

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
January 2, 2013
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; Emmett Lyman; John Blaschik
Selectmen Absent: none
Also Present: C. Behilo; S. Wheeler

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: Special Meeting of December 10, 2012 (6:30 p.m.), Special Meeting of December 10, 2012 (7:00 p.m.), and Regular Meeting of December 19, 2012.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 10, 2012 (6:30 p.m.) as written. Mr. Blaschik 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 10, 2012 (7:00 p.m.) as written. Mr. Blaschik abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 19, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter distributed a copy of an email he had received from Shawn Daigle, dated January 2, 2013, inviting the Board of Selectmen to a "*brief awards ceremony at Company 1 Firehouse at 7pm on January 8th ...[for] Newt...*". Mr. Walter advised that he had a conflicting appointment at that time and requested Mr. Lyman and/or Mr. Blaschik attend the ceremony.

A. Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Announcement: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from David Stygar, Environmental Analyst with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, dated December 20, 2012. He noted that the letter advised that the Department had approved two open space preservation grants to the Town of East Haddam for 50% of the fair market value for the Pages and Zeiller Associates properties. The grant amounts are \$464,000.00 and \$232,500.00, respectively.

Mr. Walter noted that purchase of the two properties would, effectively, complete the \$5M open space bond authorization. There was a general discussion about the value of the State's grants as well as how the public would react to the impact of the purchase(s) on their property taxes.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported on the following items:
 - He is meeting with representatives from Webster Bank next week and they will present him with options on how to finance a \$25M capital improvements project. He noted the plan encompasses repairs to the two Fire Companies, improvements to the elementary school, and rehabilitating the Old Middle School for town office use.

- The Agriculture Commission has been working to clear the land on the Harris property. He noted that the confusion about whether a garlic field was being cultivated on open space property has been cleared up.
- A probate court hearing is scheduled for January 3rd in Marlborough to finalize the merging of the Boards of the two Town libraries.
- Representatives from several of the Town's Boards & Commissions have asked to be put on the Board of Selectmen Meeting Agendas to make presentations for additional funding.
- He is concerned that the State's cuts to next year's budget will have a significant impact on its support to cities and towns.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizens' concerns voiced at the meeting.

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. Motion made by Mr. Blaschik, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to table this item at this time. Unanimous aye.

D. Right to Farm Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that he had met with Atty. Poliner and advised him that he would prefer to have the Right to Farm language written as an ordinance.

8. New Business

A. Bid Award – Gasoline: Mr. Walter distributed materials regarding East River Energy's proposal to supply gasoline to the Town at a differential price for the upcoming year. He noted that the contract allows East Haddam to reserve the right to lock into a firm and fixed price at any time during the contract period. It is expected that gas prices will be decreasing and we will plan to lock into a fixed price at that time.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to finalize prices and negotiate with East River Energy for unleaded gasoline for the period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, and to authorize the First Selectmen to enter into said agreement on behalf of the Town. Unanimous aye.

B. 2011 Homeland Security Memorandum of Agreement Resolution: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mark B. Walter as the First Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of East Haddam and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry

out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Unanimous aye.

C. Grant Acceptance – 2013 Historic Document Preservation Grant: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to recommend to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of \$4,000 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, State Library, for the purpose of historic document preservation; and that Mark B. Walter, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant. Unanimous aye.

D. Grant Acceptance – 2013 Federal Highway Safety Program (DUI): Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to accept a grant in the amount of \$23,700.00 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, entitled “FY 2013 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program for Municipalities”, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

E. Grant Acceptance – FY 2011/2012 Emergency Management Performance Grant: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,150.00 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled “FY 2011/2012 Emergency Management Performance Grant”, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

F. Appointment of Tourism Representative: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from the Central Region Tourism District, dated December 17, 2012, requesting a reappointment of East Haddam’s representative. The term for this position is three years.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to reappoint Deb Mathiasen as East Haddam’s representative to the Central Regional Tourism District, term to expire December 31, 2015. Unanimous aye.

G. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds to consider.

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 7:35 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary