

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
March 2, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Pete Govert (arrived 7:25 p.m.), Emmett Lyman
Also Present: C. Behilo, C. Varricchio, S. Wheeler, L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of February 4, 2011 and Regular Meeting of February 16, 2011: The Selectmen agreed to defer the approval of the meeting minutes until Mr. Govert's arrival.
4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter advised that he had received an e-mail request from Mr. Bradway to hold a Youth Music Festival at the Town Beach in July. Mr. Walter stated that he tentatively approved the request provided it was overseen by either the Parks & Recreation Commission or Youth and Family Services. He advised that he would speak with Ms. Quinn about the proposal.
5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter reported on the following items:
 - He met with the lawyer for the Town's insurance company and informed him that the Town did not want any citizens impleaded in the law suit with the Shorthouses. They agreed that the Town would write the affected residents and state that, at this time, they will not be impleaded in the law suit.
 - The work on the Grange Hall has been completed and the electricity will be connected on March 4th. At Mr. Walter's request, Mr. Behilo agreed to provide a proposal and quote for installing dumpsters on the site for the combined use of the Grange Hall and the Food Bank.
 - The plans have been completed for the walkways in the Village that will be installed using the Mobility Study grant funds. Mr. Walter advised that they would not be installing parabolic walkways because it would have required additional drainage work that was not funded. He and Mr. Lyman reviewed the drawings.
6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizens concerns expressed at the meeting.
7. Unfinished Business
 - A. 4-8 Middle School: There was no update on this agenda item.
 - B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: There was no update on this agenda item.
 - C. Old Middle School: There was no update on this agenda item.

D. Rotary Club Donation of Edgar D. Williams Park: Ms. Zemienieski advised that the Rotary Club has to respond to several items requested by Attorney Poliner. She noted that no funds have been allocated to the Town's budget for maintenance of the Park; however, Ms. Varricchio advised that there would be time to build the expense into the budget before it was submitted to the Board of Finance.

E. Solar Project – 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that solar panels have been installed on the Senior Center but that a problem arose with the installation of panels at the Salt Shed. He advised that the existing in-ground electrical wires had not been buried deep enough and, as a result, were dug up during the solar array installation.

Mr. Govert advised that the project at the Middle School would probably not occur since most of the grant funding has been applied for already.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of February 4, 2011 and Regular Meeting of February 16, 2011: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 4, 2011 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 16, 2011 as written. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business:

A. Transfer Station Fee Waiver – Youth & Family Service: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a Transfer Station Fee Waiver application in their meeting packets from Youth & Family Service, dated February 18, 2011, for disposal of chimney demolition debris.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the application to waive Transfer Station Fees for East Haddam Youth & Family Services for chimney demolition debris as requested in their February 18, 2011 application. Unanimous aye.

B. Grant Acceptance – AARA Pavement Management Supplemental Grant: Mr. Walter advised that the Town had received a supplemental Pavement Management Grant from funds that were either left over or uncollected from other towns' projects. He noted that the State had disbursed the additional funds to towns whose project costs exceeded the grant funds previously awarded.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Mark B. Walter, First Selectmen, be, and hereby authorized to sign the agreement entitled:

“First Supplemental Agreement to the Original Agreement Dated March 29, 2010 between the State of Connecticut and the Town of East Haddam for the Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance of Resurfacing of Lake Shore Drive utilizing Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Public Law 111-5 (hereinafter “Act”).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board accepts a supplemental grant in the amount of \$22,622.00 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Pavement Preservation Project Grant for the purpose of resurfacing of Lake Shore Drive, and sends acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

C. Bid Waiver – Fire Department Pension Actuarials: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a memo from Ms. Varricchio, Finance Administrator, dated March 2, 2011, requesting a bid waiver for an actuarial evaluation of the Firefighters’s pension.

Ms. Varricchio advised that the Firefighter Pension Committee has proposed converting the pension program from a defined benefit to a defined contribution plan and, consequently, an actuarial evaluation of the existing plan would be required. She noted that such an evaluation was required every 5-years and the Town has not done one in several years. She stated that Nyhart (aka Alliance Benefit Group) has consistently been the low-bidder for the Town’s actuarial needs and that she has been very satisfied with their work. She also noted that, to go out to bid, an RFQ for the project would have to be drafted by an actuarial consulting firm at a minimum cost of \$1,000.00. Ms. Varricchio requested the Selectmen waive the bid requirements for this project.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to waive the bid process for the Fire Department Pension Actuarial Evaluation and authorize the Finance Administrator to negotiate with Nyhart (also known as Alliance Benefit Group) per their quote of \$9,000.00 for these services. Unanimous aye.

D. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to one tax refund.

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

- \$ 22.12 to Ralph B. Thrall, Jr.
- Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Mr. Behilo suggested putting down the same stone on Beebe Road as the Town used at the Transfer Station.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion: In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter advised that approximately 50 people had attended the March 1st Town Meeting. He noted that the only controversial issue was the Open Space purchases and that two people had voiced strong opinions against spending funds on additional Open Space.

Mr. Govert noted that he had forwarded the Selectmen a copy of an e-mail he had received from Roger Smith advising that the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Program carries insurance and the Town would be held harmless for any liability resulting from any actions undertaken by the program. He also advised that he had spoken with the Registrar of Voters who agreed that the Program would set up a table at the upcoming Referendum provided they adhere to all related regulations.

A. General Budget Review: Ms. Varricchio distributed documents outlining the most recent changes that had been made to the 2011-2012 budget. She noted that prior to including figures from the Federal Bridge Grant Program; the Town’s expenditures were down 0.51%; after including the Bridge Grant Program expenses, the expenditures were up 2.79%. The result was an increase of 0.23 in the mill

rate as compared to last year's 0.32 increase to the mill rate. The Selectmen discussed several of the changes with Ms. Varricchio.

Ms. Varricchio responded to several questions from the Selectmen. She advised that the process had gone very smoothly this year and that both the Town's and the Board of Education budgets would be submitted together to the Board of Finance on March 14th. The Selectmen, Ms. Varricchio, and Ms. Zemienieski reviewed the schedule of related meeting dates. Mr. Walter thanked Ms. Varricchio and Ms. Zemienieski for all their work on the 2011-2012 budget.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend to the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2011-2012, a base budget of \$27,315,037, which is a decrease of .51% over the current fiscal year and a total budget of \$28,990,695 which includes utilizing the federal bridge program grant in the amount of \$1,675,658, which is an increase of 2.79% over the current fiscal year. Unanimous aye.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 638A
638B

Emmett Lyman, Secretary