

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
May 2, 2012
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; John Blaschik, Emmett Lyman
Also Present: A. Behilo, C. Behilo, R. Smith

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 April 18, 2012 and Special Meeting of April 25, 2012.

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

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 25, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. United States Coast Guard Letter Regarding East Haddam Swing Bridge: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets, dated April 24, 2012, from the Coast Guard Bridge Program Manager Gary Kassof, advising that the Coast Guard would not modify the operating rules at the bridge. Mr. Walter noted that he had requested that the bridge openings be restricted to once an hour.

B. Federal Local Bridge Program Letter Regarding Haywardville Road Bridge: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets, dated April 23, 2012, from Scott Hill, P.E., CT DOT Manager of Bridges & Facilities, Bureau of Engineering and Construction. Mr. Walter stated that the letter advised that the Haywardville Road Bridge had been reclassified as "Rural Major Collector" and, as a result, "*...is no longer eligible for federal funding under the Federal Loan Bridge Program*". The Selectmen had a brief discussion about the consequences of the reclassification.

5. First Selectmen's Report:

A. Tax Exempt Handicapped Vehicles: Mr. Walter reported that a Town resident had approached him about the possibility of exempting vehicles that have been customized for handicapped use from property tax. Mr. Walter noted that the town of East Hampton has such an exemption and stated that he is researching how many vehicles in East Haddam might qualify. The Selectmen discussed the potential impacts of offering such an exemption and agreed to discuss it further after they had time to think about it and discuss it with other Town residents.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Aiden Behilo stated that he felt there should be longer school hours. Mr. Walter stated that he agreed with Mr. Behilo but advised that it was a decision for the Board of Education.

In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Mr. Walter advised that the letter to Senator Daily regarding the land-swap legislation had been finalized and would be mailed on May 3rd.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that the Building Committee may reconvene to address several recently identified construction issues.

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

C. Three Bridges Road Bridge Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that the next step is to request plans for a simple walking bridge be drawn up so that a cost-estimate can be developed.

8. New Business

A. Bid Award – Catch Basin Cleaning: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a memo in their meeting packets, dated May 1, 2012, from Public Works Administrator Lunt, recommending the bid for catch basin cleaning be awarded to R. Bruce Briggs.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to award the bid for catch basin cleaning to R. Bruce Briggs at \$16.98 per basin/headwell for the period of July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013, with the option to renew on a year-by-year basis for two (2) additional years, with the approval of the Town and the vendor. Unanimous aye.

B. Internet Usage Policy Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a 2nd Draft of the Town's proposed Internet Usage Policy. He advised that when the policy is finalized, it will be included in the Town's employee handbook. Mr. Blaschik and Mr. Lyman advised that they had read the draft and had no comments. Mr. Walter stated that he would circulate the draft among the Town's department managers for their review and feedback.

C. Webster Bank Resolution: Mr. Walter advised that Webster Bank is the Town's financial advisor for issuing debt. He stated that the bank is in the process of updating their customer files and needs the Town to ratify the authorized account signers.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adopt the resolutions as presented by Webster Bank to ratify the authorized account signers for our financial advisor for the issuing of debt. Unanimous aye.

D. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds for consideration on the agenda.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

A. Parade Meeting – May 22, 2012: Mr. Walter advised that the next meeting of the Memorial Day Parade Committee is scheduled for May 22, 2012. He noted that the Committee had decided that, in case of bad weather, the ceremonies would be held in the Legion Hall.

B. Budget Town Meeting – May 9, 2012: Mr. Walter advised that a Town Meeting has been scheduled for May 9, 2012 to move the budget to referendum.

C. Board of Fire Commissioners/Fire Department Update of Outstanding Issues: In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Blaschik confirmed that his report had been completed and this item could be removed from future Board of Selectmen Agendas.

Mr. Walter reported that Don Angersola will not seek re-election as Fire Chief. He stated that Shawn Daigle was nominated to fill that position and that there are two individuals who will run for Assistant Fire Chief.

The following items were also discussed:

- In response to a question from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Walter advised that plans for the construction of a floating dock between the airport and the Goodspeed parking lot are moving forward. He also reported that construction on the skateboard park is progressing.
- Mr. Lyman advised that the repaving of the portion of the Colchester Turnpike by the Moodus Reservoir looked very good.
- Mr. Smith inquired about proposed repairs to the bridge on Ray Hill Road and there was a general discussion regarding anticipated work on several bridges in Town.
- Mr. Walter reported that he has volunteered East Haddam as a test-town for CL&P's hurricane preparedness program.
- In response to a question from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Walter confirmed that a committee is continuing to work on the feasibility of a hydro-power plant in Moodus.

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 7:53 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape: 663A

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary