

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
February 20, 2013
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; Emmett Lyman; John Blaschik

Also Present: E. Blaschik; S. Daigle; C. Mansfield; S. Mackinnon; M. Pear; K. Rutty; W. Siegmann;
Bruce Dutch; J. Ventres; S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Walter recommended amending the agenda as follows:
 - Move item 7C – Bid Waiver – Fire Department Light Tower, up for discussion following Agenda item 2.
 - Move item 8A – Acceptance of Conservation Easement & Restrictions – Morgan Estates LLC, up for discussion following Agenda item 5A.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the agenda as amended.
Unanimous aye.

7C. Unfinished Business – Bid Waiver – Fire Department Light Tower: Fire Chief Daigle advised that there are only two major manufacturers of light towers and that the Fire Department has selected Will-Burt's light tower because it is more compact and discussions with others in the industry indicate Will-Burt is the preferred manufacturer of this equipment. He added that the company only has one distributor in Connecticut. Mr. Mansfield noted that it is not unusual to have only one vendor of safety equipment in a state and that vendors located in other states are prohibited from selling outside of their territory. He suggested Mr. Daigle check to see if there is a state bid in place for the equipment. Mr. Daigle agreed to do that research.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, in the absence of a state bid in place for the preferred equipment, to waive the bid process for the purchase of a light tower for Engine 1-15 and authorize the Fire Chief to negotiate with Firematic Supply Co. per their quote of \$19,364.00 for this equipment. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 6, 2013: The approval of the minutes was overlooked during the meeting and will be approved at a future meeting.
4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported that the Town will be retaining O&G Industries to act as project manager for several large capital-improvement projects that are planned. He also distributed a report of Food Bank activities dated February 19, 2013 and a copy of the Salmon River Watershed Partnership's Annual Newsletter.

Mr. Walter advised that he and Mr. Mansfield participated in an Emergency Management meeting and received information on the Town's new liaison from the electric company as well as information on where the six main power feeds into the Town come from. He stated that a priority list for power outage repairs has also been created.

A. Road Name Subcommittee Report – Craig Mansfield: Mr. Mansfield reported that the Road Name Subcommittee’s final report eliminated the two main concerns identified regarding road names and reduced the number of residents affected to 105. He stated that the next step is to encourage residents to clearly mark house numbers. Mr. Ventres advised that the subcommittee agreed that the Town would install official street signs on association roads; however, it would be a one-time project and the associations would be responsible for on-going maintenance/replacement of the signs.

8A. New Business - Acceptance of Conservation Easement & Restrictions – Morgan Estates LLC: Mr. Ventres provided the background on this application for Conservation Easement & Restrictions. He advised that various Town committees have reviewed and approved the application and that the next step is to send the conveyance to Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, that the Board recommends to the town meeting the acceptance of the following conveyance:

A certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Town of East Haddam, County of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, shown and depicted as “Conservation Easement Area” on a certain map or plan entitled “Record Subdivision Map ‘Morgan Estates’ Land Now or Formerly of Alan Hanks & Jeffrey Becker #30 Orchard Road East Haddam, Connecticut Robert R. Weaver, L.S. Connecticut Registered Land Surveyor Commercial – Residential 147 Parker Road, East Haddam, Connecticut 06423 Phone 860-873-2901 Fax 860-873-2902 Scale 1” = 40’ Dated Mar. 1, 2007 Revised 3-27-08 Per Town Comments Revised 5-28-08 Per Town Comments Revised 11-10-08 Per Town Comments Revised 2-26-09 Per P&Z Request Sheet RS-1 Sheet RS-2 Sheet RS-3,” said map being on file in the East Haddam Town Clerk’s Office and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized to execute into such Conservation Easement and Restriction on behalf of the Town.
Unanimous aye.

Mr. Ventres advised that he had spoken with the Town’s Attorney and another attorney about the feasibility of adopting a Town ordinance to accept such conveyances without the requirement of a Town Meeting. In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Ventres advised that conveyances would still have to be approved by various town committees which would provide an opportunity for public input. He advised he would like to solicit the opinion of one other attorney before he makes a formal recommendation to the Selectmen.

6. Citizen’s Concerns: Mr. Edward Blaschik inquired about the taping of Board of Selectmen’s meetings and Mr. Walter advised that the Town had purchased a new tape recorder and he plans to start taping the meetings again.

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. Bid Waiver – Fire Department Light Tower: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes.

D. Farmers Market Committee: Mr. Lyman distributed a draft charge for the Farmers Market Committee and noted that he needs to expand Section 1 to address membership terms, etc. Mr. Walter advised that Ms. Zemienieski can provide him with the appropriate language. The Selectman and Mr. Mackinnon discussed Agriculture Commission and Economic Development Commission representation on the Farmers' Market Committee and it was agreed the Charge should state that both Commissions should recommend at least one member for the Committee. Mr. Lyman agreed to make the discussed revisions to the Charge.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the Farmers' Market Committee Charge contingent upon Mr. Lyman making the discussed revisions. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Lyman advised that the State has a certified farmers' market program which provides benefits such as promoting the various farmers' markets beyond the towns where they are located. He agreed to provide the information to the Committee when it is formed.

8. New Business

A. Acceptance of Conservation Easement & Restrictions – Morgan Estates LLC: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes.

B. Blight Ordinance Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a draft Blight Ordinance included in their meeting packets. He stated that he is still working with the Town's Attorney on the ordinance. Mr. Blaschik expressed his discomfort with adopting such an ordinance. There was a general discussion regarding the need for such an ordinance and the background on the request to create one.

C. Volunteer of the Month: The Selectmen discussed Mr. Mackinnon's numerous volunteer activities in the Town, including the Agriculture Commission, Economic Development Commission, Conservation Commission, Board of Selectman, organizing a Town Fair, etc.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to name Scot Mackinnon as Volunteer of the Month for February 2013. 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.

- \$391.42 to Susan Baker.
Unanimous aye.

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

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

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 8:18 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Emmett Lyman, Secretary