

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
December 7, 2011  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; J. Blaschik; Emmett Lyman

Also Present: C. Behilo; E. Blaschik; G. Bogan; D. Denette; S. Mackinnon; G. Scrivener; R. Smith; 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 topic under Agenda Item 8 – New Business:

- ▶ I. Transfer Station Fee Waiver – East Haddam Land Trust

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the agenda as amended.  
Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of November 15, 2011 and Regular Meeting of November 16, 2011

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 15, 2011, as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 16, 2011, as written. Mr. Blaschik abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets, dated November 30, 2011, from the Economic Development Commission to Governor Malloy expressing strong opposition to the state's mandatory directive to state employees regarding all maintenance prescription medications. Mr. Walter advised that the mandate has had a negative impact on the Nathan Hale Pharmacy's business.

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an e-mail from Mr. Ventres requesting the Board of Selectmen provide a letter of support for proposed Phase II of the Moodus Sidewalk Project. He advised that Mr. Ventres is seeking grant funding for the project, which would have a maximum cost of \$1M, and the Town would be required to provide a 20% match.

Motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to support the Land Use Administrator's proposal to seek a Transportation Enhancement Program Grant up to a maximum amount of \$1,000,000. In response to a question from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter advised that the project was still in the proposal phase and, therefore, has not yet been discussed with the Planning & Zoning Commission. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter read an excerpt from a newspaper article about the Pearl Harbor attack and requested a moment of silence which was observed by the Selectmen and others present.

5. First Selectmen's Report

A. Appointment of Secretary: Mr. Walter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to appoint Emmett Lyman as Secretary of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Lyman abstained from the vote and the motion passed with a majority of ayes.

B. Liaison Appointments: The Selectmen reviewed the list of liaison assignments and Mr. Blaschik stated he would like to reconvene an Ecumenical Clerical Council in Town and stated he would be pleased to serve as liaison. There was a general discussion concerning Mr. Blaschik's suggestion and the Selectmen agreed to amend the liaison assignments listed to include an Ecumenical Clerical Council as one of Mr. Blaschik's assignments.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adopt the list of liaison assignments as amended. Unanimous aye.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Behilo inquired about the status of the fence at the Moodus Reservoir Dam and Mr. Walter advised that the cost to upgrade the fence was well in excess of the amount the Town was prepared to contribute, therefore, the State would be installing the black chain link fence as planned.

In response to a question from Mr. Edward Blaschik, Mr. Walter advised that he had reported the location of several street lights that were out to Northeast Utilities. Mr. Blaschik advised that there were additional street lights out and he would provide Mr. Walter with the pole numbers. Mr. John Blaschik stated that the Town had previously asked the constables to monitor street lights during their night rounds and Mr. Walter advised that he planned to reinstate that program.

Mr. Bogan stated he would like to see the original stones from the Moodus Reservoir Dam re-used at the Reservoir. Mr. Walter stated that the Town had received a suggestion to use the stones to build bleachers at the High School fields; however, if Mr. Bogan would like to submit an alternative suggestion to the Town in writing, it would be considered.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that the documentation to disband the School Building Committee was being finalized. He advised that the Town will then hire an accounting firm to prepare the paperwork that was required to apply for reimbursement from the State.

B. Old Middle School/Middle School Conversion Committee: Mr. Walter reported that the boiler in the old Middle School had sprung a major leak and the estimate to repair it was approximately \$10,000. He stated that he had also received an estimate of \$3-5,000 to drain the pipes. There was a general discussion concerning the condition of the building and Mr. Walter advised that a special joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance to discuss the old Middle School was scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>.

C. Proposal to Exempt Class I Renewables from Building Permit Fees: Mr. Walter provided Mr. Blaschik with some background on this proposal and noted that he was doing additional research on the issue. The Selectmen agreed to table the item for discussion at a future meeting.

8. New Business

A. Request for Action – Code of Ethical Conduct: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packet concerning a Request for Action Pursuant to the Town's Code of Ethical Conduct submitted by Town Clerk Denette. Mr. Walter invited Ms. Denette to describe the purported violation of ethical conduct to the Selectmen.

Ms. Denette provided some background on her complaint and stated that she did not in any way think the violation was intentional or malicious; however, she felt it was her obligation to report the incident. She advised that all parties involved were spoken with, understood a violation had occurred and agreed that it would not be repeated. The Selectmen discussed the incident and, in the absence of an independent Ethics Commission, agreed to act in that capacity. The Selectmen agreed that since the violation was rectified as soon as it was noticed and all parties involved have been put on notice and the incident was duly reported, no further action was necessary.

A motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept the Town Clerk's report and take no further action. Unanimous aye.

B. Bid Award – Renovations at East Haddam Dog Pound: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to memo in their meeting packets from Public Works Administrator Lunt regarding the bid for renovations to the Town's dog pound. Mr. Walter noted that the lowest bid was substantially higher than the \$25,000.00 originally estimated for the work. He advised that the town of East Hampton has signed a contract to use East Haddam's dog pound and that other towns may also participate in using the facility as a regional dog pound. Mr. Blaschik inquired about privatizing the pound and Mr. Walter stated that it would be more costly for the Town to do so.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award the bid for the renovations of the East Haddam Dog Pound to JPN Construction LLC in the amount of \$51,100.00 pending approval from the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for additional funding. Mr. Blaschik advised that he had not been a Selectman when this item was previously discussed and, therefore, would abstain from the vote. Motion passed with a majority of ayes.

C. Grant Acceptance – Connecticut Fair Plan (Anti-Arson Committee) Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding this agenda item.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to accept a grant in the amount of \$480.92 from the Connecticut Fair Plan (Anti-Arson Committee), for the purpose of purchasing needed equipment relating to the prevention investigation or prosecution of arson fires, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

D. Reappointment of Subregistrars for Burial Permits: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a memo in their meeting packets, dated November 9, 2011, from Town Clerk Denette regarding this agenda item. Ms. Denette provided some background on the need for the appointments.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the reappointments of Wayne Mohrlein of Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home and Thomas Portelance of Spencer Funeral Home, Inc. as subregistrars for burial permits for the Town of East Haddam. Unanimous aye.

E. Grange Hall – Request for Beer & Wine Service: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to copies of a memo in their meeting packets, dated 12-2-2011, from Patrick Murray requesting

permission for the Moodus Drum and Fife corps to serve beer and wine at their holiday dinner at the Grange.

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 Holiday Party” on January 14, 2012. Unanimous aye.

F. Appointment of Vacancies – Library Trustees: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of correspondence in their meeting packets, dated September 20, 2011 and December 7, 2011, from Joanne Maynard regarding the East Haddam Free Public Library Board of Trustees recommendations to fill vacancies on their Board.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to appoint Lucille Gardner to the Board of Library Trustees to fill the balance of a vacant term to expire with the 2015 municipal election. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Earle Blanchard to the Board of Library Trustees to fill the balance of a vacant term to expire with the 2013 municipal election. Unanimous aye.

G. Board Appointments (BOFC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a letter in their meeting packet, dated December 2, 2011, from Mr. John Blaschik, Jr., Secretary of the Town of East Haddam Board of Fire Commissioners, recommending Edward Smith be appointed to fill a three year term on the board.

Mr. Walter reported that he had spoken with all three candidates for the position and advised that one candidate decided to withdraw his application due to conflicts with Board of Finance. Mr. Walter introduced Mr. Scrivener who thanked the Selectmen for the opportunity to express his interest in the position. Mr. Scrivener stated that he was a 20-year veteran of the Cromwell Fire Department and that he had served as an engineer with that department. He noted that he has lived in East Haddam since 1985 and would like the opportunity to give something back to the community.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint George Scrivener for a first three-year term to expire January 1, 2015 as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Mr. Blaschik respectfully voted nay and the motion passed by a majority of aye votes.

H. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to one tax refund.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award a tax refund in the amount of \$312.57 to Ari Fleet LT. Unanimous aye.

I. Transfer Station Fee Waiver – Historical Society Museum: Mr. Walter Mark called the Selectmen’s attention to a completed Transfer Station Fee Waiver Application submitted by the East Haddam Land Trust.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the application to waive Transfer Station Fees for the East Haddam Land Trust for brush, miscellaneous garbage and general clean up from tires to small building demo as requested in their December 7, 2011 application. Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Walter welcomed Mr. Blaschik to the Board of Selectmen and stated it would be good to work with him. Mr. Blaschik thanked him and agreed it would be good to work together on the Town's behalf.

Mr. Walter distributed copies of the completed Town Audit report and advised that no deficiencies were noted by the auditors which means we received a very clean audit.

Mr. Lyman advised that the East Haddam Stuff-A-Cruiser event would be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Nathan Hale Plaza.

A. Special Board of Selectmen Meetings: Mr. Walter reminded the Selectmen of the two special Board of Selectmen Meetings scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape: 654B  
655A

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary