

Board of Selectmen  
Town Office Annex  
February 3, 2010  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Peter Govert, and Emmett Lyman

Also Present: D. Anderson, E. Blaschik, P. Carlson, R. Dill, T. Gelston, C. Matthew, D. Mathiasen, P. Maxwell, N. Mackinnon, S. Mackinnon, S. Merrow, K. Nolen, T.J. Tarbox, H. Thomas, 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 suggested moving Agenda item 7.F., Unfinished Business – Ambulance Contract Discussion, to follow Agenda item 4, Correspondence, to accommodate Mr. Anderson. Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of January 20, 2010: Mr. Govert requested that the last sentence of the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph under Agenda item 5.C. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Report, be revised to read as follows: *“Mr. Gerrish said the Committee’s preference would be to have the offices moved; however, he claimed it would not be a deal-breaker if they are not.”*

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2010 as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter reported that there was no correspondence to discuss.

7. Unfinished Business

F. Ambulance Contract Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that the Ambulance Association’s legal counsel had provided revised language for Section 5(e) of the draft contract. He read the revised language into the record and all parties agreed that it was acceptable. Mr. Walter stated that all the issues had been resolved and the Selectmen thanked Mr. Anderson for his help with this project.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to send to the Board of Finance, then to Town Meeting for approval, the authorization for the First Selectman to execute a five-year contract on behalf of the Town of East Haddam with the East Haddam Ambulance Association as sole provider of BLS emergency ambulance transport (R-2) service and primary provider of first responder (R-1) service on behalf of the Town. Unanimous aye.

5. First Selectman’s Report: Mr. Walter stated that he was working with the Economic Development Commission to re-apply for Federal Department of Transportation funds to tie into the Mobility/Traffic Calming project in the Village. He stated that they were revisiting plans for an East Haddam/Haddam walkway along the swing bridge. In response to a question raised by Mr. Govert, he advised that they were not planning on requesting funds for a parking facility for the Village and that most, if not all, of the current municipal parking would remain in any future development plan.

A. Agriculture Commission Study Committee Report: Mr. Walter introduced Mr. Thomas who referred to the report the Committee had submitted concerning their unanimous recommendation

that an Agriculture Commission be established. In response to a suggestion from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Thomas agreed to add language to their draft ordinance that the Agriculture Commission would also support the Food Bank.

Mr. Dill stated that the members of the Committee were very supportive of forming an Agricultural Commission and recognized that other Town Commissions were required to maintain a balance of party affiliations. He noted, however, that the Committee members were in favor of having the Agricultural Commission be apolitical, if possible. Mr. Thomas stated that Ms. Augustiny had suggested that it would also be helpful to have a liaison from the Agriculture Commission on the Open Space Commission. He noted it would require an amendment to the Open Space ordinance. Mr. Walter agreed to get a legal opinion on both suggestions.

In response to a recommendation by Mr. Govert, Mr. Thomas agreed to poll the Committee members to see if any would be willing to sit on the initial Agriculture Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that the Town of East Haddam form an Agriculture Commission as recommended by the Agriculture Commission Study Committee. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Thomas thanked the members of the Study Committee for their hard work.

B. Conservation Commission Discussion: Mr. Walter introduced Mr. Gelston who distributed copies of his presentation and discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Conservation Commission. He stated that it was the Commission's goal to improve and maintain the quality of the Town's forest parcels and, therefore, it was their proposal to establish a forest management strategy that would entail creating an inventory of the forest parcels in East Haddam, clean-up of the fallen and standing dead trees, and a regular schedule of selective harvesting of trees.

Mr. Gelston stated that the first application they recommend was clearing the dead trees from the Valenti property. He estimated that there were 10-20 cord of fallen logs and a roughly equal amount of standing dead trees. He noted that the Commission would like to conduct the management strategy to be financially self-sustaining and suggested they could put the funds taken in from the sale of the firewood from the Valenti clean-up toward forester services. Mr. Dill noted that, to begin, they could utilize the services of the CT DEP Forester.

