

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Grange Hall  
January 15, 2014  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: M. Walter; E. Lyman; E. Malavasi

Also Present: E. Blaschik; D. Denette; P. Lacy; S. Mackinnon; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

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: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of November 20, 2013; Regular Meeting of December 4, 2013; Special Meeting of December 12, 2013

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2013 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 4, 2013 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 12, 2013 as written.

4. Correspondence:

Mr. Walter shared a follow up letter he received from Robert Casner, Clark Gates LLC regarding a drainage issue on his property on A. P. Gates Road. Mr. Walter noted that he will be looking into this with Public Works Administrator Beth Lunt.

A. Legislative Update – CCM: Mr. Walter distributed a copy of CCM's State Legislative Update publication and noted the following:

- State legislators assured the local officials that the state municipal aid is not being cut;
- Municipalities should not expect any mandate relief;
- Newspapers are lobbying the state not to eliminate the public notice advertisement requirement;

Mr. Walter further reported that the issue of paying prevailing wages for municipal construction jobs is being discussed. He advised that small municipalities have recommended raising the current contract amount cut-off of \$100k to \$1M to allow local contractors the opportunity to bid on more jobs; however, officials representing the large towns are pushing back.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported on the following:

- He met with the Town's CIRMA representative who advised that if the proposed commercial kitchen on the Harris property were registered as a 501(c)(3) organization it could not be insured by CIRMA.
- CIRMA provided a report on the Town's Risk Management Workers' Compensation Stewardship which reflected a very positive trend in the Town's Workers' Compensation experience. The report notes that East Haddam has better experience than any comparable town.
- He distributed a copy of the Town's December Shared Services report and reviewed several items, including the Grange Hall renovation project.
- He distributed copies of the Board of Education newsletters.
- He distributed literature regarding CL&P's planned 2014 System Resiliency Program for East Haddam and responded to the Selectmen's questions concerning notification on planned outages. He agreed to follow-up with CL&P to confirm what their notification timeline/process will be.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Lacy expressed concern regarding the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and advised that it authorizes indefinite military detention of anyone, including American citizens. He stated that People Against NDAA (PANDAA) is a grassroots organization that was organized in opposition to NDAA and assists in drafting and fighting for local legislation that guards against abusive use of NDAA. Mr. Lacy stated he would like to rally community involvement to create such an ordinance for East Haddam.

Mr. Walter informed Mr. Lacy of the process for drafting and adopting new ordinances. He noted that it is generally a lengthy process that can take several years to complete.

7. Unfinished Business:

- A. Tax and Business Incentive Program Application: Mr. Walter advised that he had met with Economic Development Coordinator Simmons to discuss the existing Tax and Business Incentive application as well as a new one that will be submitted.
- B. Transfer Station Update/Transfer Station Committee: Mr. Walter advised that he has not received the final report and recommendations from the Transfer Station sub-committee. He noted that the Town's contract with the Willimantic Waste Paper Co. Inc. expires in June and they will go out to bid at that time. He stated that the commercial haulers have expressed a preference for doing business with the CRRA facility in Essex and he will work with Public Works Administrator Lunt to research the viability of that facility.
- C. Ordinance Book Review Discussion: Mr. Walter confirmed that the ordinance book review is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Walter and Ms. Denette briefly discussed the strategy for the review.
- D. Blight Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this Agenda item.

- E. Wool Road Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that he has spoken with Mr. Brownell regarding this agenda item. He stated that he is scheduling a field walk to view the road with Public Works Administrator Lunt and Mr. Brownell before he gives his recommendation for disposition of the paving.
- F. Town Hall Wood Stove Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets with information on several options of heating sources to replace the antique wood stove in the Old Town Hall. The Selectmen discussed the pros and cons of each and their consensus was that the propane stove is the best option.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept Mr. Mansfield's recommendation that the Town replace the antique wood stove in the Old Town Hall with a Greenfield New Iron propane stove at a cost of approximately \$4,500.00. Unanimous aye.

## 8. New Business

- A. 9 Town Transit – Dial-A-Ride: Mr. Walter reviewed the Dial-A-Ride Service that will be provided to the Town and noted the effective date for the service to begin is January 15, 2014.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Estuary Transit District for Dial-A-Ride Service for the Town of East Haddam. Unanimous aye.

- B. Appointment of Estuary Transit District Board of Director Representative: Mr. Walter advised that the Estuary Transit District has asked East Haddam to appoint a non-voting member to their Board of Directors. He stated that since Mr. Parker negotiated the Dial-A-Ride service with the Transit District, he feels he would be the appropriate person to appoint to the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Bradley Parker as the non-voting member to the Estuary Transit District Board of Directors for the Town of East Haddam. Unanimous aye.

- C. Acceptance of Drainage and Maintenance Easement – Kensington Woods: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that the Board recommends to a town meeting the acceptance of a certain conveyances, to wit:

1. The conveyance from Robert Casner to the Town of East Haddam the right to enter upon the hereinafter described real property for the purposes of maintaining a drainage right of way situated on the northerly side of Ridge Road and shown on a map entitled, "Resubdivision Plan – Lot 37 – 'Kensington Woods' Section V – Ridge Road – East Haddam, Connecticut – Date 09-16-2013; Revised 10-02-2013 and 10-11-2013 – Scale 1" = 40' " prepared by Richard F. Mihok, P.E., 18 Laurel Lane, Marlborough, Connecticut 06447, said map #2731 being on file with the Town Clerk of the Town of East Haddam.

Unanimous aye.

- D. Gift Acceptance – InCord Ltd.: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter from InCord Ltd. forwarding a donation to the Town. Mr. Walter provided some background on InCord Ltd. and explained that the company has made a monetary gift of \$25,000.00 to be used for the Harris Property/Center for Community Agriculture.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to accept a gift from InCord Ltd. for the Town of East Haddam in the amount of \$25,000 for the Harris Property/East Haddam Center for Community Agriculture and send acceptance of said donation to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter advised that he has sent a thank you note for the gift on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

- E. Transfer Station Fee Waiver: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a completed Transfer Station Fee Waiver Application Form submitted by the East Haddam Historical Society, dated 12/20/13. He noted that the Historical Society is renovating a room in the museum and will be disposing of materials at the Transfer Station.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to approve the application to waive Transfer Station Fees for the East Haddam Historical Society for debris from their room renovation as requested in their December 20, 2013 application. Unanimous aye.

- F. Board and Commission Changes (IWWC, AGC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from Susan Odell, dated December 1, 2013, advising that she is resigning from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Susan Odell from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter also noted that Jessica Stone had submitted an application for a position on the Agriculture Commission; however, he had not yet received the recommendation from the Agriculture Commission so he would table the application for the time being.

- G. Volunteer of the Month: There were no nominations for the Volunteer of the Month to consider.

- H. Tax Refunds: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to four tax refunds.

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

- \$375.32 to Ken & Kathy Skomro,

- \$257.68 to Rocco Albano,
- \$ 16.80 to Matthew Matulis, and
- \$ 53.09 to Stanton Conover.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Mr. Lacy requested instructions on how to start the process to have the Town consider adopting a new ordinance. Mr. Walter recommended Mr. Lacy contact Ms. Zemienieski and provide her with any information he has regarding the ordinance he would like the Town to consider.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Malavasi stated that several citizens had spoken with him about their concerns related to the East Haddam schools and he was uncertain what the reporting structure was for the Board of Education. Mr. Walter informed him that the Board of Education reports directly to the State of Connecticut and is in charge of policy and oversight of the Superintendent. Mr. Walter advised that Mr. Malavasi recommend, to any citizens who express concerns about the East Haddam school system, contacting the Chairperson of the Board of Education.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Lyman, Mr. Walter stated that the slip pipes for Haywardville Road have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they come in.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Malavasi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary

Recorded