

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
January 18, 2012
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 8 – New Business: F. Commission Reappointments, Status Change, and Appointments (AGC). Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of December 12, 2011 and Regular Meeting of December 21, 2011:

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 12, 2011, as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2011, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

A. EDC Pharmacy Letter Response from OPM: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of letter from the CT Office of Policy & Management, dated 12-22-11, addressed to the East Haddam Economic Development Commission. Mr. Walter explained that EDC had written to Gov. Malloy concerning the impact of the changes to the State's employee prescription drug plan on the Nathan Hale Pharmacy. He noted that the letter indicated that the Office of Policy & Management had met several times with representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, numerous independent pharmacists and others which resulted in changes to the plan, opening up participation in the program to all state pharmacies.

B. DOT – Tentative Paving Program: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from the CT Department of Transportation, dated January 12, 2012, advising of its "Tentative Vendor-in-Place Paving Program" for the 2012 construction season. He noted that .74 miles of Route 82 to Landing Hill was on the schedule.

Mr. Walter also called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Atty. Jezek, dated, January 13, 2012, concerning proposed improvements to Plains Road in Moodus. He noted that the letter was written on behalf of Mr. Michael Manus who owns three apartment buildings on Plains Road. The Selectmen discussed the history of the ownership of the strip of land in front of Mr. Maus' buildings and Mr. Walter noted that, although the State owns the property, the Town has continued to maintain the road.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter advised that he did not have any items to discuss under this agenda topic.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Cais stated that he would like the Town to delay the action to clean up his property so that he can salvage some items from the demolition of his house. Mr. Walter noted that he had received Mr. Cais' letter concerning this issue and had forwarded it to the Town's attorney. He also stated that the clean-up was court-ordered and that the bid the Town accepted was predicated on the work being done this winter. He advised that if the clean-up was delayed the price would go up resulting in a larger lien on Mr. Cais' property.

The Selectmen and Mr. Cais discussed his concerns and he was advised to continue to work on salvaging the items he wanted.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that the 4-8 Middle School roof has some leaks that have to be repaired. He further advised that all the paperwork has been completed for reimbursement from the State.

B. Old Middle School/Middle School Conversion Committee: Mr. Walter reported that he had spoken with Newfield Construction and they have agreed to honor the contract they submitted last for the Town's consideration to quantify a number of cost-cutting ideas for the Old Middle School Conversion project. He said he would like the Selectmen to consider that option or the option of hiring another architect to review the Silver Petrucelli plans and recommend ways to scale the project back. He also suggested putting together a committee that can look at more ways to tweak the project and move it forward quickly.

Mr. Walter discussed the tie-in to the Village Revitalization project and stated that he felt the immediate priority was to empty the River House and the garage. He suggested several options available to relocate the Police and Emergency Management Services. Mr. Walter further stated that he was having discussions with the Goodspeed on ways to partner on the Revitalization project to take advantage of some State grant opportunities.

Mr. Blaschik advised that he was not generally in favor of lease arrangements for Town office space as a long-term solution and, while the cost to convert the old Middle School was more than he would like, relatively speaking he did not feel the project was excessively large. He stated that he felt it was still a workable project and would prefer not to spend money on work that has already been done. He noted that he would consider supporting a petition to bring the project to a Town vote; however, he would like to meet with the Middle School Conversion Committee first to get a thorough understanding of the work they did and how they reached their recommendation. He suggested the Selectmen solicit the Committee for ideas on how to tweak the project to achieve a more manageable budget.

Mr. Blaschik stated that he had voted to shut down the heating system at the school with the hope that it would be a short-term solution because he felt it was important to utilize the Old Middle School and retain some of the historic flavor of Moodus. He stated he did not agree with Board of Finance Chairman Maxwell that there was no benefit to centralizing the Town services.

Mr. Lyman stated that he agreed that it was important to utilize the old Middle School and he would like to take advantage of some of the unique features of the building but felt that there may be some aspects of the plan that could be eliminated to reduce the cost. He stated that it might be beneficial to have professional input on ways to modify the plan so that the project can be moved forward more quickly.

Mr. Blaschik noted that the Town may be able to look into various ways of funding the project that might spread out the tax burden over time.

Mr. Walter stated he would develop a proposal to use Newfield Construction as a consultant on the project based on the original contract they submitted.

C. Proposal to Exempt Class I Renewables from Building Permit Fees: There was no update on this agenda item

D. Grange Hall – Handicapped Access Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that he and Mr. Fellner had met with the Historic District Commission to discuss improvements to the Grange. He stated that the Commissioners had endorsed a plan to remove the elevator, replace the window, and create a short ramp to the porch for handicapped access. He stated he would like to redirect the STEAP grant funding to planned work on the Grange Hall and the Old Town Hall.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to request Mr. Fellner develop architectural drawings for a handicap-ramp for the Grange at a cost not to exceed \$3500.00. In response to question from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter confirmed that the Historic District Commissioners fully supported the concept discussed with them by himself and Mr. Fellner. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

A. WPCA Loan Resolution: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen (the “Board”) of the Town of East Haddam (the “Town”) hereby adopts and recommends to the Board of Finance and electors and citizens eligible to vote at Town Meetings of the Town as follows:

1. That the Town (i) appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand (\$60,000) Dollars to fund a loan to the East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority (the “WPCA”) for costs related to construction upgrades to the sewer treatment facility of the Town located on Lumberyard Road (the “Facility”) and (ii) authorize the Board through actions of the First Selectman to make the loan to the WPCA pursuant to a Note satisfactory to the First Selectman and the Town Attorney.

Unanimous aye.

B. Call for Town Meeting: The Selectmen discussed the call to send various items to Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Town Meeting Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Water Pollution Control Authority, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Meeting authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept the following:

1. That the Town (i) appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand (\$60,000) Dollars to fund a loan to the East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority (the "WPCA") for costs related to construction upgrades to the sewer treatment facility of the Town located on Lumberyard Road (the "Facility") and (ii) authorize the Board through actions of the First Selectman to make the loan to the WPCA pursuant to a Note satisfactory to the First Selectman and the Town Attorney.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a transfer in the amount of \$28,749 from the Board of Finance Contingency (704-588701) to the Land Use-Contracted Services (713-542101) for the court ordered clean-up of 27 Powerhouse Road.

Item 3: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$25,757.85 to the Tax Collector-Tax Refunds (710-582201) to award a court ordered tax refund in the amount of \$25,757.85 to Daral Uloom Shady Brook, Inc.

Unanimous aye.

C. Commission and Committee Appointments (EDC & OPSP): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from the Economic Development Commission recommending an alternate appointment to their commission and a letter from Planning and Zoning requesting an Open Space representative appointment.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to appoint Frederick Weissbach to a vacant alternate member term to expire June 30, 2015 on the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Edmund Gubbins, Jr. as a member of the Open Space Committee representing the Planning and Zoning Commission replacing Bernard Gillis. Unanimous aye.

D. Volunteer of the Month (December and January): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to two Volunteer of the Month recommendations submitted by Nancy Walter and himself. Ms. Walter nominated Janet Soboleski for her work at the Library and for "*organizing, cutting, or trimming every box top that comes into the Middle School ... worth sometimes thousands of dollars and can buy playground equipment, etc.*".

Mr. Walter nominated Monica Pitney for her "*constant help ... in the management and running of the East Haddam Food Bank*".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to name Janet Soboleski as volunteer of the month for December 2011. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to name Monica Pitney as volunteer of the month for January 2012. Unanimous aye.

- E. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to five tax refunds.

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

- \$720.36 to DCFS Trust,
- \$251.44 to Dean A. Jessee,
- \$133.69 to Brittany O'Mara,
- \$ 33.34 to Donna M. Valva, and
- \$ 46.37 to CAB East, LLC.

Unanimous aye.

F. Commission Reappointments, Status Change & Appointments (AGC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Harvey Thomas, Chairman of the Agriculture Commission recommending reappointments, status change and appointments to their commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to change the status of Jessica Stone from an alternate member to fill a vacant regular member term to expire January 1, 2015 on the Agriculture Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to reappoint Peter Dean as a regular member for a three-year term to expire January 1, 2015 on the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Marianne Halpin and Linda Stuhlman to vacant alternate member two-year terms to expire January 1, 2014 on the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion: The Selectmen discussed where to post legal notices and Mr. Walter stated he would research the issue and report back at one of the next Regular Board of Selectmen's meetings.

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 8:50 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape: 657A
657B

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary