

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
February 1, 2012
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; John Blaschik

Selectmen Absent: Emmett Lyman

Also Present: D. Angersola; C. Behilo; E. Blaschik; M. Cooley; A. Irving; M. Pear; R. Smith; W. Thomas, J. Ventres; S. Wheeler; P. Young

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of January 18, 2012

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 18, 2012, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. Letter from Dan Barry – Board of Fire Commissioners: Mr. Walter read Mr. Barry's letter dated 1/27/12 requesting the Selectmen attend the next Board of Fire Commissioners meeting to discuss the recommendations Chairman Pear submitted to the Selectmen. The letter also expressed Mr. Barry's concern with the lack of individual participation and the voting procedures at their meetings. Mr. Walter also referred to a letter he had received from Fire Chief Angersola, dated January 31, 2012, regarding smoking in the firehouses.

Mr. Walter asked Fire Chief Angersola if he would like to add any information to the above and Chief Angersola contested Mr. Barry's perceptions and encouraged the Selectmen to attend the next meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Mr. Walter stated that he would like to defer the Selectmen's attendance at the Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting until the issues can be researched. In response to a request from Mr. Walter, Selectman Blaschik agreed to establish a fact-finding committee to determine if the Board of Fire Commissioners is: (1) in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, (2) whether or not they have properly recorded minutes of their meetings, (3) if there are written procedures to follow in the firehouses, and (4) whether or not the bidding for fire equipment was in compliance with regulations.

5. First Selectmen's Report

A. Eightmile River – Stormwater Grant Project Presentation: Mr. Walter invited the Eightmile River Watershed representatives to provide their presentation to the Selectmen. Mr. Anthony Irving introduced himself, Ms. Pat Young and Mr. Wade Thomas. He noted that they are wrapping up the Stormwater Outlet Mapping grant project and turned the floor over to Mr. Thomas who provided an overview of the project. Mr. Thomas also reviewed the findings in their report and highlighted on the stormwater outlet map of the Watershed area.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Walter, Ms. Young stated that the grant agency indicated it would be receptive to additional grant requests for a Phase II of the project: implementation of recommendations resulting from the findings from Phase I. She advised that their group was also willing to assist with any grant opportunities identified outside of the Eightmile River Watershed group.

There was a general discussion regarding repairs that can be done by the Town's Public Works. Mr. Walter thanked the group for their work.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Christopher Behilo advised that he had had a problem getting into the shed behind the Grange to dispose of the cardboard stored there and would be installing new hardware after tonight's meeting.

Mr. Robert Smith provided an update on the status of the Haddam Land Swap and requested the Board of Selectmen send another letter to State officials reiterating their objections to the deal. Mr. Walter and Mr. Blaschik confirmed that they are opposed to the Land Swap deal and agreed to bring the issue of updating their original letter to State Officials to a vote at the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen when Mr. Lyman was in attendance.

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: In response to a question raised by Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter confirmed that he was in discussion with Newfield Construction about how they can assist the Town with this project.

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 advised that the plans to upgrade the front porch on the Grange and replace the elevator with a handicapped ramp would also have to be approved by the State Historical Commission if State funds are used toward this project.

8. New Business

A. Firefighter Pension Plan Approval: Mr. Walter provided a brief overview of the Firefighter Pension Plan and stated that the Board of Finance has approved the Plan. He noted that Ms. Varricchio will present the approved plan to the firefighters and answer any questions they have.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut, Length of Service Award Plan for Volunteer Members of the East Haddam Volunteer Fire Department, Effective January 1, 2012. Unanimous aye.

B. Transfer Station Fee Waiver – American Legion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a completed Transfer Station Fee Waiver Application submitted by Norm Weber of the American Legion.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the application to waive Transfer Station Fees for the American Legion for roofing materials as requested in their February 1, 2012 application. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to one tax refund.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to award a tax refund in the amount of \$35.77 to Pauline V. Weber. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: In response to a question raised by Mr. Ventres, Mr. Walter advised that a structural engineer will be needed to determine the life expectancy of Company #2 Firehouse. Mr. Ventres noted that he would need that information to develop a long-range plan for maintaining the building.

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. Blaschik, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape: 658A

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary