

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Grange Hall
August 7, 2013
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; E. Lyman; J. Blaschik

Also Present: C. Behilo; E. Behilo; E. Blaschik; B. Lunt; E. Odell; R. Parady; P. Simmons; S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Walter stated that he would like to amend the agenda to add the following item: 8G – Commission Reappointments (CONS).

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of March 4, 2013, Special Meeting of March 5, 2013, Special Meeting of March 6, 2013, Special Meeting of March 8, 2013, Special Meeting of March 15, 2013, and Regular Meeting of July 17, 2013.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 4, 2013 as written. Mr. Blaschik abstained. 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 March 5, 2013 as written. Mr. Blaschik abstained. 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 March 6, 2013 as written. Mr. Blaschik abstained. 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 March 8, 2013 as written. Mr. Blaschik abstained. 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 March 15, 2013 as written. Mr. Blaschik abstained. Motion passed by a majority of ayes.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 17, 2013 as written. Mr. Blaschik abstained. Motion passed by a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence

A. CIRMA Members' Equity Distribution: Mr. Walter reported that the Town had received a dividend of \$6,300.00 from CIRMA as an equity distribution for 2013. He noted that CIRMA is member-owned and is the major insurer for most Connecticut municipalities. He noted that the Board of Education also received an equity distribution payment.

B. Clean Energy Communities: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packet regarding the Energize Connecticut program. He explained that, through the participation of residents and businesses in clean energy initiatives, municipalities can earn points in the Energize Connecticut program that can be redeemed for "Bright Idea Grants". He noted that the Town of

East Haddam had already earned 60 points through participation in energy efficiency fund programs and with 40 more points earned the town would qualify for a \$5,000 grant. Mr. Walter stated that representatives from Energize Connecticut will be analyzing the Town's energy usage and make recommendations on how it can be more energy efficient. He noted that the Town will partner with the Board of Education on this project.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter had no additional items to report.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Ed Behilo stated that a lot of brush had overgrown the area originally cutback around the new Middle School. He pointed out that it is imposing on the road's line of site, that the brush could offer coverage for suspect individuals and that animals are populating the underbrush. He recommended cutting the area back again in the fall. Mr. Walter said he would forward the request to the Facilities Director.

7. Unfinished Business:

A. Tax and Business Incentive Program Application: There was no update on this agenda item.

B. Transfer Station Update/Transfer Station Committee: Mr. Walter recognized Mr. Odell who stated that he had read the structural engineering report from WMC Consultants and noted that restricting the hopper from commercial use is a hardship on the local haulers. He asked that the Selectmen move forward on repairs to the equipment without delay and that the bidding process be expedited. Ms. Lunt advised that the project should not have to go out to bid since she believed the Town could use the contractor that maintains and has repaired the hopper in the past. Mr. Odell asked that he be kept updated on the progress of the project.

Mr. Walter reported that the Town will be seeking bids from engineering firms to develop short and long-term solutions for making the hopper safe as well as long-term options for repair/replacement of the equipment. There was a general discussion regarding the condition of the hopper and the limitations imposed on the commercial haulers. Mr. Lyman stated that it is important to develop a comprehensive, long-term plan for the Transfer Station.

The expenses involved in the initial repair, the proposed engineering analysis and potential future work on the equipment were discussed by Mr. Walter and several attendees. Mr. Walter agreed to let Mr. Parady view the initial repair work that was done on the hopper. He also stated that he would ask WMC to be available to explain any proposed plans for the Transfer Station.

Mr. Walter advised that he would like to establish a new Transfer Station Committee to review usage and make recommendations for a long-term plan.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to amend the charge for the Transfer Station Committee to adjust the membership and review operational practices and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That a Transfer Station Committee of four (4) members, be appointed, for the purpose of investigation and study of ways in which solid waste operating practices and policies of the Town of East Haddam can be improved at the town's Transfer Station. This Committee shall consider, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- Determine if East Haddam's facility can continue to accept municipal solid waste delivered from commercial haulers; if so determine a short-term and long-term strategy.
- Evaluate expenses and revenue structure of Transfer Station in relationship to the Connecticut market.
- Review Transfer Station operational practices for safety.
- Develop a ten (10) year capital plan for continued operation.
- Consistency of existing conditions within the framework of DEEP solid waste planning guidelines and the General Permit.
- Review statewide objectives for recyclable waste as a percentage of municipal solid waste and how this will impact our Transfer Station operation.

The Committee shall report findings back to the Board of Selectmen within 45-days for hopper use for commercial haulers and within 90-days for long term review and capital plan and shall make its recommendation in the context of sustainability of the physical plant, effects on users, effects on taxpayers, and economic impacts on local business.

Mr. Blaschik expressed several concerns which the Selectmen discussed. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to appoint Elizabeth Lunt, Robert Bennett, Randolph Dill and Edward Odell as members on the Transfer Station Committee, terms to expire at completion of project. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Chris Behilo was recognized by Mr. Walter and read his following response to the Public Works offer to pay a per-load or per-ton rebate for hauling trash to Willimantic Waste into the minutes:

"We regret to inform you that we cannot accept the rate of '\$60.00 per load or a rebate of \$14.25 per ton' for hauling the trash to Willimantic Waste. As our previous letter, dated July 8th, indicated, our rate has not changed since 2011; that is \$90.00 per trip to Willimantic. We certainly are not making any profit at this rate. We have no contract with the Town; we are doing a favor for the Town by hauling the trash to Willimantic and therefore should be properly compensated. Please pay the invoiced amount. Thank you."

8. New Business

A. Fire Apparatus Reuse: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets, dated August 7, 2013, from Fire Marshal Angersola. He provided Mr. Lyman with some background on this issue and it was noted that Mr. Angersola supported retaining the old rescue truck. There was a brief discussion regarding Mr. Angersola's recommendation and Mr. Blaschik stated that he supported same.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to retain the 1993 Ford/Excellance Golden Eagle Heavy-Duty Rescue with 18.5 ft. walk-in body. Unanimous aye.

B. Grant Acceptance – FY 2013 Emergency Management Performance Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security advising that the Town would receive a grant of \$4,570.50 for its emergency management program.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,570.50 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of

Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled “FY 2013 Emergency Management Performance Grant”, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

C. Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Group Appointment: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to an application from a resident for the Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Group.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Karan Conover as an alternate member of the Municipal Facilities Building Advisory Group. Unanimous aye.

D. East Haddam Elementary School Building Advisory Group Appointments: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to applications from five residents for the East Haddam Elementary School Building Advisory Group.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Robert Weronik, Brian Ouellette, John Crovo, Jason Guernon and Melissa Munster as regular members of the East Haddam Elementary School Building Advisory Group. Unanimous aye.

E. Volunteer of the Month (July & August): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to two nomination letters from Michael Gilroy recommending Barbara Kiley and Eileen Schwartz as Volunteers of the Month for their leadership on the EHLS Transition Committee. Mr. Gilroy’s nominations stated, *“With Barbara Kiley and Eileen Schwartz’s leadership, the transition committee was able to draft a proposal that benefitted both of the libraries, the town, and the citizens of East Haddam”*.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to name Barbara Kiley as volunteer of the month for July 2013. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to name Eileen Schwartz as volunteer of the month for August 2013. Unanimous aye.

F. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds for consideration at this meeting.

G. Commission Reappointments (CONS): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to an email, dated August 7, 2013, from Rob Smith, the new chairman of the Conservation Commission recommending reappointments to their commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, to reappoint Robert Smith, Todd Gelston and Susan Merrow for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2015 as regular members and Peggy Carlson for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2015 as an alternate member on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion: Mr. Blaschik inquired if the Town has a formal tree trimming policy. The Selectmen discussed the State’s current tree trimming/removal program. Mr. Walter advised that most of the Town’s tree work is contracted through CL&P and stated that he would ask Public Works Director Lunt to do an interview with Patch where she could provide more details about the trimming of trees around utility wires.

The Selectmen held a general discussion with Mr. Ed Blaschik about anticipated assessment appeals related to automobiles.

In response to questions from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter advised:

- The Town Clerk will update the ordinance book to the extent possible at this time so that it can be brought before a Town Meeting, and
- He will follow-up on sending a letter to Mr. Barry regarding taking him off of the Board of Fire Commissioners Commission. Mr. Blaschik provided Mr. Walter with Mr. Barry's contact info.

In response to a request from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Walter stated he would put in a call to have the Senior Center walking path site mowed.

There was a general discussion regarding the new road signs being installed by the State DOT.

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 8:29 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Emmett Lyman, Secretary