

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
April 4, 2012
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, John Blaschik, Emmett Lyman
Also Present: S. Mackinnon, 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: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of February 27, 2012, Special Meeting of March 5, 2012, and Regular Meeting of March 21, 2012.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 27, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 5, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 21, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. East Haddam Farmers' Cooperative Presentation Invitation: At Mr. Walter's request, Mr. Mackinnon reviewed the work that had been done at the Harris property and noted that the Farmers' Cooperative would provide a presentation on same at an open house at 6:00 p.m. on April 18th at the Town Hall. He stated that the Cooperative is considering hiring a consultant to do some soil analysis.

5. First Selectmen's Report:

Mr. Walter expressed concern that the letter regarding the Land Swap deal had been made public before it was finalized. Mr. Blaschik advised that he was unaware that the draft had been sent out.

Mr. Walter reported that the Board of Finance had cut the Board of Education's budget by \$110,000.00 and that he had attended a Board of Education meeting where several options for addressing the cut were discussed. He advised that the Board chose to absorb the cuts through reductions in administrative hours rather than cutting teaching staff. He noted that there was also a presentation at the meeting on the use of smart-boards in the classrooms that he found very impressive.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizens 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: Mr. Walter advised that he has received several appraisals on properties housing municipal offices. He also stated that he is working on a proposal on how to move forward on the use of the Old Middle School which he will present to the Selectmen in the near future.

C. Proposal to Exempt Class I Renewables from Building Permit Fees: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to exempt the electrical permit fee for solar panel installations for residential and commercial use, with the exception of projects that are explicitly for the purpose of re-selling the generated electricity. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter stated he would work with the Town attorney to draft an ordinance for the exemption.

D. Three Bridges Road Bridge Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that he and Mr. Lyman had visited the Three Bridges Road site and observed the condition of the bridges. He reiterated that the Town does not want to abandon the property and that he and Mr. Lyman felt a reasonable solution would be to design and install a simple walking bridge over the river. Mr. Walter recommended the Town hire an engineer to evaluate the feasibility of re-using the existing abutments for a new bridge. He stated that he hoped the project could be paid for with a grant. Mr. Lyman suggested that the Town might want to consider deeding the property to the East Haddam Land Trust at some future date.

8. New Business

A. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to two tax refunds.

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

- \$176.25 to David LaFemina, and
- \$ 204.90 to Linda Simmons.

Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

Mr. Walter reported that the firefighters responding to the brush fire at Devil's Hopyard State Park had implemented a back-burn on private property to contain the fire. At the request of DEEP Assistant Director Frechette, he had asked that the Town's Public Works Superintendent Richard Toolan visit the home owner to ascertain the extent of damage done to the property. Mr. Toolan advised that damage had been done to the driveway as well as the landscaping and recommended that the State file an insurance claim to compensate the property-owner. He further recommended that the Town not get involved in the issue.

A. Haddam Land Swap Board of Selectmen Letter: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to withdraw the motion made at the March 21st meeting to send the letter to the agreed upon list of addressees. Unanimous aye.

B. Board of Fire Commissioners/Fire Department Update of Outstanding Issues: Mr. Blaschik reported that he had no update on this agenda item. At Mr. Walter's request, Mr. Blaschik agreed to temporarily attend the Board of Fire Commissioners' meetings to ensure that outstanding issues are getting resolved.

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 8:48 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape: 662A

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary