

Board of Selectmen  
Grange Hall  
March 7, 2012  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; John Blaschik, Emmett Lyman  
Also Present: C. Behilo; E. Blaschik; R. Smith; C. Varricchio; 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 items to the Agenda:

- Correspondence, Item A – Letter from the Commission on Aging, Sub Committee on Standards Chairman Jo Golec
- New Business, Item D – Transfer Station Waiver -East Haddam Historical Society

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 15, 2012: The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting of February 15, 2012.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 15, 2012, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter advised that he had attended a CT River Valley Council of Elected Officials meeting on February 29 where Education Commissioner Pryor gave a presentation on the Governor's proposed 2012 education reforms. Mr. Walter noted that there was a dialogue on a number of controversial aspects of the proposed reforms.

A. Letter from Commission on Aging, Sub Committee on Standards Chairman Jo Golec: Mr. Walter advised that the Commission on Aging's Sub-Committee on Standards had completed its analysis of the services and programs available to the Town's senior citizens. He noted that the year-long study was undertaken to determine if the criteria developed by the National Council on Aging and National Institute of Senior Centers are being met. He reported that the Sub-Committee had provided him with a binder of their findings and Mr. Lyman offered to review the information.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter stated that he had no items to report on other than those on the Agenda.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Behilo requested that the dumpsters at the top of the Transfer Station be re-organized so that the demolition and recycling dumpsters are adjacent to one another. At Mr. Walter's request, he agreed to draw a diagram and explanation of his request for Ms. Lunt's consideration.

7. Unfinished Business

A. General Budget Review Workshop & Resolution: Ms. Varricchio distributed copies of a supplemental budget document that included information on the following:

- Summary of Budget Changes
- Selectmen Budget Questions Follow-up
- Estimated Expenditures Summary
- Estimated Revenues Summary
- Mil Rate Calculation
- Salary Survey Results – Registrars & Emergency Management Staff

She reviewed the information in the handout and reported that adjustments on the Revenue side offset the adjustments on the Expense side, resulting in no significant impact to the bottom line. She also stated that expenses are holding steady; however, revenues have dropped considerably. Ms. Varricchio responded to several questions raised by the Selectmen.

The Selectmen and Ms. Varricchio discussed raising the rate of pay for the Registrar and deputies. They also discussed providing pay for the Emergency Management Deputy and, due to the substantial amount of paperwork done by the Emergency Management Deputy, supported Mr. Blaschik's suggestion to re-classifying the role as Administrative Services. In response to a question from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter advised that Ms. Lunt is doing a multi-year analysis of Public Works expenses which they can discuss at the meeting with the Board of Finance.

In response to another question from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter confirmed that the proposed increase in patrol hours for police offices was in anticipation of hiring a full-time officer. Mr. Blaschik stated that he is not in favor of hiring a full-time officer because he is concerned about the increased cost of benefits and liability risks. He said that he feels the part-time constables would be more cost-efficient and just as effective if their schedules were expanded and controlled. There was a general discussion regarding the pros and cons of full-time vs. part-time officers.

Ms. Varricchio advised that all departments have been asked to look for opportunities to increase revenue. Mr. Blaschik stated that new legislation was recently passed that allows municipalities to charge a permit fee to off-set the cost of regularly scheduled inspections of public assembly structures. He agreed to research the subject and report his findings back to the Selectmen.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend to the Board of Finance for fiscal year 2012-2013, a budget of \$28,433,383.00. Unanimous aye.

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

C. Old Middle School/Middle School Conversion Committee: There was no update on this agenda item.

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

## 8. New Business

A. Commission Resignation and Appointment (EDC & CONS): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter, dated February 28, 2012, from Patricia Stricker resigning from the Economic Development Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Patricia Stricker from the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter, dated February 14, 2012, from Cynthia Matthew, Chairperson of the Conservation Commission, recommending the appointment of Rob Smith as regular member of the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Robert Smith to fill a vacant position with a term to expire June 30, 2013 on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

B. Volunteer of the Month (February and March): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to two Volunteer of the Month recommendations from Tiffany Quinn, Park & Recreation Director in their meeting packets. Ms. Quinn had noted that both individuals "*help maintain the dog park*". She also noted that Ms. Hoover "*...takes pride in keeping it clean and safe*", and Mr. Grohbrugge "*... has been invaluable at keeping park users informed and understanding the rules, dog behavior, & good etiquette*".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to name Priscilla Hoover as volunteer of the month for February 2012. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to name Kenneth Grohbrugge as volunteer of the month for March 2012. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to two tax refunds. He advised that the large tax refund to Tomar was due to incorrectly assessing a road as property.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to award the following tax refunds:

- \$3,163.70 to Tomar Homeowners Assoc Inc.
- \$ 81.43 to DCFS Trust

Unanimous aye.

D. Transfer Station Fee Waiver-East Haddam Historical Society: Mr. Walter distributed a copy of a completed Transfer Station Fee Waiver Application Form submitted by the East Haddam Historical Society, dated 3/7/12. He noted that the Historical Society is replacing a concrete pad and wants to dispose of the old concrete.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the application to waive Transfer Station Fees for the East Haddam Historical Society for old concrete as requested in their March 7, 2012 application. Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

A. Haddam Land Swap Board of Selectmen Letter: Mr. Lyman distributed copies of a draft letter of opposition to the planned Haddam land swap. The Selectmen reviewed the letter and suggested several revisions. Mr. Lyman stated he will update the draft and redistribute it.

B. Board of Fire Commissioners/Fire Department Update of Outstanding Issues: Mr. Blaschik advised that he is still working on this project but did not have any new information.

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 8:49 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape: 659A  
659B  
660A

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary