

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
December 19, 2012
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; Emmett Lyman; John Blaschik (arrived 7:12 p.m.)

Selectmen Absent: none

Also Present: E. Blaschik; D. Burak; M. Murphy; T. Murphy; H. Thomas; S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to amend the agenda to move item 7.D. – Unfinished Business, Right to Farm Ordinance Discussion up as the next item discussed on the agenda. Unanimous aye.

7.D. Unfinished Business: Right to Farm Ordinance Discussion:

Mr. Thomas stated that the Agriculture Commission had received the revised draft of the Right to Farm ordinance with changes made by Atty. Poliner and Mr. Ventres. He noted that the Commission's intent for the ordinance was to formalize the Town's support for the agricultural nature of the Town; however, the Agriculture Commission is concerned that some of the changes Atty. Poliner suggested imposes additional responsibilities on the Commission that they were not seeking.

There was a general discussion regarding the revised draft and the definition of a "farm". Ms. Burak noted that it was the Agriculture Commission's intention that the ordinance let people know what they can do and what they cannot do but not to give the Commission any regulatory powers.

Mr. Walter stated he will bring the Commission's concerns to Atty. Poliner's attention. The Selectmen confirmed their support of the Agriculture Commission's stated goal of the ordinance.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of November 9, 2012 and Special Meeting of December 11, 2012:

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 9, 2012 as written. Mr. Lyman abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 11, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter distributed a piece of correspondence he had received suggesting town consider organizing a candle-light vigil or memorial this weekend in memory of the victims of the Newtown tragedy. The Selectmen discussed several options and agreed to try to put together a memorial at either Memorial Park or at the Town Office property at 4 p.m. on Saturday, but noted that it will be difficult to communicate the event to the public. Mr. Walter noted that the churches in Town will ring their bells 26 times at 9:30 a.m. on Friday in memory of the victims. Mr. Ed Blaschik stated that the Goodspeed will also broadcast 26 bell tolls in the village at the same time.

5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter reported that on Friday he had met with representatives from the State Police and the Superintendent to review protocols and safety programs at the Town's schools. He advised that there will be a public meeting in late January to discuss school and residential safety issues.

Mr. Walter stated that he had met with the Fire Chiefs to discuss repairs to Fire Company 2 and Company 3. He advised that he has drafted a proposal to hire a construction manager for four major Town projects, including the Fire Companies. He further noted that he had identified a location for a septic system for Fire Company 1 and is working with Webster Bank to finance a 20-year capital improvements bond.

6. Citizen's Concerns: In response to a question raised by Mr. Edward Blaschik, Mr. Walter stated that he did not know if there is camera surveillance at all of the Town's schools. He stated he would check into it but noted it may not be something the State Police or Superintendent want revealed in specifics.

7. Unfinished Business

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

B. Three Bridges Road Bridge Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.

C. Tax Exempt Handicapped Vehicles: There was no update on this agenda item.

D. Right to Farm Ordinance Discussion: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on above in these minutes.

8. New Business

A. Trailer Permit Extension: Mr. Walter explained that Mr. Favreau was asking for a 6 month extension to the previous trailer permit he was granted while he was rebuilding his house after a fire. His current permit is due to expire on December 21, 2012. Mr. Walter also explained that it has been past practice to waive the fifty-dollar trailer permit fee for applicants who have had to rebuild their homes due to fire and he would like to request that in this case. Mr. Walter noted that there was usually some type of wording put into the permit approval letter regarding removing the trailer within 15 days of receiving a certificate of occupancy.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to waive the permit fee and approve a 6 month extension to the application from Mark and Jeanne Favreau for a single trailer license at 55 Clark Gates Road with the conditions set forth by the Chatham Health District and the condition that the trailer be removed within 15 days after receiving a certificate of occupancy. Unanimous aye.

At Mr. Walter's request, Mr. Blaschik agreed to advise Mr. Favreau that, by ordinance, this is the last extension the Town can approve.

B. Commission on Aging Ordinance Change Request: Mr. Walter advised that the Commission on Aging is requesting that their ordinance language be changed to define "senior citizens" from residents age from 65 years or older to 50 years or older in keeping with current policies and AARP.

He noted that such a change must be approved by the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting and the board might consider including this adjustment with the codification project.

Motion made by Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution and send acceptance of said amendment to Town Meeting for approval:

RESOLVED: That the Commission on Aging Ordinance adopted at Town Meeting November 30, 2010, is hereby amended to change the age in Section 2 – Advocacy as follows:

Advocacy: To promote the health, safety and well-being of the town's senior citizens, defined as residents who are [~~DELETE: sixty-five (65)~~] [**ADD: fifty (50)**] years of age or older.
Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen agreed that this change can be encompassed in the full ordinance codification updates. Mr. Blaschik agreed to research whether or not the change would have any impact on other Town services provided to “senior citizens”.

C. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a Volunteer of the Month recommendation in their meeting packets. He noted that Zachary is Jiffy Spencer’s grandson and was extremely helpful in the EOC during hurricane Sandy.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to name Zachary Bogue as volunteer of the month for December 2012. Unanimous aye.

D. 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 presented.

- \$146.40 to Matthew Breton.
- Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen’s Discussion: There were no additional topics the Selectmen discussed.

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 8:28 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary