

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
January 6, 2010
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Peter Govert, and Emmett Lyman
Also Present: D. Anderson, P. Maxwell, K. Nolen, R. Savitski, S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Govert recommended moving Agenda item 7F, Unfinished Business – Ambulance Contract Discussion, to follow Agenda item 3, Approval of Minutes, to accommodate Mr. Anderson. Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of December 16, 2009: Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Lyman to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 16, 2009 as written. Unanimous aye.

7F. Unfinished Business – Ambulance Contract Discussion: Mr. Walter reviewed Attorney Bennet's correspondence of January 5, 2010. The Selectmen, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Maxwell discussed Attorney Bennet's comments regarding language in section 3.1(b) of the draft contract and agreed to revise the term "*emergency medical services*" to "*ambulance services*".

Regarding Attorney Bennet's suggestion for a revision to Section 5(c) of the draft contract, Mr. Anderson stated he would confer with the Ambulance Association's attorney and get back to Mr. Walter on whether or not they would agree to the revision. Mr. Anderson distributed material containing a suggestion for a revision to Section 5(d) which he discussed with the Selectmen and Mr. Maxwell. After additional modifications were made to the suggested language, the change was agreed to by all parties.

4. Correspondence

A. Outdoor Wood Furnaces: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding several complaints he had received concerning the use of outdoor wood furnaces by Town residents as well as information on research conducted by Mr. Ventres. There was a general discussion regarding this issue and whether or not there was any existing Town regulation that would have any influence over the proper use of outdoor wood furnaces.

Mr. Walter stated that he was going to ask Mr. Ventres to bring the issue to the attention of the Planning & Zoning Commission to research and provide the Selectmen with a recommendation on how the Town should manage residents' use of such equipment.

5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter distributed copies of an article written by Joseph Santangelo and published in the January 4, 2010 edition of the Hartford Courant regarding the State's current debt level. He reiterated his concerns about the impact of the State's fiscal problems on CT's cities and towns.

A. Update on Problem Trees: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding several letters of concern that he had received from residents requesting the removal of old/diseased trees that were on Town property. He advised that when a tree that was identified as a problem was on Town property and near power lines, the Town worked with CL&P to determine responsibility for the removal work. He noted that the negotiation, plus fiscal challenges, sometimes delayed the removal of trees. He stated, however, that the Town continued to work toward the removal of any problem tree.

B. Animal Control Officer: Mr. Walter advised that Karl Karabeinikoff has resigned as Animal Control Officer due to business conflicts and that he would be interviewing several qualified candidates next week.

C. HEARTSafe Workplace: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the HEARTSafe Workplace program. He stated that he would like to establish a HEARTSafe Community program in East Haddam. There was a general discussion regarding the time commitment and funding necessary to create such a program. Mr. Walter stated that he would be willing to drive the project and that he would invite HEARTSafe's director to the next Board meeting to speak to the Selectmen regarding the program.

6. Citizens' Concerns: Mr. Maxwell stated that he was aware of the HEARTSafe program and supports establishing a community program. He suggested offering CPR training in the high school curriculum and stated that many community organizations would readily contribute funds to purchase Automated External Defibrillators for a Town program.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter distributed a draft Project Closure Punch List and advised that the State needed to confirm that it was complete and accurate before the list could be finalized. The Selectmen reviewed the items on the draft list and discussed several warranty issues.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Walter reported that the start of construction on the actors' housing project has been delayed because the Chatham Health District and the State are requiring that the proposed well-system be replaced with a community water system. In response to a question raised by Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated that there was nothing the Town could do to expedite a resolution to the issue.

C. Clean Energy 20% by 2010 Campaign: Mr. Govert stated that the Committee had held its first meeting and that Mr. Harris had been elected Chairman. He stated that the next meeting was scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on January 20th at the Annex and that the Committee's main priority was to assist the Town in meeting the goals of the 20% by 2010 program.

Mr. Govert noted that Jennifer Peacock had resigned from the Committee due to conflicting time commitments. Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to remove Jennifer Peacock from the East Haddam Clean Energy Task Force. Unanimous aye.

D. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that maintenance was required to start up the boilers again this year. He advised that to date the Town has expended \$29,508.84 of the 2009-10 budget for this property, leaving a balance of \$56,781.16.

Mr. Govert stated he would like to work with the Selectmen to gather data on operating costs that could help with the decision on the conversion of the old Middle School to municipal office space. Mr. Walter advised that the Finance Director would gather that information. He also advised that the Committee had asked the architects about doing some quantitative analysis of various HVAC systems.

Mr. Govert stated that he would find it helpful to have projections of operating costs after the improvements to the old Middle School have been completed and compare that to the costs of managing and maintaining the various buildings the Town was currently using. He noted that it would also be helpful to include the impact of any development of the Town Office site in the analysis.

Mr. Walter agreed that that type of information would be necessary to present at a Town Public Hearing. Mr. Govert requested he be provided with that information as soon as it was available so that he could review and understand the difference between today's expenses vs. anticipated expenses.

E. State Police Contract (Resident State Trooper): Mr. Walter reported that a working group of Town Selectmen and their attorney met with the Commissioner of Public Safety and a representative from the Attorney General's Office and presented them with a proposal of modifications to the State Police's A&O manual so that it did not impact collective bargaining. The Commissioner agreed to analyze the proposal and provide comments in two weeks. Mr. Walter noted that the Selectmen informed the Commissioner that they would not sign an agreement with the State Police until this item was addressed and he accepted their position.

F. Ambulance Contract Discussion: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and was reported on above in these minutes.

G. Road and Open Space Acceptance – Meadow Brook Road: Mr. Walter advised that this agenda item was not yet ready for discussion.

H. STEAP Power House Road Grant: Mr. Walter advised that the Town has not yet received the modified agreement back from the State.

8. New Business

A. ARRA Pavement Management Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding ARRA funding for improvements to Lake Shore Drive. He advised that the Midstate Regional Planning Agency has selected the project as a regional priority and has earmarked \$81,673 for the project. He noted that the materials in the Selectmen's meeting packets were the documentation necessary to move the process forward.

Mr. Lyman noted a previously existing problem with the road and suggested that the issue should be addressed in any plan for improvements to the road. The Selectmen agreed that would be a good idea.

B. Emergency Management Performance Grant Application Approval: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the Town's application to the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for 2010 funding to offset some of the Town's municipal emergency management expenses.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Walter, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mark B. Walter, as First Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

Unanimous aye.

C. Grant Acceptance – Federal Highway Safety Program (DUI): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a letter in their meeting packets from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, dated December 17, 2009. He noted that the letter advised that the Town’s grant application had been approved effective December 18, 2009 through September 12, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept a grant in the amount of \$19,350.00 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, entitled “FY 2010 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program”, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

D. Bid Award – Gasoline: Mr. Walter reviewed the bids for unleaded gasoline and noted that the low bidder was Massachusetts company whose bid for the 20,000 gallons of fuel was \$170 lower than East River Energy. He pointed out that East River Energy was a Connecticut based company, has been the Town’s gasoline supplier for a number of years, and the minor difference between the two bids. In light of these facts, Mr. Walter requested that the Selectmen authorize him to contract with East River.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to finalize prices and negotiate with East River Energy, for unleaded gasoline for the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, and to authorize the First Selectmen to enter into said agreement on behalf of the Town. Unanimous aye.

E. Committee Resignation (EHVRC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of an e-mail in their meeting packets from David Spivak dated December 3, 2009, advising that he was resigning from the East Haddam Village Revitalization Commission due to conflicting commitments.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept, with regret, the resignation of David Spivak from the East Haddam Village Revitalization Commission. Unanimous aye.

F. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to two tax refunds.

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

- \$ 408.56 to CAB East LLC, and
- \$ 19.66 to Toyota Motor Credit Corp.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Govert advised that he had spoken with Andrew Pascal regarding his interest in serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He noted that Mr. Pascal was unavailable to serve at this time but had suggested that his mother, Andrea Pascal, might be available. Mr. Govert stated he would follow-up Ms. Pascal.

Mr. Govert noted that there have been several recent drug-related break-ins in Portland; Mr. Walter reported that he has no information that the break-ins have any connection to East Haddam residents.

Mr. Lyman stated that Ms. Soja asked him to extend her thank you to Mr. Walter for resolving the heating situation at the Food Bank.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated that he has spoken with some of the Town Commissions to look into setting up a disk golf course for Town residents. They discussed the possibility of locating the course at Machimoodus State Park, Echo Farm or on the former Sunrise Resort site.

Mr. Lyman reported that the next meeting of the Environmental Roundtable was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on January 16th at the Grange. Both he and Mr. Govert stated that they planned on attending.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 604A
604B
605A

Emmett Lyman, Secretary

