

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
June 16, 2010
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 June 2, 2010: Mr. Lyman requested the following change to the minutes under item 5. First Selectman's Report: In the 4th sentence change "old Middle School" to "new Middle School". Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Walter, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 2, 2010 as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

A. Letter Requesting Youth Meeting Place: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Hayden Cavallari and his response dated June 3, 2010. The Selectmen discussed Mr. Hayen's request for a boys and girls club in Town. Mr. Walter said he would send a copy of the letter to Youth and Family Services and to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

5. First Selectman's Report:

A. Park and Trail Project at the Senior Center: Mr. Walter introduced Mrs. Roczniak. Mrs. Roczniak stated that the Senior Center would like to take the lead on a project to develop the sites adjacent to the Senior Center into a park with a walking trail. She advised that the Lions Club, the Rotary and the Garden Club have all agreed to participate in the project. She and the Selectmen reviewed a map of the area which outlined where the walking trail would be located. Mr. Lyman said he would like to see some kind of fence or natural hedge barrier along the Route 149 boundary of the property. Mr. Walter advised that Phil Barlow, who was a landscape architect, recently offered to do some pro-bono work on a Town project and that he would have him contact Ms. Roczniak.

In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mrs. Roczniak stated that the Senior Center would spearhead the project and manage the fundraising, however, there was no intention of turning the facility into a community center. She also agreed that the Town would retain financial oversight of the project.

Mrs. Roczniak and the Selectmen discussed whether any of the funds raised for the proposed skateboard park would be available for this project. They also discussed whether or not there would be a need for public restrooms. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mrs. Roczniak confirmed that there was no wetlands impact. She stated that once the project was completed, the park and walking trails should be overseen by the Recreation Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, that the Director of the Senior Center will help lead the design and organization of a new park and walking trail on the Tyrseck property; that a special fund will be set-up for the project and will be managed through the Town Finance Administrator, and that the Board of Selectmen will be actively involved in the approval process for the project. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen thanked Mrs. Rocznik for taking the initiative to get this project started.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Blaschik inquired as to why people were sitting on lawn chairs along Clark Gates Road. Mr. Walter advised him that a new sub-division was being proposed for that area and that the developer had hired some people to count cars for a traffic study.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter advised that the appraisals/surveys have finally been received by John Bennet and that he would organize a meeting of all the parties to close out the project.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Blaschik advised that the well-drilling had been delayed by a few days; however, he expected it would begin by the end of the week. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, he stated that he expected the houses currently being used for actors' housing would be put on the market as soon as the new actors' housing project was completed.

C. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that the building continued to have break-ins, and that the door on the Wigwam Road side has been boarded up. He advised that representatives from Probate toured the old Middle School and had been happy with the space proposed by the Middle School Conversion Committee. He stated that he was working with Committee members to develop rental rates and a document for all of the non-municipal entities to sign as an agreement of their intent to take space in the new facility. He advised that he would like to have the letters of intent in place before a Town Meeting was held on the project.

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

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

F. 2010 Neighborhood Assistance Act Approvals: Mr. Walter reported that a public hearing was held on the NAA proposals on June 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. He stated that the proposals now need to be sent to the State for final approval.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve and forward to the State for their approval four projects requesting funding by the Neighborhood Assistance Act for 2010. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

A. Grant Acceptance – Energy Management Performance Grant: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets, dated May 14, 2010, from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security advising of the award of an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$4,093.00.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,093.00 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled "FY 2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant", and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

B. 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, June 30, 2010 for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and vote upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance:

RESOLVED,

(a) to appropriate the sum of \$733,955.56 to reimburse the project account related to the Town's Grade 4 – 8 Middle School Project for certain interest costs associated with its \$18,070,000 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes dated May 16, 2007 and which matured on May 15, 2008; and

(b) to authorize such other actions relating to the foregoing as may be necessary or appropriate.

The full text of the foregoing authorizing resolutions are on file and open to inspection at the office of the Town Clerk, Town Office Building, East Haddam, Connecticut for the use or inspection of any interested person.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$40,000.00 for fiscal year 2009-2010 from Capital—Ambulance Association (845-534501) to Reserves—Ambulance Association (781-578325).

Item 3: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to approve an ordinance entitled "Tax and Business Incentive Program Ordinance". Copies of said ordinance are on file in the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours.

