Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
May 19, 2021
Via YouTube Live
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: R. Smith; T. Govert; C. Quinn
Also Present: E. Blaschik; 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 7:03 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of May 5, 2021 and Special Meeting of May 13, 2021

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 5, 2021 as written. Ms. Quinn abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 13, 2021 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from John Fournier, Youth & Prevention Services Coordinator, East Haddam Youth & Family Services, dated May 18, 2021. Mr. Smith noted Mr. Fournier had invited the Board to a Marijuana Lunch and Learn Session on May 26th to discuss proactive approaches to the likely legalization of marijuana in the state.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. COVID-19 Reopening Report: Mr. Smith reported that the Town's positive COVID alert code has dropped from red to grey. He noted that most of the surrounding towns are also coded grey or yellow.

      Mr. Smith noted that, although the state has eliminated most of its COVID-19 restrictions, CT Executive Order No. 12, issued May 18, 2021, permits exceptions to lifting the requirement for the use of face masks/coverings for some sectors including municipalities. Consequently, he stated that the Town will continue to require masks to be worn in all municipal buildings. He called the Board's attention to an email that was sent to "All Staff" earlier in the day advising of same.

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

Mr. Smith also reported the following:

- Significant progress has been made on the FEMA projects and the Foxtown and Johnsonville bridges.
- Public Works resumed street sweeping and is preparing several roads for re-paving.
- The Facility Department Grounds Crew has begun mowing Town lawns, including several cemeteries.

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

7. Unfinished Business

A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Smith noted that the Centerbridge Group will present its proposal for revitalizing the Goodspeed Village on May 20th at the High School Auditorium. He stated that, due to social distancing requirements, attendance at the meeting had to be limited and, since there is a waiting list for individuals who wanted to attend, a second presentation will be scheduled.

Mr. Smith noted that the presentation will be broadcast on live YouTube and recorded. He stated questions will be taken at the meeting and can also be submitted in writing.

B. Ordinance Amendment Request – Lake Hayward Speed Limit: Mr. Smith advised that the revisions to the Lake Hayward Speed Limit ordinance are being reviewed by the Town's attorney.

C. Broadband Evaluation Committee Discussion: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the applicants for this Committee. Mr. Smith discussed the benefits of broadband and reviewed the issues with internet coverage in the Town. In response to a question raised by Ms. Quinn, Mr. Smith provided a brief explanation of the difference between 5G and broadband as he understands it.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen appoint a committee of five (5) persons, effective May 20, 2021, to undertake and complete, within ninety (90) days of the date of their first meeting, a study and evaluation of the practicality of establishing broadband service and how to provide this service for the citizens and businesses of East Haddam. Members shall appoint a chairman and secretary at their first meeting. Members shall serve with no compensation. The Committee shall meet on a regular basis and their meetings shall be open to the public.

The Broadband Evaluation Committee will evaluate the pros and cons of establishing broadband service in the Town of East Haddam. The Committee will attempt to ascertain an estimated cost for this service and the best method to provide the service to the citizens. The Committee will evaluate and enumerate the potential savings to the citizens and the impact of improved internet service to the quality of life for our citizens. In so far as is possible, the Committee will judge the impact to the Town's finances by the establishment of broadband service and of the effect on economic development.

The Broadband Evaluation Committee may reach out to the Economic Development Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission and any other Town organization or department, as well as any outside agency or organization that they feel will assist them in their decision-making process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the following persons are appointed to said committee: Jon Biller, Judith Dobai, Michael Gilroy, Tom Hays and Thomas Sevigny.
Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

A. Gift Acceptance – Consumer Reports: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Jennifer Stockburger, Director, Auto Test Operations, Consumer Reports, Inc., dated May 4, 2021, advising of two payments in lieu of property taxes donations.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to accept a gift from Consumer Reports for the Senior Center in the amount of $10,000.00 for the Senior Meal Program and send acceptance of said donation to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to accept a gift from Consumer Reports on behalf of the Food Bank in the amount of $15,000.00 to assist servicing our citizens in need. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Smith stated that he would send a letter of thanks to Consumer Reports, on behalf of the Board, for its donations.

B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (BOFC, IWWC, WPCA)

Board of Fire Commissioners
Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to an email from Jennifer Spencer, Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners, dated May 14, 2021, noting the recommendation made for the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to appoint Timothy Reynolds to fill a vacancy, with a term to expire January 1, 2022, as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Unanimous aye.

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to copies of three letters in their meeting packets from IWWC Chairman Randy Dill, dated May 18, 2021, advising of recommendations made for reappointments to the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to reappoint Bryan Goff, Daniel Jahne and Mary Augustiny as regular members for two-year terms, to expire June 30, 2023, on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Unanimous aye.

Water Pollution Control Authority
Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to copies of five letters in their meeting packets from WPCA Chairman Andrew Lord, dated May 17, 2021, advising of recommendations made for reappointments to the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to change the status of John Russell from a regular member to an alternate member on the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term to expire on June 30, 2023. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to change the status of Richard Pettinelli from an alternate member to a regular member to fill a vacant position on the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term to expire on June 30, 2022. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to reappoint Edward Blaschik and Richard Fiala as regular members of the Water Pollution Control Authority for five-year terms to expire June 30, 2023. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to reappoint Robert Casner as a regular member of the Water Pollution Control Authority for a five-year term to expire June 30, 2026. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Refunds: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to two tax refunds.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to award tax refunds in the amount presented:

- $294.60 to Andrew Tarpill/Victor Medero, and
- $220.23 to JP Morgan Chase Bank.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: In response to a question from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Smith confirmed that reservations for the May 20th East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee and Centerbridge Group's presentation meeting are filled and a second session will be scheduled.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

B. Other

1. Village Revitalization Public Hearing (May 20, 2021 @7:00pm – High School Auditorium): Mr. Smith reminded the Board and attendees of the scheduled Public Hearing.
2. Annual Budget Town Meeting (May 25, 2021 @ 8:00pm – Town Meeting Hall): Mr. Smith reminded the Board and attendees of the scheduled Town Meeting.
3. Budget Referendum (June 8, 2021 – Municipal Office Complex): Mr. Smith reminded the Board and attendees of the scheduled Referendum.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made Mr. Smith by seconded by Ms. Quinn, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Govert, Secretary