Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
May 5, 2021
YouTube Live
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: R. Smith; T. Govert Absent: C. Quinn
Also Present: D. Angersola; E. Blaschik; M. Gleeson; P. Stuhlman; 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. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

   Mr. Smith noted the following changes and additions to the agenda:

   - Remove item 8.B. – Broadband Evaluation Committee Discussion – this is a duplicate posting and will be addressed under Unfinished Business
   - Add item 8.E. – Fire Department Hydraulic Equipment Disposition
   - Add item 8.F. – Fire Department Mobile Radio Disposition
   - Add item 8.G. – Fire Department Duty Car Disposition

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of April 21, 2021

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2021 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed under this agenda item.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. COVID-19 Reopening Report: Mr. Smith reported that positive COVID cases in Town are up 5 from last week to a cumulative total of 461 and deaths have remained stable at 18 for the last 9 weeks. He stated that East Haddam is currently the only town in the Chatham Health District still in the Red category but noted that the statewide positive rate is a 2.6% so he is hopeful the Town's rating will improve in the near future.

      Ms. Govert reported that the Town's overall vaccination rate stands at 49.18%; she reviewed age-specific vaccination rates.

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

   Mr. Smith also reported the following:

   - Neptune Avenue was reopened to traffic.

- Food Bank use has declined by 50% from its peak earlier in the pandemic.

- Funds were reallocated from the Snow Removal budget to the Tree budget and the Public Works Department is continuing to remove dead/diseased trees.

- Public Works began street sweeping; however, had to suspend the project because the sweeper's power steering mechanism broke down and is being repaired.

- He reviewed the street paving projects scheduled for June.

- An RFP for refurbishing the tennis courts will go out this month.

- The following public meetings on the budget are scheduled:
  - 5/12 – Public Hearing
  - 5/25 – Public Meeting
  - 6/8 – Referendum

- There will be a Public Meeting on 5/20 regarding the Centerbridge Group's proposal for revitalization of the Goodspeed Village.

- A hazardous waste collection for Town residents is scheduled for June 5th (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) in Colchester.

6. Citizens' Concerns: In response to a question from Mr. P. Stuhlman, Mr. Smith reiterated the dates for the Town budget meetings and the Centerbridge Group's presentation.

7. Unfinished Business

   A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Smith reiterated that the Centerbridge Group will present its proposal for revitalizing the Goodspeed Village on May 20th at the High School Auditorium. He stated that the proposed sales agreement will also be discussed at the meeting. Mr. Smith noted that the recommended sales price of $450k reflects the valuation of the old Town Office property less the expected expense of hazardous materials remediation on the site.

   B. Ordinance Amendment Request – Lake Hayward Speed Limit: Mr. Smith advised that a Public Meeting to consider the revisions to the existing Lake Hayward Speed Limit ordinance will be scheduled for some time in June.

   C. Comprehensive Energy Efficient Facility Upgrade (PW) – Multi-year Contract: Mr. Smith advised that the Town has already approved agreements with Eversourse for comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades to Fire Companies 1 & 2 and the Grange Hall.

      In response to a request from Mr. Smith, Mr. D. Angersola reviewed the proposal for the Public Works building upgrades which will include air conditioning upgrades. He noted that all of the upgrades will result in savings to the Town's energy bills and the savings will initially offset the cost of the upgrades. Mr. Smith stated that the Eversource loan payments will be included in the Town's monthly bills and, after the loans are repaid, the Town expects to realize on-going savings of approximately $500.00 monthly.

      Mr. Angersola responded to several questions from Mr. Smith and the audience.

      Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, 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 to include A/C upgrades at the East Haddam Public Works and send the 48-month Agreement to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval.
Unanimous aye.

Ms. Govert recommended the public also look into the Eversource energy efficiency upgrades program for their homes.

D. Broadband Evaluation Committee Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

8. New Business

A. Chapman Falls Archeological Survey Grant Resolution: Mr. Smith reviewed the history of the Chapman Falls/Devils Hopyard area and the background for a grant request to do an archeological survey of the site. He stated that, given its history, the area has the potential for being designated as a national historic site. He added that the Town will not incur any expense from the project and that the grant is simply a pass-through situation.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Robert R. Smith, as First Selectman of the Town of East Haddam is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam a certain contract with the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development, and to affix the corporate seal, if any.

Unanimous aye.

B. Broadband Evaluation Committee Discussion: This item was discussed under Unfinished Business and it is reported on in the above minutes.

C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (BOFC): Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a letter from Jennifer Spencer, Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners, advising of an appointment recommendation made for the Commission. He then noted that several paid fire fighters had submitted an email regarding the recommendation.

Ms. Govert reviewed the email in which the paid fire fighters expressed their concern about adding another internal Fire Department candidate to the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Board members present agreed to postpone their approval of the Board's recommendation at this time.

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

E. Fire Department Hydraulic Equipment Disposal: Mr. Smith advised that the Fire Department had recently replaced its extrication equipment and he reviewed an email from Kyle Mosig asking if they could donate the old equipment to a fire department or Fire School in need.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to authorize the Board of Fire Commissioners to donate the East Haddam Fire Department's used extrication equipment to the Middlesex County Fire School to use as training equipment. Unanimous aye.

F. Fire Department Mobile Radio Disposal: Mr. Smith advised that the Fire Department had also upgraded to a high-band mobile radio system and would like to donate their old mobile radios to

another department that is using a low-band system. He noted that Craig Mansfield, Emergency Management Director and Radio Project Chairman, will work with Mike Scranton on the project of donating and distributing the radios to local towns in need of replacement.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to authorize the Board of Fire Commissioners to donate the East Haddam Fire Department's used mobile radios to other local departments that still use these mobile radios. Unanimous aye.

G. Fire Department Duty Car Disposal: Mr. Smith advised that the Fire Commissioners have deemed that the Fire Department's duty car is not safe for use and consequently the department is requesting the vehicle be used for training purposes with the new hydraulic tools. First Selectman Smith stated that he has requested that the Fire Department ensure that all equipment is removed from the vehicle, as well as any fluids that could leak or be a hazard, prior to using it for training.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to authorize the Board of Fire Commissioners to remove the 2004 Ford Crown Victoria car from service and utilize the vehicle for training with the new hydraulic tools. Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There were no public comments discussed at the meeting:

10. Selectmen's Discussion -

A. Liaison Reports: Mr. Smith reported that the Town has received a grant from the state to purchase 124 acres of open space on O'Connell Road Extension. He noted that the grant and open space purchase will have to go to a Public Meeting and referendum before being accepted/approved.

There were no other liaison reports discussed at the meeting.

B. Other: There were no additional subjects discussed by the Board.

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 7:42 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Govert, Secretary