

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
April 20, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Pete Govert, Emmett Lyman
Also Present: S. McKinnon (arrived 7:35 p.m.), S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 April 6, 2011: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 6, 2011 as written. Unanimous aye.
4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from Deb Mathaisen, representing Management Response Consulting, to CT Legislators encouraging them to add funding to the State's 2011-2012 budget to continue operation of the Central Regional Tourism District.
5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter reported the following:
 - Beth Lunt has been hired as the Town's Public Works Administrator. She is a local resident with a background in municipal water treatment and previously served on East Haddam's Planning and Zoning Commission. She will work 30 hours per week in this position and focus on strategy, bids, and the Town's road improvement program.
 - Richard Toolan has been promoted to Public Works Superintendent.
 - WMC Engineers advised that the new targeted date to begin refilling the Moodus Reservoir was Memorial Day.
 - The State has approved the plans for the Dog Pound renovations and the project will be put out to bid. The RFP will specify a general contractor for the project and it is hoped that the Town can hire local contractors. The Town can now move forward with its contract with East Hampton for Animal Control services.
 - The Town plans to sign a contract with WeRecycle for domestic electronic waste separation and material recovery. This will allow residents to dispose of electronic equipment, such as computers and TVs, at the Transfer Station free of charge. Charges will apply to light bulbs, batteries, and devices containing freon. There was a general discussion about how to sort and/or charge for these items. Mr. Govert encouraged Mr. Walter to discuss with WeRecycle how the Town can best manage the sorting and fees for these items before he signed the contract.
 - Mr. Walter reviewed the Capital Improvements spreadsheet, generated by the Financial Needs Roundtable with the Selectmen and noted that no revenue or grants were reflected in

the document. He stated that the spreadsheet still needed some work; however, he expected it will be a “living” document that will be updated regularly. Mr. Walter advised that the next step, after finalizing the spreadsheet, was to forward it to the Board of Finance to prioritize and schedule a funding program for the work. He stated he will discuss potential dates with Mr. Maxwell for a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to review the spreadsheet.

The Selectmen discussed several aspects of the spreadsheet and Mr. Govert noted that it will be a good tool to help determine how much the Town can spend to convert the old Middle School to municipal offices.

- The Town’s contribution for the regional probate court was approximately \$11,000. This was a significant increase over what it cost the Town to maintain its own probate court.

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: Mr. Walter stated that the following steps have to be taken before the Middle School Conversion Committee can be disbanded: (1) deliver the final architectural plans to the Board of Selectmen, and (2) meet to authorize final payment to Silver & Petrucelli. He noted that the Selectmen should also discuss the four options outlined by the Committee as possible directions the Town can take concerning the building. He stated he was not in favor of the first two options and noted that scaling down the plan, option 3, would cost almost \$1M but only save \$2-3M in construction costs. He noted, however, that option 3 would reduce on-going maintenance expenses.

Mr. Walter suggested that, before making any decision, they should revive the Municipal Space Needs Committee to get a better handle on what the Town’s needs were. He also stated that the Town should consider other existing and available space. Mr. Govert advised that feedback he has received, in public meetings and on the street, strongly favors saving the Hale building. Consequently, he stated that, if the Municipal Space Needs Committee was revived, he felt it should be within the context of considering re-using of the old Middle School.

There was a general discussion regarding the old Middle School and Mr. Walter requested the other Selectmen provide him with names of individuals who might be interested in participating on the Municipal Space Needs Committee.

D. Rotary Club Donation of Edgar D. Williams Park: There was no update on this agenda item.

E. Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Ordinance Amendment Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that the Finance Administrator recommends a 4-6 year extension of the program and the Town Assessor requested that the filings be changed from annually to biennially. He noted that the Board of Finance will make the final decision on this issue based on the Selectmen’s recommendation.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to recommend to the Board of Finance that the ordinance be effective for the Grand List years of 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 and the requirement for applications for benefits be changed from “filed annually” to “filed biennially” as recommended by the Assessor. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business:

A. Grant Acceptance Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding this grant.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution and send to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval:

RESOLVED, that the Town Meeting:

- (1) authorizes the application for the Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development Grant referenced in Section 13(a)(1) and Section 32(a)(1) of Public Act 07-7 (An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements and for Transportation Infrastructure Improvements and Concerning The Connecticut State University Infrastructure Act);
- (2) identifies Mark B. Walter, First Selectmen, as an individual authorized to sign the Notice of Grant Award and administer the grant. Such application is attached to and made a part of this record.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board accepts a grant in the amount of \$12,000 under the Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development Grant Program from the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management, Intergovernmental Policy Division for the purpose of preparation of the Town of East Haddam Plan of Conservation and Development. Unanimous aye.

B. Grant Acceptance – FFY 2007 Homeland Security Emergency Operations Center/Shelter Generator Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding this grant. He noted that the grant was to install a generator at the Senior Center so that the facility could be used as an emergency shelter. Mr. Govert noted that there was a requirement in the grant that the Town match \$9,400.00 of the funding. There was a general discussion regarding whether or not there was a need to do this project and the Selectmen agreed that it was a reasonable project.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled “EOC & Emergency Shelter Generator Grant – Phase II”, said grant requiring grantee match of \$9,400 and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

C. State Police Contract (Resident Trooper): The Selectmen agreed to defer discussion of this agenda item until their next Regular Meeting.

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

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

- \$184.04 to GMAC (Ally Bank)

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Mr. McKinnon noted that there was a cogeneration systems company in the Northeast that will install and maintain generators for municipal buildings free of charge. He stated he would provide Mr. Walter with the name of someone at Kinsley Power Systems to speak with for more information.

Mr. McKinnon also advised that the Agriculture Commission will be attending Chick Day at Shagbark to provide information and answer questions for people who are thinking of raising chickens. He stated that the Conservation Commission was preparing to cut 2 miles of new trails on the Nichols property on May 14th. He advised that Ms. Denette submitted a grant to the Pepsi Company who will be providing food and drink at the event.

In response to Mr. Walter's question regarding what he felt was the biggest need for local farmers, Mr. McKinnon stated that the Agriculture Commission was presently focusing on creating an inventory of farmland opportunities.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Govert invited all present to the local kick-off of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Energy challenge on April 26th. He advised that they could go to the following website for more information: www.CTENERGYCHALLENGE.Com.

In response to a question from Mr. Govert, the Selectmen offered their thoughts about the proposed Land-Swap deal. Mr. Lyman expressed his concern for the chilling effect it could have on future Open Space sales to the State and municipalities. Mr. Walter noted that there was a great deal of misinformation that existed about the proposal. The Selectmen also discussed several challenges the project faces, including Tylerville's lack of potable water, their lack of a sewer system, and that Haddam's zoning regulations would have to be changed before the proposed development could be approved.

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 8:57 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

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Emmett Lyman, Secretary