

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
March 17, 2010
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Emmett Lyman, Pete Govert

Also Present: E. Blaschik, E. Dillon, M. Malavasi, D. Stein, F. Thumm, J. Ventres, S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Walter recommended amending the agenda to discuss item 8.D., Transfer Station MSW, Bulky Waste, Hauling and Recycling Contract, prior to the approval of the minutes. Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

8D. New Business – Transfer Station MSW, Bulky Waste, Hauling and Recycling Contract
Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding this item and introduced Mr. Thumm. Mr. Thumm advised that the Town has contracts with Willimantic Waste for the following services: Municipal Bulky Waste Disposal, Municipal Waste and Recyclables Hauling, Municipal Solid Waste Disposal, Bottle/Can/Plastic Recyclables, and Newspaper/Corrugated Cardboard Recyclables. He noted that neither he nor Ms. Zemienieski had been able to locate a written contract for the Recyclables.

Mr. Thumm provided some background on the contracts and advised that Willimantic Waste Paper Co., Inc. had submitted a proposal to extend the existing contracts for two years with a reduced rate for Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services. He also reported that they had presented a 5-year new contract proposal for single-stream recycling with a new revenue sharing formula. Mr. Thumm stated that the Town had bid out the work in the past and gotten the best bid from Willimantic Waste. He recommended the Town accept Willimantic Waste's proposals, stating that he expected the new rates will save approximately \$39,000.00 in the 2010-11 budget. He also noted that he expected the local haulers will benefit from single-stream recycling.

Mr. Walter thanked Mr. Thumm for the information and stated that he would like to advise the local haulers of the change and talk with the Board of Finance before taking any action on the contracts.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of March 3, 2010: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 3, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

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

5. First Selectman's Report:

A. Middle School Conversion Committee Report – Maryjane Malavasi: Mr. Walter introduced Ms. Malavasi who advised that the Committee had unanimously voted to recommend a geo-thermal HVAC system for the Middle School conversion project. She stated that such a system would require additional engineering fees and asked Mr. Stein to provide the Selectmen with additional information.

Mr. Stein introduced himself and noted for the record that he was with the firm of Silver and Petrucelli. He distributed materials comparing the annual expense of a geo-thermal system with two other more conventional HVAC systems and reviewed the projected annual savings with the geo-thermal system. He noted that there would be additional design costs of \$12,500 and that the cost to install a geo-thermal system would be approximately \$400,000.00.

Mr. Stein stated that while the upfront cost of a geo-thermal system was higher than installing one of the conventional systems, the annual savings and pay-back on a geo-thermal system were significantly better. He stated that the modeling that Silver and Petrucelli had done indicated an 11-year pay-back on the geo-thermal system.

Mr. Stein responded to several questions from the Selectmen and advised that the on-going maintenance costs for a geo-thermal system would be lower than for a conventional system. He also advised that there was little to no grant funds available to a municipality for installing a geo-thermal system.

Ms. Malavasi thanked Mr. Stein and requested that the Selectmen and the Middle School Conversion Committee members discuss Mr. Walter's proposal for a special meeting to discuss the scope of the project. Mr. Walter stated that he was very concerned about the economic environment and felt that State contributions to towns would be reduced significantly next year. He stated he was worried about increasing the Town's debt and annual maintenance expenses by moving to a significantly larger facility and had suggested the meeting to have an open discussion about the possibility of scaling back the project to just the Nathan Hale building. He noted that he felt the Town may be able to support a smaller project by incurring little to no debt.

There was a general discussion about down-sizing the project and the consensus of the Middle School Committee members in attendance was that they did not want to jeopardize the investment the Town has made thus far and would prefer to get bids on the entire project and let the citizens determine whether or not to go forward. Ms. Malavasi agreed that all relative financial information, both good and bad, should be provided for the referendum.

In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Ventres provided him with a report that he had generated of the current and projected utilities/maintenance expense for the Town's offices. He noted that it had been difficult to gather some of the information because a number of the services were shared by several facilities. At Mr. Govert's request, Mr. Walter stated Ms. Varricchio could help provide some additional detail.

