

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
September 15, 2010
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Meetings of March 1, 2010, March 3, 2010, March 4, 2010, and March 5, 2010, and Regular Meetings of August 18, 2010 and September 1, 2010: The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes and Mr. Govert requested the following change be made to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2010:
 - Agenda Item 10B (Selectmen's Discussion – Other) – Change "*Clean Energy Commission*" to "*Clean Energy Task Force*".

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 1, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 3, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 4, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 5, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2010 as amended. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 1, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

A. Letter from the Economic Development Commission: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from EDC, dated September 8, 2010, addressed to him and the Chairman of Planning & Zoning. He noted that the EDC Commissioners would like to partner with the Selectmen, P&Z, and the owners of several large, important properties to turn the parcels into revenue generating businesses. The Commissioners discussed the letter and expressed their support for the initiative.

B. Letter from Marti Smith: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Marti Smith expressing her displeasure at the noise created by the recent Relay for Life event. The Commissioners reviewed the letter and discussed her concerns. Mr. Walter stated that he would respond to Mrs. Smith and also speak with the coordinator of the Relay for Life event.

5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter reported on the following items:

- The Animal Control officer that had been on disciplinary notice since May was terminated. He noted that several other towns include the animal control responsibilities in with the police duties and stated that he will bring that up that possibility for discussion during the upcoming police negotiations. Mr. Lyman suggested that the Town consider regionalizing the job with some of the surrounding towns. The other Selectmen agreed with his suggestion and Mr. Walter stated he would speak with the First Selectmen of Colchester, Salem, Haddam and East Hampton to see if there was any interest in regionalizing the animal control function.
- The driver of the senior bus has retired. His retirement party is scheduled for October 3rd, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. A temporary replacement has been found; however, the Town will be advertising for a permanent replacement.

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

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: Mr. Walter stated that he was working with Mr. Moss to resolve the remaining open issues. He noted that, since the State contributed to the purchase of the original gym lights, it would be difficult to sell them. It was suggested that they might be used in the gym of the old Middle School if the re-use project passes referendum.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Blaschik reported that the State had approved the Phase 1B for the Actors' Housing water system. There was a general discussion regarding the difficulty of doing business with the state.

C. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that the Town Attorney has reviewed the contract for the Construction Manager and he has scheduled a meeting with Ms. Malavasi, Chairperson of the Middle School Re-Use Commission, and representatives of Newfield Construction to go over the attorney's comments.

In response to a question from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Walter confirmed that he was working on the following project related issues: finalizing expenses so that a realistic lease fee can be established, getting the attorney's sign-off on a draft lease agreement, and getting a firm commitment to locate the regional Probate Court in the new municipal building. He stated that he has also asked Ms. Stricker to confirm with all of the interested non-municipal entities that the final plans for their spaces are functionally acceptable.

D. Road Acceptance and Associated Drainage Easement – Meadow Brook Road: Mr. Walter advised that he had no update on this agenda item.

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

F. Request for Golf Cart Ordinance: Mr. Walter advised that he had received written or verbal input from the Town Attorney, the Public Works Director, the State Police, and the Ambulance and Fire Departments regarding the request to allow golf carts on the roads around Lake Hayward. He stated that none of the feedback was in favor of approving the request.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to not approve the request to pass an ordinance allowing golf carts on public streets. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter stated he would send a letter to the Lake Hayward residents, advising them of the Board's decision and documenting the reasons for their decision. He advised that he would also include copies of the written opinions he had received. The Selectmen agreed that it was not necessary at this time to schedule a public meeting to address the issue.

G. Clark Gates Road Petition: Mr. Walter stated that he has received follow-up inquiries about this item. He noted that the Town of Colchester had installed a speed bump on a residential street and he spoke with the First Selectman about it. He said he was told that the speed bump had been effective in controlling traffic; however, he was advised that the Town should establish a policy about their use prior to installing one because, after the first one is put in, additional requests for them would be made.

Mr. Walter stated that he has not yet heard back from Mr. Thumm regarding the feasibility of using road-cuts. The Selectmen discussed Salem's ordinance regarding retaining the revenue from speeding tickets and Mr. Walter agreed to discuss the policy with Salem's First Selectman.

