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

Selectmen Present: R. Smith; T. Govert; C. Quinn
Also Present: D. Angersola; B. Logan; 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 February 8, 2021, Regular Meeting of March 3, 2021, Special Meeting of March 4, 2021, Special Meeting of March 6, 2021, Special Meeting of March 8, 2021, Special Meeting of March 10, 2021, Special Meeting of March 11, 2021,

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 8, 2021 as written/amended. Unanimous aye.

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

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

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 6, 2021 as written/amended. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 8, 2021 as written/amended. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 10, 2021 as written/amended. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 11, 2021 as written/amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   A. Letter of Appreciation – Police Department

      Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Christina New of Chrissy's Creations, LLC. He advised that Ms. New's letter expressed her "… *gratitude and appreciation for East Haddam Police Officer Karl Karabeinikoff*" for assisting her in securing

payment for a wedding cake she had made for an individual who, after receiving delivery of the cake, had stopped responding to Ms. New's communications.

Mr. Smith thanked Ms. New for her letter and noted it would be made part of Officer Karabeinikoff's personnel file. Ms. Quinn and Ms. Govert thanked Office Karabeinikoff for his work and for always going above and beyond what is typically expected.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. COVID-19 Reopening Report: Mr. Smith reported that, as of this date, the Town has reported 389 positive Covid cases and 18 deaths. He noted that positive cases are up 35 from the beginning of the month. He also stated that the UK variant is predicted to become the predominant strain in CT; however, although the UK variant spreads more easily, all current vaccines are currently effective against it.

   Mr. Smith advised that CT has announced an accelerated role out of the vaccine program to anyone 45+ years old as of March 19th and anyone 16+ years old as of April 5th. He provided additional information about the vaccination schedule in Town.

   Mr. Smith stated that he expected the Board of Selectmen to begin meeting in person, with limited public attendance, on April 7, 2021. He noted that masks and social distancing will continue to be required at any of the Town's meetings.

   Ms. Govert provided updated statistics regarding the rate of vaccinations among Town residents.

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

   Mr. Smith reported that the Town's road work projects are moving forward on schedule and street sweeping will begin on April 1st. He reviewed a number of road projects and stated that Neptune Avenue will be paved in the near future and confirmed that the project is still on schedule for a May 1 completion date.

   Mr. Smith reported that a Town Wide Clean-Up, sponsored by the Moodus Sportsmen's Club and East Haddam Scout Troops, is planned for April 3rd; however, due to COVID, no luncheon is planned for this year.

   Mr. Smith advised that he will be putting together a committee to study implementing municipal broadband connectivity in Town. He discussed the benefits of municipal broadband and funding availability. There was a general discussion regarding the potential for instituting broadband internet service in Town.

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

7. Unfinished Business

   A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Smith reported that a joint meeting of the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee, and the Centerbridge Group was held on March 8, 2021. He stated that the developer provided an in-depth presentation. He noted that questions and comments submitted by the public and Towns Boards/Committees will be forwarded to the appropriate parties for response. He reiterated that

he expects the proposal to be made public by the end of this month and confirmed that it is planned for the project to go to a referendum.

B. Ordinance Amendment Request – Lake Hayward Speed Limit: Mr. Smith advised that, prior to putting forward a motion on the amended ordinance, he is waiting to receive input from Mr. Delgato, of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, about the most recent changes to the proposed draft of the revised ordinance.

C. Comprehensive Energy Efficient Facility Upgrade (Co#1, Co#2, GH, PW) – Multi-year Contracts: Mr. Smith recognized Mr. Angersola and Mr. Logan of Energy Resources. Mr. Angersola provided an overview of the proposed projects at the two Fire Houses, the Grange, and Public Works, their cost and anticipated savings, as well as the financing plan provided by Eversouce. He stated that he had just received approval from the Fire Commissioners for the projects proposed at Fire House Companies 1 and 2.

Mr. Logan provided additional details about the Eversource program and the Town's projected savings. Mr. Smith reported that the 10-year positive cash flow from the upgrades planned for Public Works, excluding the air conditional system upgrades, is projected to be approximately $39k, for Fire Company 1 and Fire Company 2 the 10-year positive cash flow from the planned upgrades is approximately $24k and $10k, respectively.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to authorize the First Selectmen to enter into 36-month agreements on behalf of the Town with Energy Resources for a comprehensive energy efficient facility upgrade at the East Haddam Fire Co #1 and East Haddam Fire Co #2 and send the 36-month agreements to the Board of Finance for approval. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and response, the Governor's Executive Order 7JJ, Section 4 permits the Board of Selectmen to enter into or amend existing contracts or agreements deemed essential or time sensitive during the period of the declared public health and civil preparedness emergency. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to authorize the First Selectmen to enter into a 48-month agreement on behalf of the Town with Energy Resources for a comprehensive energy efficient facility upgrade at the East Haddam Grange Hall and send the 48-month agreement to the Board of Finance for approval. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and response, the Governor's Executive Order 7JJ, Section 4 permits the Board of Selectmen to enter into or amend existing contracts or agreements deemed essential or time sensitive during the period of the declared public health and civil preparedness emergency. Unanimous aye.

There was a general discussion regarding the impact of adding the planned A/C upgrades at the Public Works building to the program. Mr. Smith stated he would postpone a motion regarding entering into a 36-month agreement with Energy Resources for a comprehensive energy efficient facility upgrade at the East Haddam Public Works until the effect of adding the A/C upgrade into the agreement is determined. Mr. Logan stated he would be able to provide the Board with that information prior to their next regular meeting.

8. New Business

A. Grant Acceptance – Millington School House: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Jeffrey C. Ciucias, RN, dated March 5, 2021, which included a

check in the amount of $1,500.00, "… *in honor of Ruth Hotychey Ciucias, RN toward repairs of 'The Little Red School House' at Millington…".*

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to accept a gift in memory of Ruth May Hotyckey Ciucias for the Town of East Haddam in the amount of $1500.00 for Millington School House repair projects and send acceptance of said donation to the Board of Finance for approval. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and response, the Governor's Executive Order 7CC issued April 21, 2020 permits the municipality's legislative body (Board of Selectmen) and budget-making authority (Board of Finance) to authorize certain actions by a majority vote of each such body to include (i) the application for or acceptance of any grants, funding or gifts. Unanimous aye.

B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EHSCIP): Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets related to this agenda item.

East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee

Mr. Smith reviewed a letter from Gary Albanese, dated March 8, 2021, advising of the Committee's motion to recommend Todd Moss to the Board of Selectmen for a member on the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to appoint Todd Moss as a member of the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee. Unanimous aye.

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

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

B. Other: Mr. Smith reported that the Board of Finance is expected to finalize the Town's FY2021-2022 budget in the next two weeks.

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 7:58 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Govert, Secretary