

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
December 11, 2012
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter (via phone); Emmett Lyman; John Blaschik.
Also Present: S. Mackinnon; L. Zemienieski

1. Selectman Lyman called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Blaschik, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of November 9, 2012: Mr. Lyman noted that he would like to table the approval of the minutes until Mr. Walter arrived in person. All board members agreed.
4. Correspondence: Mr. Lyman noted that in the board packets was a Business Update Letter from the Economic Development Commission that was distributed to all East Haddam Businesses in the EDC database. The letter included information about Coordinator Activities, Route 82 Closure Summer 2013, Tax Incentive Program, Swing Bridge 100 Year Anniversary Celebration, EDC Business Directory and Town Clerk Welcome Packets.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported on the Tri-Board meeting with the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education. He said it looks as if health benefits would increase about 27% and the State would be cutting some assistance to the towns. Mr. Lyman noted that it struck him that student enrollment has gone down. He noted that previously there used to be 100 students per class and our incoming classes are now closer to 80 students.

Mr. Lyman also discussed the recent town revaluation and the potential decrease in the grand list which will generate an increase in mill rate. The board discussed the need to educate the public on the facts that even though house assessments have decreased, tax bills will not because the mill rate will increase.

Mr. Walter reviewed the shared services project the board is working on with the Boards of Finance and Education. The boards are looking at a plan to combine finance, IT, building facilities maintenance and human resources. He also discussed a RFQ proposal he is working on for the Board of Finance, with Pete Simmons, EDC Coordinator, for a project manager for four major facilities projects that have come up from the capital needs analysis. The four projects are Conversion of the former Nathan Hale – Ray Middle School to Town Offices, Expansion of the Company One Volunteer Fire Station to an Emergency Operations Center, Reconstruction or Replacement of the Company Two Volunteer Fire Station and Renovations and Upgrades to the East Haddam Elementary School. He noted that the Board of Selectmen will need to recommend the project management firm for this project then go to the Board of Finance for the funding for the project management services company.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizen's concerns discussed.

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.

8. New Business

A. Right to Farm Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Walter noted that the latest correspondence for this item was in their packets. He noted that there is disagreement on whether this should be an ordinance or a resolution. He added that the Agriculture Commission will be coming to the Board of Selectmen meeting on December 19 to discuss this item. Mr. Walter will attempt to meet with the Town Attorney and Jim Ventres to come to an agreement on this prior to the next board meeting.

B. Grange Hall – Beer and Wine Approval: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of a letter from Patrick Murray, dated November 9, 2012, requesting permission to serve beer and wine at the Grange Hall for the Drum and Fife annual holiday party on January 12, 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Grange Hall for the Moodus Drum & Fife Corp annual holiday party on January 12, 2013. Unanimous aye.

C. Call for Town Meeting: The Selectmen discussed the call to send various items to Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Blaschik, seconded by Mr. Walter, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held in the Town Meeting Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam, at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, December 20, 2012 for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and accept the Annual Town Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements with the Transportation Commissioner of the State of Connecticut for the receipt of State Aid for town highways in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut.

Unanimous aye.

D. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a Volunteer of the Month recommendation letter from the Economic Development Commission in their meeting packets.

Motion made by Mr. Blaschik, seconded by Mr. Walter, to name Jeff Savitsky as volunteer of the month for November 2012. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter physically arrived at the meeting at 9:55am.

E. Board/Commission Resignation, Reappointments, Status Change & Appointment (HDC, EDC, BOFC, AGC & FNR):

Historic District Commission

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a resignation letter from Michael Trocchi on the Historic District Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Blaschik, seconded by Mr. Walter, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Michael Trocchi as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission. Unanimous aye.

Economic Development Commission

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Ed Odell, EDC Chairman recommending the reappointment of Joseph Albuquerque to the commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to reappoint Joseph Albuquerque as a regular member on the Economic Development Commission for a five-year term to expire June 30, 2017. Unanimous aye.

Board of Fire Commissioners

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to the minutes from the November 12 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting recommending reappointment of L. Michael Pear to the commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to reappoint L. Michael Pear for a second three-year term to expire January 1, 2016 as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Unanimous aye.

Agriculture Commission

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Harvey Thomas, Chairman of the Agriculture Commission recommending reappointments, a status change and appointment of members.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to reappoint Harvey Thomas and Scot Mackinnon as regular members for three-year terms to expire January 1, 2016 on the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

It was noted that Ms. Dennie Burak and Ms. Peg Carlson do not wish to be reappointed and letters of thanks will be sent to both members for their time on the commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to change the status of Linda Stuhlman from an alternate member to a regular member to fill a vacant term to expire January 1, 2016 on the Agriculture Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Jeff Savitsky to a vacant alternate member two-year term to expire January 1, 2015 on the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

Financial Needs Roundtable

Mr. Walter noted that he plans to continue the work of the Financial Needs Roundtable and would like the Board of Selectmen to extend the terms of the members for the current year and an additional year and replace former member Mr. Maxwell's position with another Board of Finance member.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to reappoint Mark Walter, Bruce Dutch, Nancy Haslam, Bryan Perry, Brian Pear and Cary Brownell as regular members for a one-year term to

expire January 1, 2013 and a second one-year term to expire January 1, 2014 on the Financial Needs Roundtable. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Raymond Willis to a vacant member one-year term to expire January 1, 2013 and reappoint him to a one-year term to expire January 1, 2014 on the Financial Needs Roundtable. Unanimous aye.

F. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to three tax refunds.

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

- \$186.79 to Craig T. Judge
 - \$ 43.04 to Howard Fraser
 - \$342.83 to Rolf Olson
- Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

Ms. Zemienieski informed the board that she received a request to extend the trailer permit for the Favreau's in the mail today and will be putting it on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Mr. Blaschik notified the board that Fire Commissioner Pear will be bringing forward a request in the near future to purchase a second hand vehicle for the Fire Marshal. Mr. Walter noted that he was aware of the request.

Mr. Walter informed the board that he would be finalizing his research and then moving forward with a Regional Animal Control Officer position. He commented that a number of towns want to be involved.

Mr. Walter commented that he is working with the news publications to better coverage for our town and discussed the recent crimes that have taken place.

A. 2013 Board of Selectmen Meetings: Mr. Walter provided the proposed schedule for the 2013 board meetings.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the following dates as the meeting schedule for the Board of Selectmen for the 2013 calendar year: January 2 & 16, February 6 & 20, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17, May 1 & 15, June 5 & 19, July 17, August 7 & 21, September 4 & 18, October 2 & 16, November 6 & 20, December 4 & 18, and January 15, 2014. All meetings will be held at 7:00pm in the Grange Hall. Unanimous aye.

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 10:23 a.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary