

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
May 18, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Pete Govert, Emmett Lyman
Also Present: A. Behilo, C. Behilo, E. Blaschik, S. Mackinnon, S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 May 4, 2011: Mr. Lyman requested that the last paragraph under agenda item 10 (Selectmen's Discussion) be changed to read as follows: "*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.*"

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 4, 2011 as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

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 32 appeals had been received and two public hearings had been held. He noted that the Board had refused to hear the appeal on one property that exceeded \$1M valuation and that the property owner was appealing. Mr. Blaschik stated the Board inspected 13 properties and awarded assessment adjustments that resulted in a reduction in the value of the Grand List of \$847,850.00. Mr. Walter thanked the Committee for their work.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept the Spring 2011 Final Report of the Board of Assessment Appeals. Unanimous aye.

B. Haddam Land Swap Board of Selectmen Letter: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to copies of a letter in their meeting packets that had been sent to State legislators regarding the proposed Haddam Land Swap. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated he would verify that Gov. Malloy and Commissioner Esty received copies of the letter.

5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter reported the following:

- He made a correction to his response to a question raised by Mr. Parker during the Public Comment period at the May 4th Board of Selectmen's meeting. He stated that the Catch Basin Cleaning and Line Painting bids will not go to Town Meeting as multi-year bids because they are one-year contracts. He advised that there was an option to continue for two additional years at the same price; however, the Town was not required to pick-up the option.

- He had attended the annual meeting of the Connecticut Yankee Fuel Storage Advisory Committee on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. He advised that the Commission had recommended the U.S. change its approach to storing fuel waste and develop an interim plan until a long-term solution was found. He reviewed pertinent points of the presentation as they related to the stored nuclear fuel at the Haddam Neck facility.
- He stated that he had received a booklet of Innovative Ideas for Managing Local Government from the Connecticut Council of Municipalities and had copied applicable sections and distributed them to the Town's Boards and Commissions.
- He read a letter he had received from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management advising that they had approved the establishment of a new Lower Connecticut River Valley Planning Region. He advised that the new region will absorb two previously existing planning regions and will encompass towns on both sides of the Connecticut River from Middletown to Old Saybrook. He stated that this step was the precursor to establishing a COG (Council of Governments) composed of the towns in the newly established Planning Region. In response to a question from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Walter confirmed that Clinton and Killingworth will be included in the new region.
- He reported that an inspection of the bathhouse at the Town beach found that more work than just repairs to the frozen pipes will have to be done. He advised that Mr. Fellner has drafted plans for the work and that Ms. Quinn was in the process of getting quotes on the work.

6. Citizen's Concerns: In response to a request from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Govert provided him with copies of the letters the Selectmen had sent to Connecticut legislators regarding the Haddam Land Swap. There was a general discussion regarding whether or not the press had received copies of the letter and Mr. Walter stated that he would follow-up on distributing copies to them.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter advised that Finance Administrator Cindy Varricchio and Mr. Carroll will meet on May 19th regarding the final close out of the project. He stated that the final invoices have been processed and the next step was to request the State audit the project. He advised that the Town will most likely have to hire an auditor and, when that work was completed, they can start the process for reimbursement from the State.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Blaschik reported that work on the Actors' Houses continued to make progress. There was a general discussion regarding the State's planned repairs to the Succor Brook bridges. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter advised that that project was on the State's 2012 schedule.

C. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that there was a break-in at the school and some of the Food Bank's food supplies were stolen. There was a general discussion regarding items that were being left on the Grange porch. Mr. Walter stated that a sign would have to be made up indicating the new location of the Clothing Bank.

Mr. Walter further reported that the Town had received a CD with Silver Petrucelli's final plans for the Middle School conversion and that final payment to the firm had been approved by the Middle

School Conversion Committee. He advised the Selectmen of some of the findings of the Financial Needs Roundtable and noted that he would like to reconvene the Municipal Space Needs Committee to consider those findings as well as the recommendation of the Middle School Conversion Committee. He stated that he had spoken with the members of the Municipal Space Needs Committee who all indicated their willingness to serve.

There was a general discussion about the goals and objectives of the reconvened Committee and Mr. Walter asked the Selectmen to think about and provide him with input for a draft charge for the Committee.

D. Rotary Club Donation of Edgar D. Williams Park: Mr. Walter reported that the Rotary had completed its work for the transfer of the Park and submitted a Corporate Consent to that action. He noted that the Town Attorney will review the deed and draft the motion of acceptance for the Board of Selectmen.

8. New Business:

A. Internet Usage Policy: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets concerning Workplace Privacy, Monitoring and Internet Use Policy. He stated the subject came up during a meeting of the Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials and the materials will be discussed at one of their future meetings.

B. Grant Acceptance – DEP Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund Program: Mr. Walter advised that this grant was for the replacement of old lawn equipment to improve local air quality. He stated that the Town has six old pieces of equipment that qualify for the program and that the grant provides 80% reimbursement of the prices quoted in the Town's application. He noted that Public Works and the Board of Education will absorb the Town's 20% match in their operating budgets.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept a grant in the amount of \$3,830 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, entitled "Connecticut Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund" for the purpose of improving local air quality by replacement of lawn and grounds maintenance equipment, said grant requiring grantee match of 20%; acceptance of said grant to be sent to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

C. Homestead Subdivision Easements: Mr. Walter advised that there are three easements that must be recommended for acceptance at a Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that the Board recommends to the town meeting the acceptance of the following conveyances:

1. A certain Conservation Easement and Restriction granted by CLARK GATES, LLC acting herein by its sole Member, Robert Casner to the TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, affecting certain property described on a certain map entitled "Subdivision Plan 'Homestead' Subdivision Bogel Road East Haddam, Connecticut Scale 1" = 100' Date 01-03-2006 Revised through 08-11-2006" prepared by Richard F. Mihok, P.E. 18 Laurel Lane, Marlborough, CT 06447, said map #3994 being on file in the Land Records of Town of East Haddam, and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized to execute into such Conservation Easement and Restriction on behalf of the Town.

2. A certain Drainage and Maintenance Easement granted by CLARK GATES, LLC acting

herein by its sole Member, Robert Casner to the TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, as shown on the survey map referenced herein.

3. A certain Turning Easement granted by CLARK GATES, LLC acting herein by its sole Member, Robert Casner to the TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, as shown on the survey map referenced herein.

Unanimous aye.

D. Volunteer of the Month – May, June, July: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to three Volunteer of the Month recommendations from Kaitlin Besier of Youth and Family Services in their meeting packets. He noted that Ms. Beiser’s nomination form stated, “[Mr. Bradway, Mr. Denette, and Mr. Caminati] have been essential to the continued existence and success of Teen Jam Night ... they have all become strong advocates for local youth musicians”.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Robert Bradway as volunteer of the month for May 2011. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to name David Denette as volunteer of the month for June 2011. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Ronald Caminati as volunteer of the month for July 2011. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to five tax refunds.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to award tax refunds in the amounts presented.

- \$600.01 to Janet R. Conant
- \$490.01 to Robert J. or Karen V. Loughery
- \$187.97 to VW Credit Leasing
- \$155.30 to Matthew M. Prue
- \$ 14.71 to Robert S. Cone 3rd

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Mr. Mackinnon noted the new easements discussed earlier in the meeting and recommended that, in addition to the recording of easements on deeds and maps, the Town’s Land Use officer ensure that iron pins are installed at the physical location of all of the Town’s easement sites. Mr. Walter stated he would advise Mr. Ventres of Mr. Mackinnon’s recommendation.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion

A. Budget Referendum (May 24, 2011): Mr. Walter reminded the Selectmen of the scheduled budget referendum and noted that several neighboring towns had seen very low turn out for their recent budget referendums. He stated that he planned to issue a press release to remind the public about the referendum and Mr. Blaschik suggested the press release include information about absentee ballots.

B. Memorial Day Parade (May 30, 2011): Mr. Walter stated that the Memorial Day Parade plans were progressing. He advised that Mr. Fred Gagnon will be the speaker and Father Fluet will lead a prayer service.

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 8:13 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 643B
644A

Emmett Lyman, Secretary