responsibilities once the project is completed.

C. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: There was no discussion of previous meeting questions.

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

- In response to a concern raised by Mr. Moreau, Mr. Lyman advised that, since the swingbridge is state-owned, a notice about the outage that occurred on Saturday would not be covered by Everbridge. Ms. Zemienieski advised that there is a state alert system that covers swingbridge issues that citizens can join.

In response to Ms. Dickinson's comment that Everbridge has been used for meeting notices, Mr. Lyman advised that the notice she referenced was not put out as an Everbridge notice and that a different system had been used. He further noted that the organization that had put out the notice has been instructed not to do so in the future.

7. Unfinished Business

A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Lyman reported that implementing a fee for parking in the old Town Office Site lot had been suggested and researched and it was determined that it was not a feasible option.

B. Transfer Station Committee Final Report Discussion & Solid Waste Facility Ordinance: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Public Works Director Lunt, dated April 30, 2019, advising that the hopper's ram had failed and could not be repaired. He reported that a new replacement would cost \$60-70,000.00 and that a temporary solution has been developed but a permanent fix will take several months. In the meantime, he advised that he has instructed the Public Works Department to postpone the planned reversal of traffic flow at the Transfer Station set to begin on May 7th.

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

D. Control of Animals Ordinance Discussion: There was no new update on this agenda item.

E. Cemetery Committee Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

8. New Business

A. Gift Acceptance – Consumer Reports: Mr. Lyman called the Selectman's attention to a copy of a letter, dated April 22, 2019, from Consumer Reports in the meeting packets, advising that a

payment of \$25,000.00, in lieu of property taxes, was being made to the Town in support of rebuilding Ackley Road.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept a gift from Consumer Reports, Inc. for the Town of East Haddam in the amount of \$25,000.00 for support of Ackley Road, acceptance of said donation to be sent to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Lyman advised that he would send a letter to Consumer Reports, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, thanking them for the gift.

- B. Beer & Wine Approval – Grange Hall: Mr. Lyman called the Selectman’s attention to an email in his meeting packet, dated April 8, 2019, from Patrick Murray, Moodus Drum & Fife Corps, requesting permission to serve beer and wine at their annual Muster on October 18 and 19, 2019.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Grange Hall for the “Moodus Drum & Fife Muster” on October 18 & 19, 2019. Unanimous aye.

- C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board, Commission or Committee changes discussed at the meeting.

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

9. Public Comment: There was no additional public comment at the meeting.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion

- A. Budget Referendum (May 7, 2019 – Municipal Office Complex – 6:00 am to 8:00 pm): Mr. Lyman advised that a referendum on the proposed budget will be held between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., on May 7th at the Municipal Office Complex.

- B. Memorial Day Parade Discussion: Mr. Lyman noted that, due to the washout of the bridge on Neptune Avenue, an alternate route for the Memorial Day Parade has been created.

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- The Sustainable CT Committee is actively reviewing the requirements of the program and that Mr. Ventres and Mr. Turner have been helpful. He stated he was looking into a grant to hire an intern to assist the committee.
- He complimented the libraries on their active public events calendar.
- He received a surveyor’s report indicating that the final site work on O’Connell Road Extension was 4.5’ away from the property boundary where the contractor felt a land-taking might be necessary to complete his work. Mr. Smith observed that it appears that it was not necessary to compensate the property owner in any way and that the situation had, in fact, been improperly handled. Mr. Smith and Mr. Lyman discussed the issue and Mr. Smith recommended written procedures be put in place to address how such situations should be handled in the future.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting 7:37 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Emmett Lyman, First Selectman