

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
May 1, 2013
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter; Emmett Lyman; John Blaschik
Selectmen Absent: None
Also Present: E. Blaschik; S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of September 17, 2012, Special Meeting of September 24, 2012, Special Meeting of April 19, 2013 and Special Meeting of April 25, 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 17, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 24, 2012 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 19, 2013 as written. Mr. Lyman abstained from the vote and the motion passed with a majority of ayes.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 25, 2013 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: No correspondence was discussed at this time in the meeting.
5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported that Joanne Rozniak has notified him that she will be retiring in July. He noted that he has received several applications for her position.

Mr. Walter stated he would like to hold all-employee meetings once or twice a year but it is challenging to try to schedule them when they don't interfere with Town Office business. The Selectmen discussed the option of holding the meeting(s) after hours and either paying the employees for the time or providing comp time.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Blaschik noted that the minutes for Town meetings are not being posted on the website in a timely manner. Mr. Walter stated he would look into the issue.
7. Unfinished Business:

A. Tax and Business Incentive Program Application: Mr. Walter noted that at the April 3, 2013 meeting Mr. Simmons had apprised the Selectmen of the Economic Development Commission's recommendation that the Town approve the Tax Incentive application of 385 Town Street, LLC/New

England Propeller Service Incorporated. Mr. Walter advised that Attorney Poliner is currently working with Mr. Simmons to resolve several issues so that the draft agreement can be finalized.

8. New Business

A. Bid Award – Heritage Park Outdoor Fitness Equipment: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a memo in their meeting packet, dated May 1, 2013, from Public Works Administrator Lunt recommending a vendor for Heritage Park’s outdoor fitness equipment.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to award the bid for Heritage Park Outdoor Fitness Equipment to Pat Corsetti, Inc. in the amount of \$15,450.00. Unanimous aye.

B. Senior Center – Fitness Equipment: Mr. Walter reported that the Senior Center had their fitness equipment inspected and it was found to be substandard. He noted that two pieces of equipment were deemed unsafe and were removed from the Center. He called the Selectmen’s attention to materials in their meeting packet containing quotes for the purchase or leasing of new fitness equipment. The Selectmen noted the request and agreed to consider some cost-effective solutions.

C. Edgar D. Williams Park Public Usage: Mr. Walter noted that the Edgar D. Williams Park had been gifted to the Town from the Rotary Club and advised that the Town is receiving requests from public groups to use the property and gazebo. Mr. Walter reported that Facilities Manager Mansfield inspected the gazebo and advised that it is structurally sound but could use some paint/stain. Mr. Mansfield also suggested upgrading the electrical system and agreed to contact an electrician to do the work.

Mr. Walter solicited input from the Selectmen on the application form, guidelines and fees for the usage of the park and gazebo by public groups. The Selectmen agreed that insurance and a \$100.00 cleaning deposit should be required. They further agreed that the Application for Use of the Grange Hall could be modified for the park/gazebo use as follows:

- It will be up to the discretion of the Facilities Manager to determine the amount of cleaning deposit returnable based on the condition in which the facilities are left.
- There will be no usage charge for East Haddam residents; non-residents must pay a \$50.00 usage fee.
- Parking must be coordinated with the neighboring businesses prior to the public group’s use of the park/gazebo.

The Selectmen discussed other Town properties, including its Open Spaces, and agreed that an overall policy, including applications/rules/fees should be developed for the use of all the Town properties and facilities.

D. Commission Resignation (CONS): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of a letter from TJ Tarbox, dated April 20, 2013, resigning his position on the Conservation Commission. The Selectmen discussed the concerns raised in Mr. Tarbox’s letter as well as the request from Conservation Commission Chairperson Matthews for assistance recruiting new members for the Commission. They noted the challenges in managing all of the Town’s Open Spaces. Mr. Lyman suggested recruiting stewards for each of the properties who could periodically walk the property and report any issues to the Conservation Commission. The Selectmen discussed his suggestion and agreed that creating a list of “Friends of the Conservation Commission” would be helpful.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Thomas Tarbox from the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

E. 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.

- \$196.35 to VW Credit Leasing LTD,
 - \$ 72.31 to Clifford Baker or Diane Baker, and
 - \$ 38.13 to Shagbark Lumber & Farm Supplies.
- Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Mr. Edward Blaschik reported that the Board of Assessment Appeals had completed their review of appeals which resulted in an approximate \$2M reduction to the Town's grand list. He further noted that there were a number of assessment errors that may have been a consequence of the conversion of data after the revaluation project was completed.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: In response to a question raised by Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter advised that the letter from CIRMA in their meeting packets related to a Members Equity dividend that member Towns received due to lower claims experience last year. He advised that the Town of East Haddam and the Board of Education received dividends of approximately \$7,000.00 and \$10,000.00 respectively.

A. Community Forum – May 7, 2013: Mr. Walter advised that he and the Superintendent of Schools will hold a forum at 6:00 p.m. on May 7th at the High School auditorium to answer any questions the public has on the Town's proposed budget.

B. Budget Town Meeting – May 8, 2013: Mr. Walter advised that a Town Meeting will be held at the Town Hall on May 8th at 8:00 p.m. to vote on the Town's budget.

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 8:04 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Emmett Lyman, Secretary

Tape: 667 A&B