

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
September 21, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Emmett Lyman and Peter Govert.
Also Present: C. Behilo, S. Mackinnon, S. Wheeler

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. Govert, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of September 7, 2011: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2011 as written. Unanimous aye. Mr. Govert abstained from the vote.
4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter reported that the following correspondence had been received:
 - A letter from Chairman Brownell of the Planning & Zoning Commission dated September 20, 2011 advising that the Commissioners had reviewed Eagle Scout Randy Holmgren's plans for a war memorial on the Moodus green and the consensus was that a public hearing was not necessary.
 - The Board of Assessment Appeals Fall 2011 Final Report. Mr. Walter advised that the Board reviewed and ruled on two automobile appeals resulting in total adjustments of \$(4090.00). He noted that the Board also received a request to consider an appeal on real property and they had informed the owner to re-appeal in February 2012.
5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter reported on the following:
 - The Town's grant application for funds to build a dock on it's easement near the Goodspeed Opera House had been approved. There was a general discussion regarding how to control the use of the dock and Mr. Behilo suggested posting a "Touch & Go" sign at the site to prevent overnight docking. In response to a request from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter agreed to provide information regarding the anticipated operational costs for maintaining the dock.
 - He had asked the Board of Education to provide him with cost estimates for their anticipated capital improvement requirements for the next 10 years.
 - He advised that he would like to reconvene the Financial Roundtable to meet with representatives from the Town's Emergency Services and begin a discussion about the capital needs of the Police, Fire, and Ambulance. Specifically, he would like the groups to work together to develop a proposal that would address the Emergency Services space needs.
6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizens' concerns discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter advised that it became apparent during Hurricane Irene that the existing generator at the Middle School would not be sufficient to circulate water if power is lost during the winter months. He stated he has asked Mr. Carroll to research the requirements for a second generator.

Mr. Mackinnon advised that some power companies will install and maintain a generator at municipal buildings in exchange for their ability to tap into the generator during periods when they have to produce excess electrical capacity. There was a general discussion about this option and Mr. Mackinnon agreed to provide Mr. Walter with additional information.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Walter reported that the actors' housing project appears to be progressing smoothly.

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

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

8. New Business:

A. Council of Governments Resolution: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials regarding the CT River Valley Council of Governments. He reviewed the documents and advised that, in anticipation of the State's desire to move toward more regionalization, the Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Official had voted to become a Council of Governments (COG) rather than have the State impose a regionalization plan for the member towns that may not suit their best interests. In response to a question raised by Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated that the member towns would not lose any of their individual control by participation in the COG.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert to adopt the following resolution to be referred to Town Meeting for approval:

“Resolved, That the Town Meeting of the Town of East Haddam hereby ratifies the action of the Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials to become a council of governments at their meeting of July 27, 2011, toward that end, the Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials formally adopted Sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 4-124j of the Connecticut General Statutes, and that this newly established council of governments be called the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments.” Unanimous aye.

B. Grange Hall – Approval to Serve Beer & Wine: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a memo in their meeting packet, dated September 11, 2011, from Patrick Murray, President of the Moodus Drum & Fife Corps, requesting permission to serve beer and wine at their annual Muster on October 15, 2011.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Grange Hall for the “Moodus Drum & Fife Muster” on October 15, 2011. Unanimous aye.

C. Commission Resignations: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to letters in their meeting packets from Scot and Nancy Mackinnon, dated September 13, 2011, advising of their resignation from the Conservation Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept, with regret, the resignations of Scot Mackinnon and Nancy Mackinnon from the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Mackinnon for his service.

D. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to his Volunteer of the Month nomination in their meeting packets. He advised that Drew Daniels had worked as an Emergency Management volunteer during Hurricane Irene and that he "... *tirelessly helped during the EOC's busiest time. He was a great help logging priority roads and conditions throughout the town*".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Drew Daniels as volunteer of the month for September 2011. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to three tax refunds.

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

- \$ 68.24 to Pauline B. Goodrich
 - \$400.94 to James E. Russell
 - \$156.64 to Honda Lease Trust
- Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion: In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter advised that FEMA claim forms are available at the Town Office.

Mr. Lyman noted that Mr. Bernstein was very interested in the idea of setting up a hydropower plant on his property across from the Moodus Reservoir dam. Mr. Govert agreed to follow-up with Keith Frame of Connecticut Clean Energy Program.

The Selectmen discussed Banner's proposal to build 247 recreational condo units on their property. It was noted that there may be Indian structures still located on property adjacent to the site which should be researched before Banner's project was formalized.

Mr. Lyman submitted his application for the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. The board opted to approve his appointment to this commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to appoint Emmett Lyman as an alternate member on the Connecticut River Gateway Commission to fill a term to expire June 30, 2012. Unanimous aye. Mr. Lyman abstained from the vote.

Mr. Lyman also noted that the new "Official Parking Only" signs at the Town Office parking area were working well.

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 7:55 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape 651A

Respectfully submitted,
Emmett Lyman, Secretary