

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

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Emmett Lyman, Pete Govert

Also Present: R. Bennett, E. Blaschik, P. Maxwell, S. Mackinnon, K. Nolen (arrived 7:20 p.m.), C. Varricchio, S. Wheeler, L. Zemienieski, M. Harris (arrived 7:25 p.m., departed 7:40 p.m.)

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 3, 2010 and Regular Meeting of February 17, 2010: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 3, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2010 as written. Mr. Govert abstained from the vote and the motion passed with a majority of ayes.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter reported that there was no correspondence to discuss.
5. First Selectman's Report:

A. Earth Charter Community of the Lower Valley – Mike Harris: Mr. Walter advised that Mr. Harris was expected to attend the meeting to invite the Selectmen to the Earth Charter of the Lower Valley Annual Summit meeting. He noted that the Summit was being held at the Gelston House on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and that Mr. Howard Kunstler, author of The Long Emergency would be the featured speaker.

Mr. Harris joined the meeting at 7:25 p.m. and stated that he has been attending meetings of a number of the Town's boards and commissions inviting them to the event as the Earth Charter's guests. He advised that there will be a panel discussion after Mr. Kunstler's talk, followed by a dinner.

6. Citizen's Concerns: No citizen's concerns were voiced at the meeting.
7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School Discussion: There was no update on this item.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Blaschik advised that there was no new information regarding the Goodspeed's application with the State for a public water system.

C. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that a pipe in the furnace room had burst and was being repaired. He also advised that he expected that there would be a surplus of heating oil remaining on the contract for this building and he would be addressing that issue.

In response to a comment from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter stated he has spoken with the State Police regarding their activities at the old Middle School and he would reach out to the neighbors to discuss any concerns they had.

D. State Police Contract (Resident State Trooper): Mr. Walter reported that the State Police's legal counsel provided contract language that acknowledged towns with a constabulary that both have a union contract and those that do not. The draft language would allow bargained issues to precede the State contract. He stated that the towns and their attorney were reviewing the proposed language.

E. Road Acceptance and Associated Drainage Easement –Meadow Brook Road: Mr. Walter advised that this Agenda item is not yet ready for discussion.

F. STEAP Power House Road Grant: Mr. Walter advised that the Town has not yet received the modified agreement back from the State. He stated that he would write a letter to Mr. Burgess at the State DOT requesting a deadline for the State to transfer the funds.

## 8. New Business

A. Appointment of Bond Counsel: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets, including a bio for Attorney Michael Botelho, and a letter of engagement for his firm, Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. He advised that he and Mr. Maxwell had interviewed Atty. Botelho to replace the Town's current bond counsel. In response to questions raised by Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated that he had met Atty. Botelho at a Connecticut Council of Municipalities trade show and Mr. Maxwell stated that the Board of Finance has been dissatisfied with its present bond counsel since it allowed the Town to over-bond last year. Mr. Walter confirmed that he had received references on Attorney Botelho.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to give the First Selectmen authority to sign a contract appointing Attorney Michael P. Botelho, of the firm Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C., as the bond counsel for the Town of East Haddam. Unanimous aye.

B. Grant Acceptance – Rockfall Foundation Grant (Victory Garden): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of letter in their meeting packets from the Rockfall Foundation, dated February 4, 2010, notifying Ken Simon, Chairman of the Green Committee, of an "...award of \$250 for your project *"Green Committee Organic Victory Garden"* to convert underutilized land into an educational organic garden...".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept a grant in the amount of \$250.00 from the Rockfall Foundation, for the "Green Committee Organic Victory Garden", and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

C. Grant Acceptance – ARRA Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a form in their meeting packets from the CT Office of Policy and Management, dated February 8, 2010, notifying him of a Municipal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant award of \$50,632.00. He stated the grant will be used for energy efficiency retrofits for the Elementary and High School lighting upgrades.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept a grant in the amount of \$50,632.00 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for the purpose of lighting upgrades at the Elementary and High Schools, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

D. Grant Acceptance – AARA Pavement Management Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an Agreement in their meeting packets between the State of CT and the Town of East Haddam for the Construction, Inspection and Maintenance of Resurfacing of Lake Shore Drive utilizing Federal funds. He noted that Lake Shore drive qualified for this ARRA program because it is considered an urban feeder road. In response to a question from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Walter stated that the project will make every effort to alleviate the flooding on Lake Shore Drive.

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

RESOLVED, that Mark B. Walter, First Selectman, be, and hereby is authorized to sign the agreement entitled "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of East Haddam for the Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance of Resurfacing of Lake Shore Drive utilizing Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Public Law 111-5 (hereinafter "Act").

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board accepts a grant in the amount of \$81,673.00 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Pavement Preservation Project Grant for the purpose of resurfacing of Lake Shore Drive, and sends acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

E. Board Reappointment (ZBA): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a handwritten memo in their meeting packets from Mr. Stuart Wood, dated February 26, 2010, recommending holding the reappointment of Jack Agosta and reappointing Greg Daigle as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to reappoint Greg Daigle for a five-year term to expire January 2015 as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

F. Committee Status Change (EHVRC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an e-mail in their meeting packets from William Gerrish, Chairman of the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee, dated March 1, 2010, recommending a member status change.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to change the status of Randolph Dill from an alternate member to a regular member on the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee with a term to expire at the completion of the project. Unanimous aye.

G. Committee Appointment (EHVRC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an e-mail in their meeting packets from William Gerrish, Chairman of the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee, dated March 1, 2010, recommending a member appointment.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to appoint Eric Sabetta as an alternate member on the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee with a term to expire at the completion of the project. Unanimous aye.

H. 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.

- \$102.93 to Paul J. & KA Velikaneye, and
- \$ 68.24 to Joseph A. Pleines.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. General Budget Review: The Selectmen had reviewed the General Budget at their earlier meeting.

B. Budget Reviews – Health and Social Services: The Selectmen had reviewed the Health and Social Services budget at their earlier meeting.

C. Budget Reviews – Recreation and Leisure: The Selectmen had reviewed the Recreation Commission and Town Green budget at their earlier meeting; however, Ms. Varricchio noted that a Special Revenue fund is being implemented for the Recreation Commission this year. She stated that the Recreation Commission's budget is \$68,000.00 for 2010/11 and that \$28,000.00 will be in its Operating Budget and \$40,000.00 will be transferred to a Special Revenue fund. She explained that the Special Revenue fund will allow the Commission to track revenue and expenses by program. Ms. Varricchio responded to several questions from Mr. Govert and he stated that he liked the new set-up.

D. Budget Reviews – General Government: The following sections of the Town's proposed budget were reviewed by Ms. Varricchio and discussed with the Selectmen:

- Debt Service - Interest: The list does not include the May, 2010 bond that will be issued for recent Open Space land purchases. Ms. Varricchio advised that the 2010/11 budget had allocated for interest-only payments on the bond for the new Middle School. Overall, she noted that there was approximately \$200k in new interest expense; however, because some of the interest expense was paid down last year, the net effect on the budget is \$150k.
- Debt Service - Notes Payable: Ms. Varricchio stated that this budget item has gone down slightly.
- Capital Improvements: Ms. Varricchio provided information on Capital Improvements budget requests submitted for Land Use, Town Clerk, Technology, Recreation, and Education. Mr. Walter provided information on the Board of Education's 5-year plan for capital improvements and noted that the Town planned to use some of its reserves in 2010/11 to raise the chimney at the High School. He stated that a \$100k annual capital improvements reserve fund was being set-up for the Board of Education and noted that any surplus from the Board of Education's operating budget at the end of the year would get swept into that fund.
- Prior Year's Encumbrances: Mr. Walter stated that this was a new section that was created to facilitate tracking projects and their cost.

Power was lost at 7:55 p.m. and the meeting was suspended until 8:08 p.m.

- Public Safety - Animal Control and Building Department: Both of these budgets were reviewed. Mr. Walter noted that the major code violations at the Dog Pound had been corrected last year. He also stated Mr. Darin had made a number of useful suggestions that he would consider implementing for the Building Department.

There was a general discussion regarding the possibility of assigning fees for multiple false alarms at the same location that the Fire, Police, and/or Ambulance services respond to.

Ms. Varricchio provided an overview of the Revenue section of the budget and noted that there was a fairly consistent downward trend in many of the revenue lines. Specifically, she stated that expected revenues from the State were projected to be down by \$44k.

In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated that he did not think that the Board of Education offered early retirement to avoid staff reductions. He provided Ms. Varricchio with the list of teachers who were being cut and she agreed to e-mail copies to Mr. Govert and Mr. Lyman.

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 8:40 pm. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 610A  
(Recording ends at 7:55 p.m.)

Emmett Lyman, Secretary