

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
April 6, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Pete Govert, Emmett Lyman

Also Present: C. Behilo, E. Blaschik, R. Holmgren, R. Holmgren, M. Malavasi, S. Mackinnon, L. Zemienieski, M. Ziobron

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: Regular Meeting of March 16, 2011: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2011 as written. Unanimous aye.
4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from the East Haddam Economic Development Commission concerning a recommendation by it's Moodus Infrastructure Sub-Committee that the Town eliminate the Plains Road extension and replace it with green space. The sub-committee's recommendation noted that the extension, located by the Moodus Green and the Amasa Day House, is unattractive and dangerous. The letter stated that removing the pavement and replacing it with topsoil would "...*increase the Moodus Green size, increase the property values of the commercial zone, and eliminate yearly road repair and plowing expense for the town*" as well as increase the attractiveness of the area. The Selectmen discussed EDC's recommendation and Mr. Govert suggested the Town keep the Antiquarians and Landmark Society informed of any plans.
5. First Selectman's Report:

A. Middle School Conversion Committee – Recommendation Letter to the Board of Selectmen: Mr. Walter introduced Ms. Malavasi, Chairperson of the Middle School Conversion Committee, who advised that the completed plans for the conversion of the old Middle School into municipal office space had been delivered to the Town. She distributed copies of a letter from the Middle School Conversion Committee to the Board of Selectmen which outlined four potential options available to the Town for the old Middle School. She reviewed the options and stated that it was the Committee's opinion that they have completed their charge and, unless the Selectmen request otherwise, they would not hold any further meetings.

Mr. Walter stated he would be willing to schedule a joint Boards of Selectmen and Finance meeting to discuss next steps for the project. At Mr. Govert's suggestion, the Selectmen agree to hold off scheduling that meeting until after the Financial Needs Roundtable's final meeting on April 18th. Ms. Malavasi stated that the Committee recognized the high price-tag of doing the full-scope project but she also noted that the feedback received at the two public hearings indicated that public opinion was fairly equally split between those in favor of doing the project and those that were not and, consequently, that was why the Committee felt strongly that the citizens should get the opportunity to vote on the project.

Ms. Ziobron advised that she had delivered the results of the public survey on the project to the Town Offices if the Selectmen wanted to review them. Ms. Zemienieski stated she had scanned the materials and would provide them upon request.

The Selectmen thanked Ms. Malavasi and the Committee members for their work on this project.

B. Moodus Reservoir Dam Replacement Update: Mr. Walter reported that he and Mr. Toolan have been meeting with representatives of WMC Engineers regarding the work on the Moodus Reservoir Dam. He stated the project got off to a late start and experienced delays over the winter months but that the sluice gate should be in place by late April, at which time Jersey barriers will be installed on the dam so that the water level can be raised while the repair work continues. He stated the projected completion date for work on the dam was August and the project will completely wrap up in September. He noted that their next meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on April 11th at the temporary office trailer by the dam and that the other Selectmen were welcome to attend.

C. Eagle Scout Project – Randy Holmgren: Mr. Walter introduced Randy Holmgren of Boy Scout Troop 22. Mr. Holmgren stated that he would like to construct an East Haddam War Memorial for his Eagle Scout project. He advised that the memorial would be composed of a 4'x5' granite block with a copper or brass engraved plate and would recognize East Haddam residents who were members of the armed forces and were killed in action from the Revolutionary War through present conflicts. He noted that the Historical Society and the American Legion were helping him research the names of soldiers and that he hoped to dedicate the memorial at the Town's 2012 Memorial Day celebration.

Mr. Holmgren stated that he estimated the cost of the project to be around \$2050.00 and that he plans on raising the money through fundraisers and soliciting donations. He stated that he understood there would be Town regulations he must adhere to but, at this time, he was just looking for the Selectmen's okay to pursue the project. In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Holmgren stated that he did not yet know how many names would have to be engraved on the plaque and the Selectmen suggested he contact Ed Barry and Walter Golec for assistance in that area. The Selectmen made several recommendations on how Mr. Holmgren could engage the public with his project and encouraged him to take his time to make sure he gets a complete list of names for the plaque.

D. Dog Pound Improvements: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to plans for renovations to the Town's dog pound which will be delivered to the State on April 7th. He noted the plans were prepared by George Fellner with input from the State, the Town's Animal Control Officer and Building Inspector, and others. He noted the plans bring the facility up to code for a regional dog pound and will reduce its operating costs.