Ms. Malavasi stated that the Committee planned to do a similar presentation on their geo-thermal recommendation to the Board of Finance and agreed that it could be a combined meeting with the Selectmen. Mr. Walter offered to coordinate the meeting and stated he would schedule it as soon as possible. Mr. Govert requested that Mr. Walter bring to that meeting relevant financial information on the expenses the Town currently incurs for utilities and maintenance of the offices and programs that are proposed to be housed in the new facility and that the committee bring a similar report of projected expenses for the proposed facility. He stated that he felt any discussions without that information would not be productive.

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: There was no update on this item.
- C. Old Middle School: This item was discussed above under Middle School Conversion Committee Report.
- D. State Police Contract (Resident State Trooper): There was no update on this item.
- E. Road Acceptance and Associated Drainage Easement –Meadow Brook Road: There was no update on this item.
- F. STEAP Power House Road Grant: There was no update on this item.

8. New Business

A. Bid Waiver – Auditor: Mr. Walter reported that, at their last meeting, the Board of Finance recommended that it would be in the Town's best interest to keep Blum Shapiro as its auditing firm for this year because there were still a number of outstanding financial items that were being resolved that they were familiar with and were advising on. He stated that the Board of Finance felt that they should prepare an RFP in November to solicit for services for next year.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to waive the bid process for auditing services and continue with the services of Blum Shapiro for fiscal year 2009-2010. Unanimous aye.

B. Bid Award – Diesel & Heating Oil: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a report in their meeting packets compiled by Ms. Varricchio summarizing the Fuel Oil and Diesel Bids. He reported that the Town had participated in Capital Region Purchasing Council bid, in a reverse auction and was going to participate in a consortium for purchase of diesel and #2 heating oil. He stated that the analysis of all factors of the bids and other related issues were covered in Ms. Varricchio's summary. He stated that, due to the fact the Town has a surplus of heating oil to use from the 2009-2010 bid and East River Energy was willing to give us a waiver on the storage fee and reduce our bid quantity for next year it seemed to be in the Town's best interest to stay with East River Energy for this year's #2 heating oil and diesel.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to finalize prices with our current vendor East River Energy for #2 heating oil and diesel fuel for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, and to authorize the First Selectman to enter into said agreement on behalf of the Town. Unanimous aye.

C. Call for Town Meeting: The Selectmen discussed the call to send various items to Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting

are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Town Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance 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".

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of \$250.00 from the Rockfall Foundation, for the "Green Committee Organic Victory Garden", and to amend the 2009-2010 budget accordingly (revenue account 799-431510-G1003 and expense account 799-541750-G1003).

Item 3: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance 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 energy efficiency retrofits for lighting upgrades to the Elementary and High School, and to amend the 2009-2010 budget accordingly (revenue account 799-431510-G1004 and expense account 799-541750-G1004).

Item 4: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt 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 Town Meeting 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 to amend the 2009-2010 budget accordingly (revenue account 799-431510-G1005 and expense account 799-541750-G1005).

Unanimous aye.

D. Transfer Station MSW, Bulky Waste, Hauling and Recycling Contract Discussion: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and was reported on above in these minutes.

E. Volunteers of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a completed Volunteer of the Month Nomination form in their meeting packets submitted by Ms. Denette nominating Ken and Kathy Klein as Volunteers of the Month. The form noted the Kleins' active involvement in the Rotary, Lake Association, Conservation Commission, and Ambulance Board.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Ken & Kathy Klein as volunteers of the month for March 2010. Unanimous aye.

F. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to one tax refund.

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

- \$ 73.87 to Guzallis Electric.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Lyman called the Selectmen's attention to a letter he had drafted objecting to the State's proposal to construct a 22-mile freight train line along the Connecticut River, addressed to Mr. Robert Mariner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, TIGER Discretionary Grant Program. The Selectmen reviewed the draft and agreed to send it out signed by all of the Selectmen.

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 9:10 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

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Emmett Lyman, Secretary