

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

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; John Blaschik; Emmett Lyman
Also Present: S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:04 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:

- ▶ D. Bid Award for Gasoline

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of December 7, 2011, Special Meeting of December 12, 2011 and Special Meeting of December 14, 2011

It was noted that the minutes for the Special Meeting of December 12, 2011 had not been completed yet and the Selectmen agreed to table their approval at this time.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 7, 2011, as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 14, 2011, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a package of materials in their meeting packets regarding the CT Conference of Municipalities meetings and suggested they could review the information at a later time.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported on the following items:

- ▶ The recent storms exposed several issues with the Town's Voice-Over-IP system proposed by Total Communications. Consequently, the Town has asked its IT vendor to submit a competitive proposal. At Mr. Blaschik's suggestion, Mr. Walter agreed to contact Peter Dean and request his assistance in reviewing the proposals.
- ▶ The CT Attorney General has not agreed to provide an opinion regarding the issue of transfer of ownership of the Palmer Warner House. Mr. Walter noted that Mr. Farrow will continue to contest the proposed transfer of ownership and that Mr. Pinnell has offered his assistance.
- ▶ Repairs to the Transfer Station's main compactor will be more extensive than originally thought; however, the maintenance company has not yet submitted a final quote.

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

7. Unfinished Business

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

B. Old Middle School/Middle School Conversion Committee: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to hire Fischer Heating to shut down the furnace and drain the pipes at the old Middle School.

Mr. Walter advised that he did not feel it would be a good investment to repair the furnace at this time and the Selectmen discussed the general condition of the building. They agreed with Mr. Walter's recommendation and voted on the motion. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter noted that the Boot Camp and Dog Training programs could still be held in the gym.

C. Proposal to Exempt Class I Renewables from Building Permit Fees: The Selectmen held a brief discussion regarding this agenda topic. They generally agreed that the focus of any exemption should be on solar and would not include the electrical portion of an installation. Mr. Lyman recommended there be a cap on the exemption and Mr. Blaschik suggested they exclude any installation intended solely for the purpose of the re-sale of the power generated.

8. New Business

A. Bid Award – Removal of Debris – 27 Powerhouse Road: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an e-mail in their meeting packets from the Land Use Administrator, dated December 20, 2011, recommending that James Carlson be awarded the bid for removal of debris at 27 Powerhouse Road.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award the bid for the Removal of Debris- 27 Powerhouse Road to Jim Carlson Excavating in the amount of \$28,749.00 pending approval from the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for funding. Unanimous aye.

B. Grange Hall – Handicapped Access Discussion: Mr. Walter noted that the wheelchair lift at the Grange Hall has been very unreliable and so when the A2 was done for the parking lot re-design, he asked Mr. Fellner to provide an estimate for installing a covered handicapped ramp. He advised that Mr. Fellner provided an estimate of approximately \$33,000.00 to build a ramp at the Grange. Materials in the Selectmen's meeting packets indicated that an estimate of \$22,950.00 had been received from Otis Elevator for replacing the existing wheelchair lift with a new one. The Selectmen discussed fire code issues related to a ramp and potential Historic District Commission concerns. The Selectmen agreed to engage the Historic District Commissioners in a discussion about installing a handicapped ramp.

C. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a tax refund of \$25,757.85 to Daral Uloom Shady Brook, Inc. He noted that the refund was required by court order and that, due to the amount, the Town will need to go to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting to appropriate this funding.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to award a tax refund in the amount of \$25,757.85 to Daral Uloom Shady Brook Inc. presented pending approval from the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for funding. Unanimous aye.

D. Bid Award – Gasoline: Mr. Walter distributed materials regarding East River Energy's proposal to supply gasoline to the Town at a fixed price for the upcoming year.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to finalize prices and negotiate with East River Energy for unleaded gasoline for the period of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, and to authorize the First Selectmen to enter into said agreement on behalf of the Town.

The Selectmen discussed the annual occurrence of this agenda item and the risk of experiencing price increases if the First Selectmen does not have authorization to enter into the agreement immediately upon receipt of the bid from the supplier. They discussed the option of giving the First Selectman such authorization for the 2013 bid during one of the November, 2012 meetings and voted on the motion on the table. Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion: There was no additional Selectmen's discussion.

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 7:54 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape: 656A

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary