

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
October 20, 2010
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Pete Govert and Emmett Lyman
Also Present: C. Behilo, E. Blaschik, P. Maxwell (arrived 8:07 p.m.), 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: Mr. Walter stated he would like to amend the Agenda to add, under New Business, item F. Electrical Procurement Program – Power Sale Agreement Authorization. Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 6, 2010:

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

A. Board of Fire Commissioners – Future Building Needs Letter: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets, dated October 12, 2010, from the Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Selectmen reviewed the letter and Mr. Walter stated that the letter was triggered by the Town’s pending acquisition of new Open Space. He confirmed that the purpose of the letter was to have the Board go on record with their interest in considering the Harris property as a potential future location for a new firehouse.

Mr. Walter advised that he had also received a letter from a resident objecting to open-pit fires in his neighborhood because he is in poor health and the smoke exacerbates his condition. Mr. Walter advised that the Fire Marshal/Open Burning Official has delivered a “cease and desist” order to the neighbors and that Mr. Walter would communicate that to the individual who wrote him the letter.

5. First Selectman’s Report: Mr. Walter reported that the owner of the Grandview Resort property has made significant progress in clearing the site. He noted that a large bread oven had been uncovered in one of the buildings. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, he advised that the owner was planning to open the campground for business next summer.

Mr. Walter further reported that he had visited the Moodus Reservoir dam worksite with Jeff Bradley and observed quite a bit of old mill stonework across the road from the dam. Mr. Govert encouraged Mr. Walter to inform Charlie Farrow, at the Historical Society, of his find.

6. Citizen’s Concerns: Mr. Behilo stated that the area abutting the demolition bins at the Transfer Station had been lowered so that the bin sides now extend approximately 38” above the ground. He advised that this now makes it difficult for residents with low trailers to dump their debris in the bins and that Mr. Thumm had not satisfactorily explained the reason for the change to him.

Mr. Walter and Mr. Lyman explained that there were OSHA and insurance requirements for a 38” barrier around the bins and that the fences that had previously been used proved to be inadequate and had to be replaced frequently. Mr. Walter noted Mr. Behilo’s concern about residents with low trailers and advised that the Town was willing to keep working to improve the conditions at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Walter noted that Mr. Thumm will be retiring on November 5th.

7. Unfinished Business

A. 4-8 Middle School: There was no update on this agenda item.

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Walter noted that a temporary walkway had been constructed on Route 82. Mr. Blaschik advised that the Goodspeed continues to make progress with the State on the water system for the new Actors’ Housing project.

C. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter advised that the Middle School Conversion Committee will hold a Public Hearing at the High School Auditorium on November 10th at 7:00 p.m. He stated the Committee planned to present some of the available options and were looking for input from the public regarding the economic impacts of the project.

D. Road Acceptance and Associated Drainage Easement – Meadow Brook Road: There was no new update on this agenda item.

E. STEAP Power House Road Grant: Mr. Walter advised that responsibility for processing the paperwork for this grant has been reassigned at the State level.

F. Clark Gates Road Petition: Mr. Walter noted that his editorial in the Events Magazine, as well as articles by the Superintendent of Schools, the Resident State Trooper, and others made reference to concerns about speeding in Town. He also advised that the police have heightened their surveillance of traffic in the area and that he had received a copy of Chester’s ordinance making the Board of Selectmen the town’s traffic authority. The Selectmen revisited other solutions they had previously discussed and Mr. Walter agreed to get estimates for installing rumble-grooves at certain intersections.

G. Rotary Club Donation of Edgar D. Williams Park: Mr. Walter advised that the Town has received information on the annual maintenance expense for the Park and were waiting for copies of the Phase I and II reports on the property from the Goodspeed. At his inquiry, the Selectmen confirmed that they support moving forward on this issue.

H. DCS Energy – Solar Panel Offer: Mr. Govert reviewed the list of potential sites for the solar panels and advised that a walk-through of the locations has been scheduled for October 26th at 2:00 p.m.

8. New Business

A. Bid Award – Interior Renovation of Grange Hall: Mr. Walter Mark called the Selectmen’s attention to a memo from Mr. Thumm, dated October 20, 2010, recommending the contract for renovations to the Grange Hall to accommodate the Food Bank, be awarded to Allied Construction,

Inc. Mr. Walter noted that the bids were submitted last year, however, Allied Construction has agreed to hold its price.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award the bid for the Interior Renovations at the Grange Hall to Allied Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$34,870.00 for the “base bid” portion only. Unanimous aye.

B. Donation Acceptance – 1977 Maxum Ladder Truck: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a letter in their meeting packets from the Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners, dated October 12, 2010, advising that the Essex Fire Department has offered to donate its 1977 Maxum 85’ ladder truck to the East Haddam Fire Department. He noted that the Town was waiting for the paperwork on the truck before the gift could be accepted and sent on to the Board of Finance and a Town Meeting.

C. Committee Resignation (CONS): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a resignation email in their meeting packets from Patricia Thomas dated October 8, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Patricia Thomas as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

D. Volunteer of the Month: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to a completed Volunteer of the Month nomination form in their meeting packets. He stated that he and Ms. Denette had submitted the form, nominating Zac Jezek as Volunteer of the Month for his work with the Lions Club and the Food Bank.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to name Zac Jezek as volunteer of the month for October 2010. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to four tax refunds.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to award tax refunds in the amounts presented.

- \$ 237.06 to Hawkes Golf Vehicles,
- \$ 26.30 to Elm Camp Co. Inc.,
- \$ 180.00 to Toyota Motor Credit Corp, and
- \$ 42.15 to Jennifer or Ryan Esty

Unanimous aye.

F. Electrical Procurement Program – Power Sale Agreement Authorization: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen’s attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding Bay State Consultants’ desire to solicit bids from TransCanada on October 26th for electrical rates. Mr. Walter advised that this was an initiative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and that it did not obligate the Town to renew its contract.

Mr. Govert advised that the original 5-year contract had been signed by the Board of Selectmen when energy rates were rising at double-digit rates year-over-year. He stated, however, that he recently discussed energy prices with Roger Smith who did not recommend signing a new long-term contract. Mr. Walter said that he would like to enter in the CCM’s bid process on October 26th, with the

understanding that the Town may execute the contract, and he will also speak with Mr. Smith and Mr. Sassi to get their input.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That Mark Walter is hereby authorized to enter into an Agreement for the purchase of electrical power for the Town of East Haddam from such company or companies as recommended by Bay State Consultants by virtue of competitive bidding in conjunction with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities October 26 Electric Procurement Program. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: Mr. Behilo stated that he had noticed the increased policing of traffic speeds around Clark Gates Road at numerous times of the day.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that the Boy Scouts are planning a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser at the American Legion at 5:00 p.m. on October 21st. He also reported that he and Mr. Mackinnon had attended a Cable Advisory Committee meeting.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter advised that clean-up and renovation work at the Shady Brook Camp Grounds was a result of warnings issued by the Town's Building Inspector.

A. Joint Budget Information Meeting (November 9): Mr. Walter advised that the Boards of Selectmen, Finance, and Education will hold a joint meeting on November 9th to discuss the Board of Education submitting their budget numbers to the Town earlier in the process. Mr. Govert advised that he would be unable to attend the meeting due to a work commitment.

B. Public Hearing Middle School Conversion Committee (November 10): Mr. Walter reiterated that the Middle School Conversion Committee has scheduled a Public Hearing at the High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on November 10th.

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 8:10 pm. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

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625A

Emmett Lyman, Secretary