Ms. Matthew stated that the sub-committee had reported the above information at their last Conservation Commission meeting. In response to a question raised by Mr. Govert, Mr. Gelston confirmed that there was unanimous agreement among the Commissioners to pursue a forest management strategy.

Several Conservation Commissioners provided additional input and Mr. Walter confirmed that the Connecticut General Statutes support their proposal and stated that they should move forward with preparing a bid for logging services. There was a general discussion concerning liability and Mr. Walter stated that he would get a legal and insurance opinion about the issue.

The Selectmen thanked the Commissioners for all of the good work that they had done regarding this issue.

6. Citizens' Concerns: No citizens concerns were raised at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter advised that there was no new update on this project.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Walter asked Mr. Blaschik about the status of the State's decision on the wells for the new actors' housing. Mr. Blaschik advised that the State classified the units at the village complex as requiring a public water supply and that the Goodspeed has hired an engineering firm to design the system. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Blaschik stated the new requirement will add a considerable cost to the project.

C. Clean Energy 20% by 2010 Campaign: Mr. Govert reported that the committee had met and identified its top two priorities. He stated that they will focus on securing a \$4,000.00 grant from the Clean Energy Fund which will be used to encourage residents to switch to a clean energy supplier for their electricity. He advised that their other priority was to develop a plan on how to move the Town toward a goal of converting 20% of the residents to clean energy.

Mr. Govert stated that this item could be removed from Unfinished Business and that he will report on the progress of the committee from time to time as necessary.

D. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that pipes in the old Middle School had frozen during the cold snap last weekend and that 2"-4" of water had flooded a portion of the Ray Building. He advised that the damage has been repaired and the water cleaned up.

E. State Police Contract (Resident State Trooper): Mr. Walter reported that there was no new update on this agenda item. He noted that the State Police Union and the Commissioner have indicated that they do not find the A&O Manual revisions unreasonable and that the process was continuing to move forward.

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

G. Road Acceptance and Associated Drainage Easement --Meadow Brook Road: Mr. Walter advised that this Agenda item is 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. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an e-mail in their meeting packets from Jane Venckus Zirilis, dated February 2, 2010, recommending that Robert Smith be named as Volunteer of the Month. Ms. Zirilis' recommendation noted Mr. Smith's involvement in the East Haddam Land Trust and stated that "*...he is a true steward of the land and leader of like-minded East Haddam residents*".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Rob Smith as a volunteer of the month for January 2010. Unanimous aye.

B. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to two tax refunds.

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

- \$ 90.15 to Toyota Motor Credit Corp.
- \$139.40 to EB Exterminating Co.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Ms. Mathiasen stated that she supports the creation of the Agriculture Commission and that the Economic Development Commission was looking forward to working with the Commission once it was established. Mr. Govert suggested creating a liaison between the two Commissions.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Budget Meeting Schedule: The Selectmen's availability for budget meetings was discussed. Mr. Walter stated that the Town was planning a public information meeting at 7:00 p.m. on February 24<sup>th</sup> in the High School auditorium to get feedback on budget requests.

B. Other: Mr. Govert reported that he had spoken with Mr. Ventres about creating a disk golf course at the Machimoodus State Park. He also advised that he planned to walk the grounds on Sunday with two individuals who were interested in setting up the course.

Mr. Lyman distributed copies of a letter from the Salmon River Watershed Compact that outlined the benefits of the Compact and advised that the dues from the participating towns would be payable soon. The Selectmen were in agreement that the Town should continue to support the Compact.

Mr. Walter reported that the State still has no clear direction on resolving its budget crisis. He stated that cities and towns were told that they should expect about 15% less in funding from the State than they had previously received.

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 8:18 pm. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 605B  
606A

Emmett Lyman, Secretary