In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter advised that the plans were discussed at the recent Town Meeting and a motion was passed that a maximum of \$25,000.00 could be spent on the project. There was a general discussion regarding whether to put the project out to bid for a general contractor or as individual components. The Selectmen agreed that whichever way the bid goes out, every effort should be made to notify local contractors of the project so that as much business as possible could be done locally.

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: Mr. Blaschik advised that there will be an open house at the Creamery Road actors' houses at 6:30 p.m. on April 7th for Town Boards and Commissions.

C. Old Middle School: There was no update on this agenda item.

D. Rotary Club Donation of Edgar D. Williams Park: Mr. Walter reported that the Rotary Club has not yet met to formulate its list of "to do" items to facilitate the transfer of the Park to the Town.

8. New Business:

A. Bid Award – Mowing: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets titled "2011 Mowing Bid Awards". He reviewed the recommendations and the Selectmen discussed several of the contractors.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the mowing bid awards as presented. Unanimous aye. (A copy of the bid awards is attached to the minutes.)

B. Bid Award – Lakeside Drive Storm Drainage Improvements: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a memo from Mr. Toolan, the Town's Road Foreman, dated April 5, 2011, recommending Gary J. Albanese & Sons Inc. for the drainage improvement project on Lakeside Drive. Mr. Walter noted that eleven bids were received but the apparent low bidder, Parker Construction, chose to withdraw their bid due to discrepancies in pricing from his supplier. He stated that the next two low bidders, one of which was Gary J. Albanese & Sons, a local business, were within 10% of each other and that local ordinance allows that the local contractor may, given those circumstances, match the low bid.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to award the bid for the Lakeside Drive Storm Drainage Improvement Project to Gary J. Albanese & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$28,912.48. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Ordinance Amendment Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that this ordinance was due to sunset after this grand list year unless it was amended by recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Town Meeting. He informed the Selectmen that information packets in their meeting materials include the ordinance, statute, Assessor recommendations and last year's tax relief figure as provided by the Assessor. He stated that they should be prepared to discuss this item at their next meeting so they can send a recommendation to the Board of Finance.

D. Requests for Beer & Wine – Senior Center: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an e-mail from Ms. Rocznik, Senior Services Coordinator, dated March 28, 2011, requesting permission to serve wine or beer at their "Golden Anniversary Party" on June 16th, a "Barbeque" on July 25th, "October Fest" on October 7th, a "Christmas Party" on December 12th, and a "New Year's Eve Party" on December 31st.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the serving of beer or wine at the Senior Center for their “Golden Anniversary Party” on June 16th, “Barbeque” on July 25th, “October Fest” on October 7th, “Christmas Party” on December 12th, and “New Year’s Eve Party” on December 31st. Unanimous aye.

E. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter noted that April was generally reserved for the nominations of student volunteers and called the Selectmen’s attention to a letter from Heather Strunk and Lisa Maciorowski, School Counselors at Nathan Hale-Ray High School, recommending Casey Altomaro and William Devenney as Volunteers of the Month.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Casey Altomaro and William Devenney as volunteers of the month for April 2011. Unanimous aye.

F. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds for consideration at the meeting.

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

10. Selectmen’s Discussion: Mr. Govert referenced invitations to an official launch of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Energy challenge for the local cluster (East Hampton, Portland, Glastonbury, Wethersfield, and East Haddam) on April 9th and the local kick-off on April 26th.

The Selectmen discussed potential dates for Board of Selectmen meeting to review the material for the General Code review with Ms. Denette. It was noted with the current schedules the board might need to wait to meet until mid June.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 640A
640B

Emmett Lyman, Secretary

2011 Mowing Bid Awards

Attention 2 Detail

Moodus Green	\$35
Nichols Memorial	\$20
Nathan Hale Triangle	\$15
Landing/Main Triangle	\$15
Nichols Field	\$80
Town Beach	\$50
Town Office Complex	\$50

Bill’s Landscaping

Tater Hill Cemetery	\$60
Ackley Cemetery	\$60
Foxtown Cemetery	\$65
2 nd Yard Cemetery	\$50
North Plains Cemetery	\$52
Bashan Lake Cemetery	\$65
Chester Cemetery	\$55

Town Meeting Hall/Grange	\$60
Senior Center	\$60

Mill Road Cemetery	\$55
Millington Green/School	\$45

American Landscaping

Mt. Parnassus Cemetery	\$60
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Langer Contractors LLC

Millington Cemetery	\$110
Former Middle School	\$175

- **Spring clean-up for all sites will be visually evaluated and awarded on an as need basis.**