H. Rotary Club Donation of Edgar D. Williams Park: Mr. Walter advised that he has not yet received the information on expenses to maintain the park.

I. DCS Energy – Solar Panel Offer: The Selectmen reviewed photos in their meeting packets which documented the risk of unsightly installations of solar panels. They agreed, however, that the Planning and Zoning Commission process could mitigate such a risk. It was noted that there are still a number of open questions regarding the DCS Energy's offer.

Mr. Blaschik noted that several of the surrounding towns have agreed to participate in the program and suggested the Selectmen contact them to discuss the results of any research they did prior to accepting the offer. Mr. Walter stated he would speak with the First Selectman of Salem, and Mr. Govert agreed to speak with the First Selectmen of East Hampton and Portland.

Mr. Govert reminded the Selectman that there was a December 1st deadline for accepting the DCS Energy solar panel offer.

8. New Business

A. Bid Award – Crown Victoria Police Cruiser: Mr. Walter stated that the bid request for a new 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor had gone out and that three bids were received. He advised that the police recommended awarding the bid to Crowley Ford LLC.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award the bid for the 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor to Crowley Ford LLC in the amount of \$21,120.00. Unanimous aye.

B. Grange Hall – Approval to Serve Beer & Wine: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to an application in their meeting packets from the Moodus Drum & Fife Corps requesting permission to serve beer and wine at the following two events: their 150th Anniversary Muster on October 16, 2010 and their Christmas Party on December 4, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Grange Hall for the “Moodus Drum & Fife Muster” on October 16, 2010 and the “Moodus Drum & Fife Christmas Party” on December 4, 2010. Unanimous aye.

C. Commission Reappointment (CONS): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of an e-mail in their meeting packets from Cynthia Matthew, dated September 12, 2010, advising that the Conservation Commission unanimously recommended three reappointments.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to reappoint Cynthia Matthew and Thomas Tarbox as regular members and Todd Gelston as an alternate member on the Conservation Commission for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2012. Unanimous aye.

D. Volunteers of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of a nomination note from the East Haddam Food Bank recommending four teens as Volunteers of the Month. The note cited the teens’ many hours of work at the Food Bank.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Emma Peach, Ethan Pitney, Krysta Smith and AJ Stanulonis as volunteers of the month for September 2010. Unanimous aye.

E. 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 amounts presented.

- \$343.92 to Joseph Urbano, and
- \$240.01 to Toyota Financial Services.

Unanimous aye.

Mr. Walter noted that one tax refund approved at the last meeting was for the incorrect amount. The Tax Collector noted the refund as \$195.03 and the correct amount should have been \$189.50.

Motion by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to amend the tax refund to GMAC approved at the last meeting from \$195.03 and reapprove for \$189.50. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Mr. Blaschik advised that Richard Hoffmann had passed away and that his wake would be held on Saturday. He noted that Mr. Hoffmann had been the Town’s Tree Warden and a member of the Fire Department.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion: Mr. Govert advised that Carrie O’Neil, Director of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Energy Challenge, was looking for ten college-bound/college-age students to work on an

energy-conservation related project with AmeriCorps. He stated the interns would be paid for their work and would also receive a grant toward their higher education expenses.

Mr. Govert advised that President Obama named Dr. Donald Berwick, a former Moodus resident and graduate of the Nathan Hale/Ray High School, as the new head of the Medicare/Medicaid program. He noted that Time Magazine said Dr. Berwick is “...*perhaps the single most powerful person in American health care*”.

In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter confirmed that the Agriculture Commissioners had been appointed and he would send them a letter informing them of their appointment. The Selectmen agreed that an initial meeting of the Commission should be coordinated and to ask Mr. Thomas to act as interim chairman until a permanent chairman can be appointed.

Mr. Walter also confirmed that the playscape at Nichols field has been built but the rubber mats and swing set have not yet been installed.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional regular business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Walter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 622A
622B

Emmett Lyman, Secretary