Item 4: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of \$4,093.00 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled "FY 2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant", as provided for in the 2009-2010 budget (revenue budget 746-431510 and expense budget 746-531510).

Item 5: To consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance:

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 OSWA 330, and to manage said land as open space pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said grant funds be distributed as follows: The Nature Conservancy-\$41,250, East Haddam Land Trust-\$13,750, Town of East Haddam-\$192,500 in accordance with the August 22, 2007 Town Meeting approval for said purchase.

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.

C. Senior Center – Request for Beer and Wine Service: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to an e-mail from Ms. Roczniak, Senior Services Coordinator, requesting permission to serve wine at their “Golden Anniversary Party” on June 23rd, “Christmas Party” on December 13th, and “New Year’s Eve Party” on December 31st. They would also like permission to have a ball of beer at their “Barbeque” on July 12th.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Senior Center for their “Golden Anniversary Party” on June 23rd, “Barbeque” on July 12th, “Christmas Party” on December 13th, and “New Year’s Eve Party” on December 31st. Unanimous aye.

D. Commission Resignation (EDC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets, dated June 3, 2010, from Robert Scherrer, providing notice of his resignation from the Economic Development Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept, with deep regret, the resignation of Robert Scherrer as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission effective June 30, 2010. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter stated he would send a thank you letter to Mr. Scherrer from the Board of Selectmen.

E. Commission Status Change and Reappointments (COA): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Josephine Golec, Secretary of the Commission on Aging, dated June 6, 2010, recommending a status change and several reappointments.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to change the status of James O’Brien from a one-year term alternate member to a three-year term regular member, term to expire June 30,

2013; and to change the status of Rosalie Hoffmann from a one-year term regular member to a one-year term alternate member, term to expire June 30, 2011 on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to reappoint Ron Brennan and Jo Golec for three-year terms to expire June 30, 2013 as regular members and Mary Ellen Klinck for a one-year term to expire June 30, 2011 as an alternate member on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

F. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter read a nomination from Maryjane Malavasi and supporting emails from Deb Mathiasen and Melissa Ziobron recommending Patricia Stricker as a volunteer of the month. The emails noted Ms. Stricker's participation on the Middle School Conversion Commission and the Economic Development Commission. Ms. Mathiasen called attention to Ms. Stricker's involvement in the Chowder Festival and her work with the State on the Sunrise Resort property. Both Ms. Mathiasen and Ms. Ziobron advised that she was instrumental in EDC's development of a Tax Incentive Program for the Town.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Patricia Stricker as volunteer of the month for June 2010. Unanimous aye.

G. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds for consideration.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment at the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

A. Agriculture Commission Discussion: Mr. Walter distributed a copy of potential members for the Agriculture Commission and advised that each had been sent an application. Mr. Govert advised that Jess Marshall would also like to be considered as an alternate member. He provided Mr. Walter with her application and stated that he strongly endorsed her for membership on the Commission. Mr. Lyman suggested that Mr. Jed Cone also be considered for membership and Mr. Govert agreed to contact him to see if he was interested. There was a general discussion about whether or not the Agriculture Commission should have a representative on the Open Space Commission and it was agreed that it would not be required at this time.

B. Other: Mr. Govert noted that he had read an article in the Hartford Courant which stated there were two parties that had responded to the State's RFI for the Sunrise Resort property. Mr. Walter stated that the State was going to issue a formal Request for Proposals and that Ms. Stricker was keeping in close contact with the State regarding the Sunrise Resort for the EDC.

Mr. Govert stated that the Clean Energy Task Force was requesting the Selectmen send a letter to Regional Director of EPA New England indicating the Town's desire to join with them and become an EPA Energy Star Partner. He distributed copies of the draft letter and stated that it would not commit the Town to any objectives. Mr. Lyman stated that he would like some time to do some research before making a decision on signing the letter. Mr. Govert agreed that a decision did not have to be made at this meeting.

Mr. Govert had the following additional comments:

- He had received a citizen's complaint about the Town's Animal Control. Mr. Walter advised that he was aware of the problem.

- He would like to do additional research on surfaces for the proposed walking trail that Ms. Rocznik discussed earlier in the meeting. The Selectmen agreed with his recommendation.
- Governor Rell had issued a press release that Connecticut was going to be awarded an Energy Grant. He noted that East Haddam had joined a consortium of towns that had applied for the grant and that it would participate in the funding.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Unanimous aye.

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Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary