

**TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
BOARD OF FINANCE**

Special Meeting
July 12, 2011
7:00 pm
Town Office Annex

Call to Order

The special meeting of the East Haddam Board of Finance was called to order by Chairman Paul Maxwell on Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 7:14 pm at the Town Office Annex.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance:

Board of Finance Members:
Paul Maxwell, Chairman
Robert Bennett
Bruce Dutch
Edward Schwenzfeier

Others:

Mark Walter, First Selectman
Deb Denette, Town Clerk and BOF recording secretary
Jim Ventres, Land Use Administrator

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Dutch to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 13, 2011 as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Bennett abstaining.

Correspondence

Nothing noted.

Chairman's Report

a. Tax Collector's Monthly Report:

The Tax Collector's monthly report was received. Mr. Maxwell noted that the report indicates that the Tax Collector is doing an outstanding job.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Walter reviewed a Boating Infrastructure Grant that he would like the Town to apply for in the amount of \$50,000 to build a floating dock on the Connecticut River. The economic development benefit from transient boaters was noted. The grant requires that that dock be engineered prior to submittal. The area would also need to be free of exotic mussels and milfoil in order to proceed. Mr. Walter stated that \$2,900 we need to be expended for engineering in order to submit the application. Mr. Walter stated that the intention is that the dock will be engineered in such a way as to allow Public Works to maintain it.

Mr. Bennett noted that it is ironic that the State of Connecticut is broke, yet it is building \$50,000 to \$100,000 docks up and down the River.

Motion was made by Mr. Schwenzfeier to authorize the expenditures of \$2,900 for engineering costs from the Public Works Engineering budget for the engineering costs associated with the State of Connecticut Boating Infrastructure Grant Application. Mr. Dutch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance Administrator's Report

No report.

Liaison Reports

Nothing noted.

Guests and Audience Comments

None.

Unfinished Business

Nothing noted.

New Business

a. WPCA – Sewer Treatment Plant:

Mr. Ventres stated that the moisture present at the sewer treatment is taking a toll on the building and upgrades are necessary. The facility was designed as a wet plant. Mr. Ventres stated that the Town has submitted a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant application for the upgrades. Mr. Ventres noted that past experience with STEAP is that it can take several years to learn if you have been approved. Mr. Ventres stated that delaying maintenance and upkeep on the building will result in structural damage. Mr. Ventres stated that the WPCA has already approved a rate hike to offset costs. Mr. Ventres stated that the WPCA recently took a \$45,000 hit for automation of system monitoring as required by DEP so it is not in the financial position to fund the upgrades at this time.

In summary, the WPCA is seeking a \$60,000 advance from the Board of Finance. Said funds would be repaid either through the STEAP grant, if successful, or from the collection of sewer taxes over a period of time. The rate hikes will result in an additional \$16,000 of revenue to the WPCA per year. It was noted that the cost may increase by \$125.00 per EDU (equivalent dwelling unit). Responsive to inquiry from Mr. Schwenzfeier, Mr. Ventres noted that the Gelston House calculation is 28 EDU's.

Motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to begin the process to loan the WPCA \$60,000. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Schwenzfeier abstained noting that his home located within the sewer district.

b. 2011 Federal Highway Safety Program (DUI) Grant:

Motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to accept a grant in the amount of \$26,625 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, entitled "FY 2011 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program" and to ask the Board of Selectmen to set a Town Meeting for approval. Bob Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Consumers Union Gift:

It was noted that Consumers Union has given three donations to the Town totaling \$25,000 on behalf of the Board of Education, Town and Youth and Family Services to be used as follows:

\$10,000 to baseball and softball field dugout roofs
\$10,000 to lighting project in front of Town Hall and Grange Hall
\$ 5,000 for additional money to the skateboard park

The \$10,000 for lighting needs to be accepted as a gift to the Town and sent to Town meeting. Responsive to inquiry from Mr. Bennett, Mr. Walter detailed the proposed lighting project which will be colonial style post lanterns.

Motion was made by Mr. Dutch to accept a gift from Consumers Union of the United States, Inc. in the amount of \$10,000 for the lighting project in front of the Town Hall and Grange (revenue account 79-431510-G1201 and expense account 79-541750-G1201) and to ask the Board of Selectmen to set a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Schwenzfeier seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Historic Document Preservation Grant:

Mrs. Denette summarized the grant applied for and received from the Connecticut State Library in the amount of \$3,500. She stated that the grant funds will be utilized to index, archive and store records to microfilm utilizing the same process as is done with the land records.

Motion was made by Mr. Maxwell to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the acceptance of the State of Connecticut, State Library, Historic Documents Preservation Grant in the amount of \$3,500 and to appropriate said funds to Fund 14—Document Preservation and to ask the Board of Selectmen to set a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Dutch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Schwenzfeier to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Mr. Dutch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Denette