

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
August 3, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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: Mr. Walter stated that he would like to move New Business item A – East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Funding Request, up on the agenda to follow the Approval of Minutes. Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 20, 2011: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2011 as written. Unanimous aye.
- 8.A. New Business – East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Funding Request: Mr. Gerrish stated that the RFQ soliciting interested developers for the Town Office Site will go out shortly. He noted that the Committee has a list of approximately 20 developers, however, they would also like to purchase additional lists of developers. He stated they would also like to hire a graphic designer to create a descriptive brochure that can be included in the mailings. He requested funding of a maximum of \$1,000.00 to purchase the mailing lists and to create and print the brochure.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman to request up to \$1,000.00 in funding from the Board of Finance for marketing costs associated with the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Request For Qualifications.

In response to a question from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Gerrish stated that the Committee does not expect the RFQ marketing expenses to exceed \$1,000.00 and that they have targeted a number of developers to mail the RFQ to but, to date, they have not had any developers approach them regarding the project.

Mr. Govert noted that a number of attempts have been made over the past several years to interest developers in the property without success and asked what conclusions would be drawn if the Committee did not get any response to its current RFQ. Mr. Walter suggested that there could be other development approaches that could be considered.

Motion passed by a unanimous aye.
4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence for discussion.
5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter distributed copies of a report from WMC Consulting Engineers, dated July 25, 2011, providing an update on the Improvements to the Moodus Reservoir Dam project. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, he stated that it was his understanding that the project was on-schedule.

A. CIRMA – Members Equity Distribution: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets, from CIRMA, dated July 25, 2011, advising that a dividend of \$6,775.00, has been paid to the Town as a result of lower than expected claims.

B. Simplex Grinnell Service Contracts (Fire Extinguishers & Emergency Lighting): Mr. Walter advised that he had signed a 5-year contract with Simplex Grinnell for service to the fire extinguishers and emergency lighting in Town buildings and schools. He noted the fee for the contract was approximately \$100 higher than last year’s cost, but that it was fixed for 5-years. He stated that there was also an exit clause in the contract.

C. Financial Needs Roundtable Update: Mr. Walter reported that the members of the Financial Needs Roundtable have drafted a 10-year capital projects plan for the Town and will meet with representatives from several key boards and committees, including Emergency Management, Fire, Police, and the School Board to have in-depth discussions about their projected projects. He stated that the cumulative estimated cost of the 10-year plan was approximately \$40M but noted that a number of the projects would be included as part of the regular budget. He noted that this process will help the Town identify those projects that will need to be funded outside of the regular budget.

Mr. Walter advised that that the Roundtable wanted to verify that the school feasibility study was up-to-date before finalizing the project list and taking the next step of identifying avenues of funding. At Mr. Govert’s request, he agreed to provide the other Selectmen with the finalized 10-year project plan.

6. Citizen’s Concerns: There were no citizens’ concerns discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: There was no update on this agenda item.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Blaschik advised that the large concrete area by the actors housing “Village” was the driveway and parking area for those houses.

C. Old Middle School/Middle School Conversion Committee: Mr. Walter reported that the well pump at the Old Middle School broke down and will need to be replaced. He stated that he was working on getting a contractor to do the work.

D. Internet Usage Policy Discussion: The Selectmen agreed to table the discussion of the Internet Usage Policy for this meeting.

E. Swing Bridge Opening Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets that he sent to Coast Guard Commander Gary Kassof, dated August 3, 2011, requesting an hourly schedule of bridge openings. Mr. Walter advised that Commander Kassof has informed him that he has the authority to run a six-month test of the hourly schedule and the Selectmen discussed conducting a traffic count at the bridge to support the scheduling request.

8. New Business:

A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Funding Request: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on above in these minutes.

B. Conservation Commission – Patrell Parcel Maintenance Requests: Mr. Mackinnon stated that the Conservation Commission was requesting funding for the following projects at Chapal Farm:

- Annual mowing of the open field and weed-whacking invasive overgrowth along the boarder of the field,
- Install a bollard in place of the chain gate to provide handicap accessibility, and
- Construct a split-rail fence along the boundary extending along the driveway and parking area to the pond to prevent public trespass on neighboring property.

Mr. Mackinnon stated that the Commission will continue to use volunteers for as much work as possible, however, some projects require professionals and/or equipment not available to the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to request \$5,000.00 in funding from the Board of Finance, for Open Space maintenance projects managed by the Conservation Commission, to be paid back from the proceeds of logging operations on Open Space parcels. Unanimous aye.

In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Mackinnon advised that a trail guide has been drafted and should be finalized at the next Conservation Commission meeting. He agreed that a representative from their Commission will coordinate with Town staff to upload the trail guide to the Town's website.

C. 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 of \$4.22 to USA Mobility Wireless, Inc. Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion: At Mr. Govert's request, Mr. Walter agreed to e-mail him pictures of the potential hydro-power plat site so that he can forward them on to Mr. Frame at the of the CT Clean Energy Fund.

In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter advised that the State sent out a Notice of Discontinuance of the Chester/Hadlyme and Glastonbury Ferries and stated that they have scheduled a Public Meeting on the topic for September 5th. Mr. Govert recommended the Selectmen send a letter to the State protesting the closing that can be read into the minutes at the Public Hearing.

Mr. Govert requested and received confirmation that Mr. Mackinnon's donation to the Town for clean energy use had never been used. He advised that for an annual cost of \$1800.00 Mr. Sassi can provide Renewable Energy Certificates that would allow the Town to meet the target of 20% clean energy use. There was a general discussion of the benefits of meeting the target and Mr. Govert agreed to provide more information at the next Selectmen's meeting.

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 8:12 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

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Emmett Lyman, Secretary