

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
December 1, 2010
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Pete Govert, Emmett Lyman

Also Present: C. Behilo, R. Casner (arrived 7:30 p.m.), E. Blaschik, A. Merrow and 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. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the agenda. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of November 9, 2010, Regular Meeting of November 17, 2010 and Special Meeting of November 29, 2010:

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to table approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 9, 2010 as they have not been completed yet. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 29, 2010 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Walter noted he had received a flier from the East Haddam Police advising that their annual Stuff-A-Cruiser collection was scheduled for December 11th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mr. Walter also called the Selectmen's attention to the following correspondence in their meeting packets:

A. Norwich Bulletin Article – Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee Stormwater Project: Mr. Walter noted the article stated that the Coordinating Committee will use \$40,000.00 in federal aid to map the Eightmile River watershed area to identify "*inadequate stormwater retention devices*" along the roadways of East Haddam, Lyme and Salem. There was a general discussion regarding the project.

5. First Selectman's Report: Mr. Walter reported that the Town's budget process will begin one month earlier than in previous years and that requests for input have been sent out to all department and committee heads. He noted that he received positive feedback from the Board of Education on their early planning meetings with him and the Board of Finance.

Mr. Walter stated that the review process with Town department heads was going well. He also noted that the Town has hired Michael Olzacki as its new Animal Control Officer and that he was looking into setting up interlocal agreements for this service between the towns of East Haddam, Hebron, and East Hampton. He advised that he recently signed this type of interlocal agreement for the Assessor's position between East Haddam and Chester and he was currently looking into a similar arrangement for the Zoning Enforcement Officer position between East Haddam and Haddam.

Mr. Walter stated that he had attended a meeting of the Lower River Valley Selectmen's Association where the CPA Association gave a presentation on the state of Connecticut's economy and he found it very sobering. He reiterated several of the points made in the presentation and Mr. Govert stated that he had listened to an interview with Governor-elect Malloy who had a different perspective on some of the comments made by the CPA Association.

6. Citizen's Concerns: Mr. Behilo stated that he had not received a letter from Mr. Thumm explaining the changes to the bulky waste area at the Transfer Station. Mr. Walter agreed to follow-up on his request.

In response to questions from Mr. Blaschik and Mr. Lyman, Mr. Walter confirmed that the Ambulance Association purchased their final new ambulance per their agreement with the town and that the mutual aid numbers have gotten much better. There was a general discussion regarding the use of emergency services in Town.

7. Unfinished Business

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

B. Goodspeed Opera House Update: Mr. Blaschik reported that construction on the new actors' housing continued to progress and that they continue to make progress with the State on the water system. In response to a question from Mr. Walter, he advised that the actors' used the new stairway which helped them navigate the path to the theatre.

C. Old Middle School: Mr. Walter reported that a problem with the alarm system at the school had been resolved. He advised that new copper pipes installed on the furnaces had been stolen. He noted that the pipes have been replaced and the furnace rooms were now locked.

D. Road Acceptance and Associated Drainage Easement – Meadow Brook Road: Mr. Walter suggested removing this item from the agenda until the owner can resolve the outstanding issues. The other Selectmen agreed with his suggestion.

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

F. Clark Gates Road Petition: Mr. Walter stated he will draft a letter to the petitioners informing them of the traffic control steps that the Town has taken to date, as well as potential future plans to alleviate speeding on the road.

G. Rotary Club Donation of Edgar D. Williams Park: Mr. Walter stated he has not yet received copies of the Goodspeed's Phase I and II reports on the property. He also noted that Attorney Poliner has forwarded him some questions on the deed that he needed to review.

8. New Business

A. Extension of Gasoline Contract: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a proposal in their meeting packets from East River Energy. He recommended extending the Town's contract for one year for a fixed rate of \$2.5736 per gallon, excluding taxes.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to finalize prices and negotiate with East River Energy, for unleaded gasoline for the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, and to authorize the First Selectman to enter into said agreement on behalf of the Town.

In response to a statement from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter agreed that every effort would be made to lock in the per gallon price, excluding taxes, at \$2.5736.

B. Transfer Station Fee Waiver – Historical Society: Mr. Walter Mark called the Selectmen's attention to a completed Transfer Station Fee Waiver Application submitted by the Historical Society.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the application to waive Transfer Station Fees for the East Haddam Historical Society for asphalt shingles as requested in their November 30, 2010 application. Unanimous aye.

C. Formation of Financial Needs Committee: Mr. Walter advised that he would like to establish a Financial Needs Committee to research and analyze the Town's short and long-term financial needs and make recommendations on planning for projected expenses as well as how to structure the necessary financing. He proposed the following make-up for the committee: 1 Selectman, 2 members from the Board of Finance, 2 members from the Board of Education and, possibly, the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission or their designee.

In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated that he viewed the committee as more strategic in nature and their role would be to focus on future needs of the Town.

There was a general discussion regarding the role and make-up of the proposed committee and Mr. Govert recommended the Business Manager for the Board of Education be an advisory member of the committee. Mr. Govert and Mr. Lyman stated they supported Mr. Walter's proposal.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to form a Financial Needs Committee for the Town of East Haddam as follows: (a) the committee will be composed of six members, including the First Selectman, the Chairman of the Board of Finance (or his designee) and one other member of the Board of Finance from the opposing party as the Chairman of the Board of Finance (or his designee), the Chairman of the Board of Education (or his designee) and one other member of the Board of Education from the opposing party as the Chairman of the Board of Education (or his designee), and the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission (or his designee); (b) the term of each committee member will be one year and no salary will be paid; (c) the committee shall meet at least quarterly and their meetings shall be open to the public, and (d) the committee shall invite advisory participants to their meetings as needed. Unanimous aye.

D. Board Reappointments & Appointment (ZBA): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to letters in their meeting packets regarding the membership of the Zoning Board of Appeals. He noted that he had received information earlier in the day that the Board has several members that leave Town for extended periods during the winter months which sometimes makes it challenging to achieve a quorum. There was a general discussion regarding this input and the Selectmen agreed to table the reappointments of Norman Gobelle, Diane Quinn, and Guy Gibb until the next Board of Selectmen's meeting to gather more information, but to move forward on the Board's other recommendations.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Daniel Schies as a regular member on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to change the status of Richard Fiala from an alternate member to a regular member, filling a vacant term to expire January 2012 on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to appoint William Smith to fill a vacant alternate position with a term to expire January 2015 on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

E. Commission Resignation (EDC): Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a resignation email in their meeting packets from Mr. Eric Sabetta dated November 30, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert to accept, with regret, the resignation of Eric Sabetta as an alternate member on the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

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

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Walter stated that the Middle School Conversion Committee's next meeting was December 6th and that, depending on what was decided at that meeting, they will address the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

In response to a statement from Mr. Lyman noting the lack of a provision in the Agriculture Commission's ordinance to elect a chairperson, Mr. Walter advised that all of the Town's Boards and Committees' ordinances should be reviewed so that any needed updates can be made at the same time. Mr. Lyman volunteered to do the review and make recommendations.

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 8:04 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tape 628B
629A

Emmett Lyman, Secretary