

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
November 2, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; Pete Govert; Emmett Lyman

Also Present: C. Behilo; E. Blashik; M. Hansen; S. Mackinnon; P. Maxwell; B. Perry; L. Salicrup; C. Varricchio; N. Walter; 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 stated that he would like to add the following discussion topics under Agenda Item 5 – First Selectmen’s Report: C. Audit, and D. Letter from Candidate Rob Smith. Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 19, 2011: Mr. Walter stated that he would like to revise the minutes as follows:

- Change Item 7A – Unfinished Business, 4-8 Middle School, to read: *“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.”*

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2011, as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of an article titled Alternative wind turbine ready for market. Mr. Govert stated that he had attended a PIMS workshop at Wesleyan University where he had seen a presentation on the technology.

5. First Selectmen’s Report

A. Green Committee Fiskars Grant – Mr. Walter introduced Ms. Hansen who stated that the Green Committee would like to apply for a \$5,000 grant from Fiskars to benefit the Food Bank Garden. She advised that the grant provides \$3,500 in cash and \$1,500 worth of garden tools and/or equipment. In response to a question from Mr. Lyman, Ms. Hansen stated that, if they were approved for the grant, there would be an opportunity to apply for a Garden Make Over grant; however, the requirements for that grant are for a larger garden than the Food Bank garden. She noted that the Green Committee is not recommending pursuing the Garden Make Over grant at this time.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to recommend the Board of Finance consider the Green Committee’s request to apply for a \$5,000.00 Fiskars grant. Unanimous aye.

B. FEMA Update - Mr. Walter introduced Ms. Varricchio who reported that FEMA has assigned a project manager to work with the Town concerning the expenses it incurred during Storm Irene. She advised that FEMA will reimburse up to 75% of the expenses and the Town can claim volunteer hours and other in-kind expenses for the remaining 25%. Ms. Varricchio advised that, to date, the Town has submitted a request to FEMA for approximately \$45,000.00.

C. Audit – Ms. Varricchio reported that the recent audit of the Town went very smoothly and that she has been pleased with the preliminary results. She noted that the Board of Education and the Town's net fund balance has increased by approximately 22%. She noted that additional schedules requested by the audit firm provide information on the amount of funds that the Town has available to spend and funds that are not available for use.

D. Letter from Candidate Rob Smith – Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an undated letter in their meeting packets from Mr. Smith requesting the issue of the Middle School Conversion be moved to a public vote. Mr. Walter distributed a copy of his response to Mr. Smith's letter and a draft of a 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the Town developed by the Financial Needs roundtable. He read his comments into the minutes. Mr. Walter's written comments advised that "*As First Selectman, I have strong misgivings about this project as it now stands*" and proposed that there be a "*joint Board of Selectman/Board of Finance meeting to review the Middle School Conversion report of their findings, along with the long term needs that are being identified by the Financial Needs roundtable group*".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance schedule a joint special meeting to begin the discussion of the Middle School conversion as well as the long term capital needs of the Town. Unanimous aye.

There was a general discussion about several items on the draft 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Govert also noted that, due to his self-imposed term limits, he will not be serving on the Board of Selectman at the time of the proposed joint meeting. The Selectman agreed that the new members of the Board of Selectman will follow-up on the motion after the elections. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated that he had not sent a copy of his response to Mr. Smith.

Mr. Walter reported that there are two CL&P crews working on restoring power in East Haddam but that 14% of households are still without electricity. Mr. Lyman noted that the CL&P staff that is working with the Town have been very helpful and are working hard to clear roads and restore power. He stated that Craig Mansfield and Jiffy have been doing another exceptional job managing this emergency. In response to a question raised by Mr. Govert, Mr. Lyman advised that there are back-up people in place to provide operational direction and that the type of emergency will dictate who those back-ups are.

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

7. Unfinished Business

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

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update – There was no update 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. Govert advised that he had been unable to schedule a special meeting of the Green Committee; however, he had had some informal discussions with members who expressed their support of the idea. The Selectmen agreed to table this item until after the upcoming election.

E. Road Acceptance and Associated Drainage Easement – Meadow Brook Road - Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that the Board recommends to a town meeting the acceptance of two certain conveyances, to wit:

1. The conveyance from Edward Development Company, LLC to the Town of East Haddam of that portion of property known generally as Meadow Brook Drive and shown and designated as “Meadowbrook Road” on a certain map entitled “Road “As-Built” “Meadow Brook Subdivision” Prepared for Edward Development Company, LLC, Meadow Brook Road, East Haddam, Connecticut, Scale 1"=50' dated May 11, 2006 and revised to January 26, 2009.” Said map being on file with the Town Clerk of the Town of East Haddam.

2. A certain Drainage Easement from Donna Confrancesco to the Town of East Haddam, 20' in width as shown on a certain map entitled “Compilation Plan “proposed Drainage Easement” Lot #1 Meadow Brook Subd. Meadow Brook Road East Haddam, Connecticut Scale 1"=20' Dated Nov. 4, 2008.” Said map being on file with the Town Clerk of the Town of East Haddam.
Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

A. Court Ordered Clean-up of 27 Powerhouse Road – Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to materials in their meeting packets concerning the history of unsanitary conditions at 27 Powerhouse Road and the Land Use Administrator’s request for funding for the court ordered clean-up of the property.

Mr. Walter explained that the Board of Finance will have to vote on the appropriation request and then the Board of Selectmen will call a Town Meeting to take action on the request. He advised that an estimated cost for the clean-up of \$46,000.00 was received in 2007 and that the Town will go out to bid for this project to get actual current costs for Town Meeting.

B. Fee Schedule for Contracted Snow Plowing – Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a memo in their meeting packets, dated November 1, 2011, from Public Works Administrator Beth Lunt regarding a summary of snowplowing bids received and her recommendation for setting the award price.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Administrator and set the snow plowing rates as follows: up to 10,000 GVW with sander \$115.00 per hour; between 10,000 and 26,000 GVW with sander \$115.00 per hour. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Refunds - Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to seven tax refunds.

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

- \$ 28.53 to Brian K. DiMartino
- \$ 32.11 to Debra A. Williams
- \$ 25.82 to Delano W. or Sarah R. Peckham
- \$117.96 to Ronald S. Clough
- \$ 73.37 to John C. Wright
- \$ 34.90 to Patricia Marcosky
- \$ 20.32 to Honda Lease Trust

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Mr. Behilo advised that the Transfer Station staffing is working well. In response to a question from Mr. Walter, he advised that he did not think it was necessary to pave the upper area where demolition materials are dumped.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Walter read a proclamation on the retirement of Selectmen Govert into the record thanking him for eight years of public service and expressing the Town's deep appreciation for his contributions. Mr. Govert thanked the Selectmen for their comments.

Mr. Lyman advised that he had spoken with Mr. Ferrante of CL&P about the hydro-power plant on the Moodus River that the Selectmen have been discussing. He stated that they informed him that Public Act 1180 provides for credits for such projects and that they were very interested in learning more about the project. Mr. Govert agreed to put Mr. Ferrante in touch with Mr. Frame of the CT Clean Energy Fund.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape: 653B

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary