

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
October 19, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; Pete Govert; Emmett Lyman
Also Present: C. Behilo; T. Gelston; M. Haines; 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: Mr. Walter advised that, in consideration of Mr. Gelston's and Mr. Haines' time, he would like to move agenda item 8A. Nichols Property Timber Sales Contract, up to be discussed following the approval of the minutes. Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 5, 2011: Mr. Walter stated that he would like to remove the word "*directly*" from the following statement in the penultimate sentence of the first paragraph under Correspondence: "...*that could directly influence re-zoning*".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 5, 2011 as amended. Unanimous aye.

8A. New Business – Nichols Property Timber Sales Contract: Mr. Gelston acknowledged Attorney Poliner comments regarding the Nichols Property Timber Sales Contract and introduced Mr. Haines, the forester that will oversee the project for the Town. Mr. Haines advised that the submitted contract was the standard contract that is used for these type projects. He stated that the bidders had used the draft contract, which had been previously reviewed by the Town's attorney, to develop their bids and that it would not be fair to change the contract at this point.

The Selectmen, Mr. Gelston, and Mr. Haines discussed several of Atty. Poliner's comments and Mr. Govert pointed out that the contract was for a relatively small amount and the intention had been to use this first project as a learning experience to develop a template for going forward. The Selectmen agreed to move forward with the present contract and to include Atty. Poliner's suggested revisions in the next contract.

Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend the contract for Timber Sales on Nichols Property be awarded to Peter Marlowe Forest Products, LLC for the purchase amount of \$10,201.50 and authorize Mark B. Walter to execute the sales agreement. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter signed the contract and Mr. Haines turned over the 1st of three payments due from Peter Marlowe Forest Products, LLC.

4. Correspondence:

A. Email from Deb Mathiasen – EDC: Mr. Walter advised that he had asked the Economic Development Commission to solicit feedback from Village businesses concerning the parking signs recently posted in the municipal parking lot. He called the Selectmen's attention to an e-mail from Ms. Mathiasen regarding her discussion with Jackie at LaVita Gustosa.

The Selectmen discussed the points raised in Ms. Mathiasen's e-mail and agreed to change the parking restriction from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Walter stated he would have the parking signs updated.

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an e-mail in their meeting packets from Patrick Murray, dated October 17, 2011, about the positive experience of holding the annual Fife & Drum muster at the Grange.

5. First Selectman's Report

A. Moodus Reservoir Safety Fencing: Mr. Walter reported that work on the Moodus Reservoir Dam was nearly complete and that a fence will be constructed around the dam's mechanical works. He stated that the contractor plans on installing a black chain-link fence; however, he feels that a fence with vertical slats, similar to the one recently installed by the Moodus River Bridge, would be more attractive. He advised that he is gathering information on the additional cost for an upgrade from chain-link but asked the Selectmen to check out the fence at the Moodus River Bridge and the black chain-link fence at the Higganum dam and to give him their feedback.

Mr. Walter advised that he is the Chairman of the CCM Legislative Committee and had recently attended a meeting regarding land-use and housing development. He stated that Mr. Lembo had raised concerns about language contained in the Federal Government's Jobs Bill that could significantly reduce the tax deductibility of municipal bonds. Mr. Walter advised that CCM will be addressing the issue and noted several other concerns that were discussed at the meeting, including the state's historic focus on large corporations, the financial industry, and the military-industrial complex and ignoring the needs of small business owners.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizen's concerns discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter advised that the Finance Administrator had submitted a draft of the final paperwork to the Town's attorney for his review prior to the acceptance votes by the Building Committee and the Board of Education.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: There was no additional information on this agenda item.

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

D. Proposal to Exempt Class I Renewables from Building Permit Fees: Mr. Walter distributed information gathered by Mr. Darin concerning a three-year history of building fees collected for the installation of solar panels by the Town's residents and businesses. He also distributed an e-mail from Atty. Poliner with his feedback on the proposal to exempt such fees. The Selectmen briefly discussed the information and agreed that it is their intention to start the exemption on a small scale rather than offer a blanket exemption. They agreed to review the information provided and Mr. Govert stated he would call a special meeting of the Green Committee to discuss the proposal and solicit their feedback.

8. New Business:

A. Nichols property Timer Sales Contract: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on above in these minutes.

B. Committee Resignation (AGR): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Jed Cone submitting his resignation from the East Haddam Agriculture Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Jedidiah Cone from the East Haddam Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

C. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a Volunteer of the Month recommendation he prepared in their meeting packets. He stated that Allison Purdue "...*had spent many hours [during hurricane Irene] checking in residents at the Senior Center & High School [and] ... always had a big smile & was happy with everyone*".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to name Allison Purdue as volunteer of the month for October 2011. Unanimous aye.

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 tax refund of \$198.87 to William F. Gemske Jr. Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Lyman noted the number of volunteers that had turned out to help during hurricane Irene and to search for a missing Town resident. He stated that the Town's Emergency Management program has become an example for other towns and said that he attributes its success to the organization, dedication and year-round preparations of Craig Mansfield and Jiffy Spencer. Mr. Walter and Mr. Govert strongly endorsed his recognition of Mr. Mansfield and Ms. Spencer.

Mr. Walter reported that Marion Halpren and Linda Stulman had spoken with him about expanding on the farmers' market currently located at the Rathbun Library. He advised that he had encouraged them to work with the Agriculture Commission and also to consider becoming members of that Commission. There was a general discussion regarding several approaches to hosting farmers' markets.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

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Emmett Lyman, Secretary