

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
June 2, 2010
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Emmett Lyman, Pete Govert
Also Present: C. Behilo, E. Blaschik, S. Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: Special Meeting of May 3, 2010 and Regular Meeting of May 19, 2010:

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 3, 2010 as written. In response to a question raised by Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter confirmed that he had stated he would give back his salary increase at that meeting; however, Mr. Maxwell had felt that it would be more appropriate to discuss his offer at the Town Budget Meeting. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

A. Thank You Card for Volunteer Reception: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a thank you card from Ken and Kathy Klein for the recent Volunteer Reception.

5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter stated that he was reading a book titled One Second After which had prompted him to think about East Haddam's ability to respond to a worst-case scenario disaster situation. There was a general discussion about a general dependence on electricity for access to clean water, fuel, etc. The Selectmen also discussed the challenges around getting individuals to take personal steps to be prepared for a disaster. Mr. Lyman noted that the new Middle School is well situated and set-up to serve as an Emergency Management center. Mr. Walter noted that the Federal Government has awarded the Town a substantial grant to create an Emergency Management Center and for equipment. Mr. Govert suggested some thought should be given to re-tooling services so that they can be operated manually.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Govert and Mr. Walter advised Mr. Blaschik that they each knew an individual who was interested in learning more about the Cable Advisory Board. Mr. Blaschik stated he would be happy to talk with them and provided his contact information.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School Discussion: Mr. Walter stated he was waiting for the appraisal from Attorney Bennet to close out this item.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Blaschik stated that the water issues have been resolved with the State and that the Goodspeed will begin drilling wells on June 14th. He also stated that he expected they will break-ground on the new actors' housing very soon.

C. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that there had been a break-in and vandalism at the old Middle School. He advised that the alarm system was tripped and the police responded, scaring off the vandals. He confirmed that there had been some malfunctions with the alarm system and it was being fixed. Mr. Walter also advised that expenses at the school were on track with the budget.

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

E. STEAP Power House Road Grant: There was no new update on this agenda item.

F. Grant Agreement – Patrell Property: Mr. Walter provided some background on the delay in executing the appropriate paperwork to receive \$247,500.00 in funding under the State of Connecticut's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program for the purchase of the Patrell property. He noted that the issues with the paperwork have since been resolved and that they need a resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to enter into an agreement with the State to accept the funding.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam hereby adopts the following resolution to be referred to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval:

RESOLVED, that Mark B. Walter, First Selectman of the Town of East Haddam be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of East Haddam, an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement and a Conservation and Public Recreation Easement and Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance of \$247,500.00 to acquire permanent interest in land known as the Patrell Property, East Haddam OSHA 330, and to manage said land as open space pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

IN ADDITION, Mark B. Walter is hereby authorized to enter into such agreement, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that Mark B. Walter was elected First Selectman and his term of office began on November 7, 2007 and will continue until November 8, 2011. As the First Selectman, Mark B. Walter serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town of East Haddam and is duly authorized to enter into agreements and contracts on behalf of the Town of East Haddam.
Unanimous aye.

G. Transfer Station Scale Usage for Non-Profit Organizations: The Selectmen revisited their discussion regarding waiving fees at the Transfer Station. Mr. Govert supported the suggestion Mr. Lyman made at the May 19th meeting to have a Petition to Waive Fees form drafted that can be completed and submitted to the Board of Selectmen for action.

Mr. Walter advised that the First Church of Christ has agreed to take over the Clothing Bank in exchange for a small monthly stipend and waiver of all Transfer Station fees. There was a general discussion regarding the arrangement.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman to pay the First Church of Christ a \$50.00 monthly stipend and waive Transfer Station fees for as long as they the house and manage the Clothing Bank. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter stated he would have a Petition to Waive Fees form drafted for the Selectmen's consideration.

8. New Business

A. Commission Reappointment (GATEWAY): Mr. Walter advised that the motion made at the May 19th meeting regarding this item had been premature.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to reappoint Harvey Thomas for a two-year term as a regular member on the Connecticut River Gateway Commission with his term to expire June 30, 2012. Unanimous aye.

B. Committee on Aging Discussion: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packet regarding the Committee on Aging. He stated that the Committee wanted to make some changes to their perceived ordinance such as name and term lengths. He noted that Ms. Zemienieski had researched the issue and determined that all the motions made to establish this committee were done through the Board of Selectmen only and not at Town Meeting.

Mr. Walter stated that, in the event the Selectmen and Committee agree to create an ordinance for them, Attorney Poliner has created an ordinance for that purpose.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to change the name of the East Haddam Committee on Aging to the East Haddam Commission on Aging and to establish the following terms of appointment to the East Haddam Commission on Aging: one member for one (1) year; three members for two (2) years; three members for three (3) years; two alternates for one (1) year. Thereafter, the terms of office for each regular member shall be three (3) years, each alternate member will maintain one year terms. The President of the Senior Citizen's Club will hold a one year alternate position to coincide with their term as president. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter stated he will discuss the option of creating an ordinance for the Commission on Aging with Joanne Rocznik and the other Commissioners.

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

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to award a tax refund in the amount of \$290.31 to DCFS Trust. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Mr. Behilo stated that he had spoken with several citizens at the Transfer Station and the feedback on single-stream recycling was very positive.

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

A. 2010 Neighborhood Assistance Act Public Hearing (June 9, 2010): Mr. Walter stated that the Public Hearing for the 2010 Neighborhood Assistance applications would be held on June 9th. There was a general discussion regarding the benefits of the Neighborhood Assistance Act.

B. Other:

- Mr. Govert inquired about populating the Agriculture Commission and Mr. Walter stated he would include it on the agenda for the Selectmen's next regular meeting. Mr. Walter stated he would send the other Selectmen a list of potential members.
- The Selectmen discussed turnaround times for getting postings on the new website and schedules for future referendums. Mr. Blaschik noted that Town ordinance automatically sets referendums at 12 noon and suggested giving the citizens at Town Meetings the option of making a motion to change the time.
- Mr. Walter stated that he had had a discussion with Rep. Courtney who feels that there may not be any additional Federal stimulus funds for the states. He also advised that Rep. Courtney felt the Federal State Grant program was inherently unfair because the bigger states seem to get most of the grant money.
- In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter advised him that he should continue to work through the Dog Warden. Mr. Walter stated that he will follow up with Mr. Jeff McLean to determine his interest in continuing as Assistant Animal Control Officer.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 617A

Emmett Lyman, Secretary