

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
May 4, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Pete Govert, Emmett Lyman

Also Present: A. Ballek, E. Blaschik, W. Cuddy, C. Farrow, C. Gelston, T. Gelston, S. Mackinnon, A. Merrow (arrived 7:25 p.m.), B. Parker, R. Smith, S. Wheeler, L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of March 14, 2011, Regular Meeting of April 20, 2011, and Special Meeting of April 27, 2011: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 14, 2011 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2011 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 27, 2011 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter reported that he had met with the Board of Finance Chairman Maxwell, Mr. Carroll, Dr. Solek, and David Carpenter and Scott Demi from NEEC and discussed exploring opportunities for cost-savings for the Town and Board of Education through the implementation of grant-funded energy-savings systems. Mr. Govert stated that Bill Leahey has offered to create a baseline report of energy use by the Town buildings. Mr. Walter agreed that Mr. Govert should provide Mr. Carpenter with Mr. Leahey's contact information.

A. Board of Assessment Appeals – Spring 2011 Final Report: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to the Board of Assessment Appeals Spring Report in their meeting packets. Board of Assessment Appeals Chairman Blaschik advised that he had not reviewed the report and the Selectmen agreed to table this item until Mr. Blaschik signed off on a final report.

5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter reported the following:
 - He called the Selectmen's attention to copies of a "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" flyer in their meeting packets advertising traffic calming signs. The Selectmen discussed the effectiveness of such signs and, in response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter noted that the sign prices range from \$9 to \$40. The Selectmen discussed purchasing a couple of the signs to use on an experimental basis and publicizing the information so that citizens can purchase the signs for their own use in front of their houses. Mr. Govert agreed to research whether or not these type signs were effective in slowing down traffic.

- The court had settled the Shugrue property issue. Mr. Walter reviewed the map of the property with the Selectmen and explained the court's decision on the distribution of the land.
- The State has approved the plans for the renovations to the Dog Pound and Mr. Walter will be signing the contract for a regional dog pound facility with East Hampton and issuing an invitation to bid for the construction work.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Parker stated he was concerned that the Haddam Land-Swap deal in House Bill 1196 will set a bad precedent regarding the security of Open Space deeds held by the State of Connecticut. He asked that the Board of Selectmen vote to take a stand opposing the proposal and to send a letter to legislators stating their position.

Mr. Farrow supported the underlying idea of building a hotel and shops in the area but stated he felt using the Open Space parcel in Haddam for that purpose was not a good idea. He suggested encouraging the Riverhouse partners to consider East Haddam's Town Office site for their project.

Mrs. Gelston stated that she did not agree that building a hotel and additional shops in the area could be supported and felt it would only dilute the customer base of the existing businesses. She expressed concern about increased traffic if the proposal went through and stated she felt the State would betray the public's trust if it swapped the Open Space parcel and allowed commercial development on the site.

Mr. Smith stated that he agreed with much of the previously expressed citizens' concerns and added that the land swap was an ill-conceived idea that would set a bad precedent.

Mr. Gelston stated that he also agreed with the previously expressed citizens' concerns and stated that he felt there has been a lot of misinformation about the proposal. He noted that many people who had been in favor of the proposal have changed their minds about it after the accurate information was provided to them.

Mr. Cuddy stated that he was a retired attorney and he had read the portion of House Bill 1196 that related to the land-swap proposal and noted that it lacked specificity concerning what the Riverhouse partners must give to the State in exchange for the Open Space parcel. He stated that he felt the proposal was too vague and requested the Selectmen pass a resolution against moving forward with the Land-Swap at this time.

Mr. Blaschik noted that Senator Daily had informed the attendees at the East Haddam Democratic Committee meeting that the Goodspeed would not be in the final Bill; however, he noted that it appeared that the language was still in it.

Mr. Parker and Mrs. Ballek stated that they would like the Selectmen to take some action to change the perception that the Town's leaders were in favor of the proposal. Mr. Merrow stated that he was disappointed when he heard a report on NPR indicating that Mr. Walter was in favor of the proposal. Mr. Walter stated that he had written a letter, with input from the members of the Economic Development Commission, which stated that the issue was "complicated" but that he was in favor of projects that would drive tourism to the Lower River Valley. He stated that he agreed that poor and conflicting information has been circulating about the proposal but that he has been told that more information from Senator Daily and the Riverhouse partners was forthcoming.

Mrs. Gelston noted that the tone of his letter seemed to be in favor of the land-swap proposal and encouraged the Selectmen to actively express their lack of support for the project and suggested they could focus their comments on the unethical nature of disregarding the stated conditions in an Open Space deed.

In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Parker advised that the Bill could be voted on anytime between now and the end of the legislative session and could be as soon as the end of this month.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter advised that he and Finance Administrator Varricchio had met with Mr. Carroll and developed a schedule to close out this project.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: In response to an inquiry from Mr. Walter, Mr. Blaschik reported that the houses on Creamery Road have temporary certificates of occupancy and were presently occupied. He stated that the houses on Ray Hill Road should be completed by the end of May and provided information on the projected completion times for the remaining houses.

C. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that the Food Bank had moved to the Grange and that the opening went very well. Mr. Govert noted that there was an article about the new location of the Food Bank on HTNP.com and in the Reminder.

Mr. Walter also reported that the Town has received completed plans from Silver & Petrucelli and that the last outstanding item for the Committee to wrap-up was to approve the architect's final bill.

D. Rotary Club Donation of Edgar D. Williams Park: Mr. Walter reported that a draft conveyance deed has been prepared for the property which can be used when the Rotary completes its work.

E. State Police Contract (Resident Trooper): Mr. Walter advised that the two year contract for Resident State Trooper services was agreeable but noted that the overtime rate could change to 100% by the State legislature. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated that the Town was very selective in requesting overtime by the Resident State Troopers.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that Mark B. Walter, the First Selectman be and herewith authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of East Haddam with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for the services of two Resident State Troopers for a two-year period from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business:

A. Bid Award – Catch Basin Cleaning: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter dated April 6, 2011 in their meeting packets from Durham First Selectman Francis advising of the results of the joint bidding for catch basin cleaning and line stripping. He advised that it was a regional bid that will be administered by the Town of Durham for the towns of Durham, East Haddam, Chester, Hebron, Killingworth, and Portland. He stated that all towns would participate with the chosen contractor and the contract was for July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 but the proposals would

remain in effect for three (3) years, with the option to renew on a year-by-year basis for two (2) additional years, with the approval of the Town and the vendor.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert to award the bid for catch basin cleaning to Janet's Sweeping at \$17.99 per basin/headwell for the period of July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012, with the option to renew on a year-by-year basis for two (2) additional years, with the approval of the Town and the vendor. Unanimous aye.

B. Bid Award – Line Painting: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter dated April 6, 2011 in their meeting packets from Durham First Selectman Francis advising of the results of the joint bidding for catch basin cleaning and line stripping. He advised that it was a regional bid that will be administered by the Town of Durham and that the conditions were the same as for the catch basin cleaning.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award the bid for traffic guide lines to Atlantic Pavement Marking, Inc at \$0.0309 – single yellow lines, \$0.550 – double yellow lines, \$0.0309 – pavement edges & white shoulder sidelines, \$0.40 – 12" wide stop bars, \$0.40 – standard crosswalk with 16" wide bars, \$0.40 – school/elderly standard crosswalks with 2' wide bars, \$12.00 – handicapped stencils, \$0.0309 – single white lines and \$2.50 – parking stalls for the period of July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012, with the option to renew on a year-by-year basis for two (2) additional years, with the approval of the Town and the vendor. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds for consideration.

9. Public Comment: In response to a question from Mr. Parker, Mr. Walter confirmed that the catch basin cleaning and line stripping bids would go to Town Meeting since they are multi-year bids.

In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Mr. Walter confirmed that the Town does participate in State contracts for services such as the catch basin cleaning; however, in this case, the Town felt the regional bid was the better way to go.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Haddam Land Swap Discussion: Mr. Govert stated that he had requested this item be included on the agenda and reviewed the minutes from the April 20th Board of Selectmen's meeting concerning the Selectmen's discussion of the issue. He advised that he had attended several informational meetings regarding the proposal and that the issue has been on his mind for quite a while. He stated that he was a firm believer that small business was an economic driver but that he has a number of concerns about this proposal. He distributed a draft letter he had composed stating several objections to the Haddam land-swap deal.

Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Walter, to send a letter to members of the Connecticut State Legislature, with copies to Governor Malloy and DEEP Commissioner Esty, stating that the East Haddam Board of Selectmen do not support the portion of House Bill 1196 that contained language proposing the Haddam land swap.

The Selectmen reviewed Mr. Govert's draft letter and agreed to several revisions. They discussed whether or not to have the Economic Development Commissioners review the draft for factual

accuracy, but agreed that since the letter would not list any specific concerns other than the proposal's potential impact on future Open Space deals with the State, EDC's review would not be necessary.

The motion was passed with a unanimous aye. The Selectmen agreed that the letter should be written on Town letterhead, signed by the three Selectmen, and that both hardcopies and electronic copies would be delivered.

B. Budget Town Meeting (May 11, 2011): Mr. Walter stated that a Town Meeting for the Budget was scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on May 11, 2011. He noted that the mailings to Town residents had mistakenly advised the meeting was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. so he would get there early to let in early arrivals.

C. Memorial Day Parade (May 30, 2011): Mr. Walter stated that the Memorial Day Parade was scheduled for May 30th and that they would go back to the original route.

Mr. Govert reported that the Rotary had expressed an interest in installing a solar panel at the ice skating rink and the Selectmen discussed potential locations for the panel.

In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter confirmed that funding for the feasibility study on school building upgrades that Mr. Carroll planned to do has been included in the budget.

Mr. Lyman distributed materials with information about a Low Impact Development Workshop for Municipal Officials, Boards and Commissions on June 28th at the Salem Town Hall.

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 8:28 p.m. Unanimous aye.

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Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary