Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
October 20, 2021
Via YouTube Live
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: R. Smith; T. Govert (remotely); C. Quinn
Also Present: D. Angersola; C. Beard; E. Blaschik; B. Dutch; M. Gleeson; J. Hendry; S. Palmer; B. Parker; K. Porter; T. Sevigny; A. Shaltiel; P. Stuhlman; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Smith called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 6, 2021 and Special Meeting of October 14, 2021

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2021 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 14, 2021 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   A. Letter of Appreciation – Police & Fire Department

      Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Sally Rose, dated October 8, 2021 advising him that she had been locked out of her house and that Karl Karabeinikoff and Eric Kolansinski had helped her gain access. The letter stated, in part, "*I am really grateful and surprised that they would take the time to respond so quickly. East Haddam is lucky to have them serving our town*".

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. Service Recognitions: Mr. Smith read correspondence from the following individuals thanking Ms. Quinn for her service as Selectwoman: Lucy Salicrup, Ron Gross, and Karl Karabeinikoff.

      Ms. Quinn read correspondence from the following individuals thanking Mr. Smith for his service as First Selectman: Susan Kinsman and Alan Ponanski, Joene Hendry and Ralph Chappell, Mary Ellen Klinck, Greg Coleman and Edwina Trentham, Pete Govert, and Mary Murphy.

      Ms. Govert expressed her appreciation for the service of both Mr. Smith and Ms. Quinn and read Proclamations that were issued in their honor.

Mr. Smith called for a short recess for refreshments at 7:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

B. COVID-19 Reopening Report: Mr. Smith reported that there had been no additional COVID related deaths in Town since the last meeting. He advised that East Haddam's risk category had risen to Orange but he expected it to go back down to Yellow by the end of the week. He noted that the state's positive COVID cases continues to be around 2%.

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

Mr. Smith also reported the following:

- Getaway has the roads for the campground roughed out and they are working very hard to get the underground systems put in place before the winter sets in.

- Price increases and delivery delays are impacting several of the Town's projects including the installation of several new guardrails and the Quint firetruck build.

6. Citizens' Concerns

Mr. Parker stated that he has worked with numerous Boards of Selectmen over the years and noted that members of the Board do not have a 9-to-5 work schedule but, rather, are on call 24-7. He said he appreciated this Board's service and thanked them for all the time and effort they put into the job.

7. Unfinished Business

A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee Update: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a copy of an article in their meeting packets, written by Jeff Riley and Mary Wilson, that is being published in the current issue of the East Haddam News. Mr. Smith read the article in its entirety which outlined the extended timeline for moving the Centerbridge Group's development proposal for the 1 and 7 Main Street property forward. In the article, Mr. Riley and Ms. Wilson stated, "*The delays have been costly*" and expressed their frustration at the "… *lack of leadership from the BOS …* [which is] *especially perplexing given the enthusiastic support we've received from various Town Committees*". The article concluded by noting the importance of the upcoming elections and stating that without "*Town leaders … who can wholeheartedly and proactively support the implementation of a financially viable project… we'll have to step aside and let others assume the challenge".*

Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a draft ordinance to establish a Redevelopment Agency in their meeting packets. He noted that it will be up to the next administration to move the ordinance forward.

B. State of Connecticut – Proposed Property Acquisition – Bridge No. 01138 Replacement Project: There was no new update on this agenda item.

C. New Library Study Committee Charge Discussion: Mr. Smith reported that, to date, the Town has received three applications for the six positions on the New Library Study Committee.

8. New Business

A. Open Space Endorsement Letter for East Haddam Land Trust Open Space Grant Application – Diana Saunders Property – 68 Acres, Honey Hill & Hedlund Roads: Mr. Smith stated that the Land Trust is submitting a grant to the State of Connecticut for funds to purchase the Saunders property and reviewed the boundaries of the parcel. He solicited comments from Land Trust members in the audience who spoke in favor of purchasing the property.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, that the Board of Selectmen support an application from the East Haddam Land Trust to the State of Connecticut's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program for funds to purchase the Diana Saunders Property, a 68 acres property on Honey Hill Road and Hedlund Road. Unanimous aye.

B. Transfer Station Fee Waiver – St. Stephen's Church: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a completed Transfer Station Fee Waiver Application in their meeting packets submitted by St. Stephen's Church.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the application to waive Transfer Station Fees for the St. Stephen's Church for wood from porch demolition and repair as requested in their October 14, 2021 application. Unanimous aye.

C. Purchasing Ordinance Options – Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding this agenda item. He explained that Don Angersola is interested in looking into Sourcewell, a purchasing cooperative, for the purchase of a generator for the Transfer Station. He further explained that the Town's purchasing ordinance requires the Board's prior approval to use this option.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to authorize the use of the Sourcewell, a purchasing cooperative program, to solicit for the purchase of qualifying equipment or supplies for the Town of East Haddam. Mr. Smith responded to several questions raised by Ms. Quinn and the motion passed by a unanimous aye vote.

D. East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Project Authorizing Resolution – Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Systems at East Haddam Elementary School, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School and Nathan Hale Ray High School: Mr. Smith stated that in order for the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Project Committee to begin work on the Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Systems at all three schools the Board of Selectmen must assign this duty to their charge.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the following resolutions for the Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Systems at East Haddam Elementary School, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School and Nathan Hale Ray High School and send the resolutions to Town Meeting for approval.

RESOLVED, The East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee is hereby assigned the Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Systems at East Haddam Elementary School, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School and Nathan Hale Ray High School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of East Haddam hereby authorizes the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Building Committee to develop schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Systems at East Haddam Elementary School, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School and Nathan Hale Ray High School.

Unanimous aye.

E. East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Project Charge Amendment Resolution: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets related to this agenda item. He noted that changes to the Resolution are noted as strikethroughs for deletions and underlines for added text.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn to add the Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Systems at East Haddam Elementary School, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School and Nathan Hale Ray High School to section 5 of the charge of the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee and send the resolution to Town Meeting for approval.

RESOLVED: That an East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee was established at Town Meeting on February 29, 2000 for the purpose of oversight and completion of Capital Improvements for the East Haddam Schools.

The East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Building Committee will be assigned projects for the East Haddam Schools by the Board of Selectmen when necessary.

Section 5. Approved/Assigned Committee Projects:

- Electrical upgrade at the East Haddam Elementary and Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle Schools (Completed)
- Roof replacement at the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School (Completed)
- Asbestos tile removal/tile replacement in the East Haddam Elementary School (Completed)
- Asbestos tile removal/tile replacement in the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School (Completed)
- Boiler Replacement/Asbestos Removal at the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School (Completed)
- Window Replacement at the Former Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School (Completed)
- Roof replacement at the East Haddam Elementary School (Completed)
- Fire Alarm System at the East Haddam Elementary School (Completed)
- Chimney Replacement at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School (Completed)
- Roof Replacement at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School (Completed)
- Water Supply System Replacement at the East Haddam Elementary School (Completed)
- Underground oil storage tank replacement at the East Haddam Elementary School (Completed)
- Exterior Restoration and Window Replacement at East Haddam Elementary School
- Athletic Complex at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School
- <u>Indoor Air Quality and HVAC Systems at East Haddam Elementary School, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School and Nathan Hale Ray High School</u>

Unanimous aye.

F. Chatham Heath District Representative: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to a copy of his letter of resignation as East Haddam's representative on the Chatham Health District's Board, effective November 3, 2021. He noted that his term is scheduled to end in December, 2022, and it would be the charge of the next Board of Selectmen to appoint a replacement to serve out the balance of his term.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to accept the resignation of Robert Smith as East Haddam's representative to the Board of Directors of the Chatham Health District effective November 3, 2021. Unanimous aye.

G. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (ETHICS, EHVRC, CONS): The following Board/Commission/ Committee changes were considered at the meeting:

Ethics Commission

Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to correspondence from the Ethics Commission, noting an appointment to their commission.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to appoint Valerie Almada to fill a vacant three-year term, expiring June 30, 2022 on the Ethics Commission. Unanimous aye.

East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee

Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to two resignations from the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to accept, with regret, the resignations of William Gerrish and Gerald Smith from the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Smith thanked both Mr. Gerrish and Mr. Smith for their dedication and service on the East Haddam Revitalization Committee.

Conservation Commission

Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to correspondence relating to changes on the Conservation Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Marilyn Gleeson from the Conservation Commission effective as of October 31, 2021. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to reappoint Gary Wilson, Bernie Gillis and Susan Pagnano as regular members for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2023 on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Gillis had recently received an award of excellence in stewardship from the Rockfall Foundation.

H. Tax Refunds: Mr. Smith called the Board's attention to one tax refund.

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

- $ 42.89 to Marilee Sarrazin.

Unanimous aye.

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

    B. Other: There were no other topics discussed by the Board.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Govert, Secretary