Board of Selectmen
On-Line Via Zoom & YouTube Live
February 17, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: T. Govert; C. Quinn; R. Smith
Also Present: D. Angersola; R. Casner; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public via virtual media

1. First Selectman Smith called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He provided information on how the public could submit their questions, comments and concerns to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of January 11, 2021, Regular Meeting of February 3, 2021, Special Meeting of February 4, 2021 and Special Meeting of February 8, 2021.

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 11, 2021 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 3, 2021 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 4, 2021 as written. Unanimous aye.

   The review and approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 8, 2021 was postponed.

4. Correspondence

   There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. COVID-19 Reopening Report: Mr. Smith reported that as of February 16 there have been 16 COVID related deaths and a cumulative 339 positive cases in Town. He stated that he will continue to evaluate a return to in-person Selectmen meetings, however, at present the Board will continue to meet via Zoom and their meetings will be broadcast on YouTube.

      Ms. Govert provided updated statistics regarding vaccinations of East Haddam residents. She reported that 438 (92%) of the Town's citizens age 75+ and 1020 (11%) of its total residents have received their first vaccination. Mr. Smith noted that Nutmeg Pharmacy staff administered an additional 100 vaccinations on February 13th.

   B. Responses to Previous Meeting Questions: There were no responses to previous meeting questions discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Smith reported the following:

- That recent weather had slowed the concrete work on Neptune Avenue, but the work is still projected to be completed by May 1, 2021.

- The Boards of Selectmen and Finance will meet with the Centerbridge Group to discuss the financial aspects of the developer's proposal. Centerbridge will also provide a presentation of their proposal at the meeting.

- The Board of Selectmen have been working on the 2021-2022 FY Budget. He provided a brief overview of their work.

6. Citizens' Concerns: There were no citizens' concerns discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

   A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Smith proposed several dates for a joint meeting of the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee, and the Centerbridge Group and the Board agreed on March 8, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

   B. Ordinance Amendment Request – Lake Hayward Speed Limit: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

   C. State of Connecticut – Proposed Property Acquisition – Bridge No. 06887 Replacement Project on Route 151 over Shady Brook: Mr. Smith reviewed information regarding the CT Department of Transportation's bridge replacement project on Route 151 over Shady Brook. Mr. Smith noted that the DOT has requested acquisition of property rights for two different parcels, each owned by the Town of East Haddam.

      He stated that the two proposed property transactions will be considered at the February 23rd Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. Mr. Smith noted that the DOT had indicated the Town's decision on their acquisition of the parcels is "time sensitive" relative to developing their design and requested the Town's governing body approve the sale in lieu of a Town Meeting in accordance with Executive Order 7JJ.

      In response to a query from Mr. Smith, both Board members agreed that they did not feel the issue was time sensitive at this point and Ms. Quinn noted her objection to bypassing the public's opportunity to provide input on such issues. Mr. Smith agreed to solicit additional information from the CT DOT.

8. New Business

   A. Comprehensive Energy Efficient Facility Upgrade (Co#1, Co#2, GH) – Multi-year Contracts: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding potential savings by switching to LED lighting at several Town buildings.

      Mr. Angersola advised that he had met with Brian Logan, a consultant from Energy Resources Company, who analyzed the benefits of switching to LED lighting at Fire Company 1, Fire

Company 2, and the Grange Hall. He reviewed Mr. Logan's findings and stated that Eversource has a grant program that will pay for a portion of the expense to switch to LED light fixtures.

Mr. Angersola stated that, after the Eversource grant, the Town's cost to switch to LED lighting at Fire Company No. 1 would be $8,666.66. That amount would be amortized over 36 months and the estimated monthly savings would be $273.95. He further advised that the Town's cost for Fire Company No. 2 would be $6,328.47 with an estimated monthly savings of $117.78, and the cost for the Grange would be $3,654.57 with an estimated monthly savings of $87.60.

Mr. Smith stated that Energy Resources is working on an estimate for the Public Works building and he expects the Board of Fire Commissioners to act on the proposals for the two Fire Companies at their March 2nd meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Mr. Angersola confirmed that the proposals are good for two months. Mr. Smith, therefore, stated that he feels the Board can wait to make a motion at their March 3rd meeting to move the proposals forward to the Board of Finance.

B. River Trails Conservation Assistance Program – Landmarks Grant Support Letter: Mr. Smith recognized Mr. Casner, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission (EDC).

Mr. Casner provided some history on EDC's relationship with the CT Landmarks Association. He stated that the National Parks Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program offers non-financial grants that provide expert assistance with designing hiking/bike trails, facilitating public meetings, achieving community consensus, and identifying grant sources. He advised that EDC supports CT Landmarks Association's plan to apply for a grant focused on designing a walking/bike path loop from the Rose Farms open space to Chapman Pond and requested the Board of Selectmen also provide a letter supporting CT Landmark's plan to conduct a feasibility study for the project.

In response to a question from Ms. Govert, Mr. Casner stated that CT Landmarks has not yet reached out to the Conservation Commission or the Land Trust and agreed that both organizations would be important partners in the project. He answered several questions from the Board, confirmed that CT Landmarks would be the grant applicant, and validated Mr. Smith's understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the project. There was a brief discussion regarding submission of the plan to CT DOT for approval.

Motion made by Ms. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Govert, that the Board of Selectmen support CT Landmarks Association's efforts to obtain a non-financial grant from the National Parks Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance program for expert assistance in designing a multi-use hiking/biking path along Route 151 in the area of Rose Farm Open Space to the Lion's Club parking lot at the junction of Town Street (Rt. 82 and Mount Parnassus (Rt. 434) with additional development of a trail and parking lot on CT Landmark's Palmer-Warner property. Unanimous aye.

C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board, Commission or Committee changes discussed at the meeting.

D. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds discussed at the meeting.

9. Public Comment: There were no public comments submitted to the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

    A. Liaison Reports: There were no liaison reports discussed at the meeting.

    B. Other: There was no additional items discussed.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made Mr. Smith by seconded by Ms. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:92 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Govert, Secretary