

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
July 7, 2010
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Emmett Lyman, Pete Govert
Also Present: P. Sielman, 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: Mr. Walter stated that he would like to move agenda item 5.A. – Virtual Town Meeting Presentation by Peter Sielman – up to the next discussion topic. Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

5A. First Selectman's Report: Virtual Town Meeting Presentation – Peter Sielman: Mr. Sielman thanked the Selectmen for the opportunity to present information on the Town of Salem's virtual meeting project. He provided information on how the project was researched and reviewed how virtual attendees participate in Salem's town meetings. He discussed the equipment used and advised that the Cable Council reimbursed the Town for the cost of the equipment. He noted that Salem encountered early audio problems and video dropouts and explained how the problems were resolved.

Mr. Sielman answered several questions for the Selectmen and also provided a brief overview of his research on Political Efficacy. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Sielman for his presentation.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special meeting of June 14, 2010 and Regular Meeting of June 16, 2010:

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 14, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

Mr. Walter distributed a copy of an article from the Middletown Press regarding a \$4.1 million dollar Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge grant that was awarded to a consortium of 14 towns, including East Haddam, from the U.S. Department of Energy.

A. Request for Golf Cart Ordinance: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding a petition he received from residents in the Lake Hayward area to allow the use of golf carts on public streets. There was a brief discussion about safety and the Selectmen agreed to table further discussion until the next meeting to allow them time to review all of the information provided.

B. Clark Gates Road Petition: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to copies of a petition in their meeting packets regarding speeding on Clark Gates Road. The Selectmen discussed the problem of speeding on Town roads and several potential solutions were considered. Mr. Walter stated that he would solicit input from the State Police and Public Works on ways to address the problem.

5. First Selectman's Report:

A. Virtual Town Meeting Presentation – Peter Sielman: This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is covered in the above minutes.

B. Posting of Temporary or Limited Time Parking Signs: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a draft of a letter to the State Division of Traffic Engineering regarding posting "limited time parking" signs on Route 82 in the Village. He noted that a problem has developed with extended parking in the business area that interferes with deliveries to one of the businesses there. Mr. Govert advised that he was made aware of the problem and had suggested that the parties involved speak with Mr. Ventres and/or Ms. Ziobron to try to resolve the conflict. There was a general discussion regarding the number of signs posted in the Village.

Motion was made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the submission of a letter to Mr. David Sawicki, Division of Traffic Engineering, requesting limited parking time restrictions be posted in the section of Route 82 near the Hayden Wine & Spirits shop. Unanimous aye.

C. Approved 2010-2011 Budgets: In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Mr. Lyman and Mr. Govert confirmed that they had received a copy of the final 2010-2011 Budget. The Selectmen agreed that Ms. Varricchio had done a good job with the new format of the budget and Mr. Walter advised that the Board of Education has asked Mr. Carroll to adopt the format for their budget also.

6. Citizen's Concerns: There were no citizen's concerns expressed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter advised that there had been a delay in reconvening the School Building Committee due to health issues. He reported that the State had rejected the last change order submitted because it had been received after their 6-month deadline. He advised that, as a result, the Town will be responsible for approximately \$175,000 of the cost of the work. He stated that he will research why the submission was submitted late. Bob Carroll and Todd Moss will provide facts and options for possible resubmission. They will also detail dollar mounts affected since some of the \$175,000 was previously approved.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: The Selectmen noted that work was being done on the new actors' housing project; however, there was no additional update.

C. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that a number of companies had responded to the Middle School Re-Use Committee's RFQ for a construction manager and that a mandatory walk-through for the responders had been conducted. He stated that the deadline for opening responses to the RFQ was extended to July 15th. He advised that responses were received for the Surplus Equipment and Furniture RFQ; however, no bids were submitted.

Mr. Walter reported that two responses were initially received in response to the Removal of the Portables RFQ but one of the parties withdrew their bid leaving the Franklin Academy as the only bidder. Mr. Govert advised that, since he is employed by Franklin Academy, he will recuse himself from any vote on their bid.

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: Mr. Walter advised that he had met with Mr. Burgess on June 4th and requested an amended agreement. He stated Mr. Burgess had agreed to work on it, however, nothing has been received to date. He stated he would again follow-up with Mr. Burgess.

8. New Business

A. Grant Acceptance – Historic Document Preservation Grant: Mr. Walter stated that Ms. Denette had applied for and the Town has been awarded a \$3,000.00 historic document preservation grant from the CT State Library.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to recommend to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of \$3,000 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, State Library, for the purpose of historic document preservation; and that Mark B. Walter, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Document Preservation Grant. Unanimous aye.

B. 2009 Homeland Security Memorandum of Agreement Resolution: Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mark B. Walter as the First Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of East Haddam and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. Unanimous aye.

C. Commission Status Change (EDC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of an e-mail in their meeting packets from Ms. Mathiasen, dated June 16, 2010, advising of a change in status for one of the Economic Development Commissioners.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to change the status of Eric Sabetta from a five-year term regular member to a five-year term alternate member, term to expire June 30, 2015 on the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

D. 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: The Selectmen discussed potential members for the new Agriculture Commission. Mr. Govert and Mr. Lyman advised that they had spoken with Mr. Jed Cone regarding participating on the Commission and Mr. Govert stated that Mr. Cone had agreed to do so. He stated he will provide him with an application to complete.

B. 20% by 2010 Program and Grant – EPA Energy Star Partner Letter Discussion: Mr. Lyman advised that he had reviewed the materials he received at the June 16th meeting and had done some additional research on the subject. He stated that he did not have any objections to sending the letter, however, he was puzzled by the fact that there was no direct connection to clean energy for a consumer that participates in the program.

In response to a question from Mr. Lyman, Mr. Govert advised that the \$4,000.00 in grant funds would be used for fliers and other public education efforts.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, for East Haddam to join the EPA Energy Star Partner program. Unanimous aye.

C. Other: Mr. Govert noted that he had received a call from Mr. Mansfield encouraging him to complete his Homeland Security NIMS training. The Selectmen discussed the requirements and Mr. Lyman agreed that it was a significant time commitment but noted the benefits to the Town.

Mr. Lyman pointed out that the view from the River House property had become obscured by overgrown brush. Mr. Walter advised that Public Works was aware of the issue and has been working on controlling the weeds.

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 8:45 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 618B
619A

Emmett Lyman, Secretary