Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
December 15, 2021
Via YouTube Live
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert (remotely)
Also Present: A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; D. Dill; R. Dill; J. Moreau; L. Salicrup; L. Salicrup; T. Sevigny; A. Shaltiel; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines 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

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular of December 1, 2021

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 1, 2021, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. Blue Earth Compost Presentation: Ms. Haines advised that the presenter for Blue Earth Compost was not in attendance; consequently, this agenda item was postponed.

   B. Broadband Feasibility Study Presentation: Ms. Haines advised the presenter for the broadband issue was not in attendance; consequently, this agenda item was postponed.

6. Public Comment

   In response to a question raised by Ms. K. Blaschik, Ms. Haines advised that the three part-time police officers had not worked a schedule in over a year. She noted that all of the weekday shifts and most nighttime shifts have been covered by the full-time police officers and the Resident State Trooper; the weekends are generally covered by the State Police.

   Ms. Haines noted that there is a cost involved for uniforms, equipment, and training to maintain the part-time officers on staff and, therefore, after consulting with the Town's attorney, the part-time officers were notified that their positions had been eliminated and they were being laid-off. She stated one of the part-time officers reached out to her and the Town is working with him to re-classify him as retired. Ms. Haines stated that one full-time officer has also left the town's employ.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. L. Salicrup, Ms. Haines confirmed that the full-time police officers and Resident State Trooper are providing what she feels is appropriate coverage for the periods when most incidents occur.

Mr. R. Dill recommended having a regular update from the Resident State Trooper on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen's meetings.

7. Unfinished Business

   A. New Library Study Committee Charge Discussion: Ms. Haines advised that she has received six applications for the New Library Study Committee; however, she would like to wait a short while before making the appointments to see if there is a larger pool of qualified individuals that submit applications.

      Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to temporarily postpone appointing the members for the New Library Study Committee. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

   A. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee – Final Report: Mr. R. Dill reported that the Committee feels it has completed its charge and has no further reason to hold meetings. He provided some history of the Revitalization Committee's work and discussed several points in the Committee's charge and reviewed how each had been met. He noted that the Committee's charge stipulated it look for commercial development of the property and he feels the Centerbridge Group's (CBG) proposal fully addresses that criterion.

      Mr. Dill stated the Committee stands behind bringing the CBG proposal to a referendum and confirmed that CBG will only consider buying the property and is not interested in leasing it.

      Ms. Haines thanked all of the members of the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee for their work. She noted that she has reached out to all of the members of the Committee to ascertain their interest in serving on the board of the proposed Redevelopment Agency. Ms. Haines stated that she had received the Committee's final report and if anyone is interested in getting a copy, they can request one from the First Selectman's office.

   B. Grant Acceptance – FY 2022 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets from Joseph Cristalli, Jr., Transportation Principal Safety Program Coordinator, CT Department of Transportation, regarding approval of the Town's application for a Comprehensive DUI Enforcement grant.

      Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept a grant in the amount of $19,739.61 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, entitled "FY 2022 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program for Resident Trooper Towns", and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

   C. Long-Range Capital Improvements Committee Charge and Appointments: Ms. Haines advised that the Long-Range Capital Improvements Committee Charge requires a slight amendment and the Committee members need to be appointed.

      Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to recommend an amendment to the Long-Range Capital Improvements Committee charge resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on December 18, 2019:

RESOLVED: That a Long-Range Capital Improvement Committee (formerly Financial Needs Roundtable Committee) of seven (7) members be appointed for the purpose of identifying, researching, analyzing and evaluating the Town's long and short-term capital needs. Capital by definition includes major maintenance, repairs and replacements, as well as refurbishments of major equipment, acquisitions and improvements of buildings, land, roads and equipment. The Committee shall carry out its duties in accordance with the Board of Finance Capital Improvement Program Policy.

The Committee shall be composed of the First Selectman; the Chairman of the Board of Finance (or designee) and one other member of the Board of Finance not of the same political party; the Chairman of the Board of Education (or designee) and two other members of the Board of Education ~~**each**~~ from a different political party and the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission (or designee). This shall be a standing committee, and members shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen every two years coinciding with the Municipal election cycle. Members shall serve with no compensation. The First Selectman (or designee) shall Chair the Committee. The Committee shall meet quarterly or as needed and their meetings shall be open to the public.

The Committee shall invite advisory participants to their meetings as needed to include the Land Use Administrator, Director of Operations, Finance Director, Public Works Director, Economic Development Administrator, the Superintendent of Schools and any others as needed.

Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to appoint Irene Haines, Joseph Corbett, Harvey Thomas, Marc Pisciotti, Erik Anderson, Patricia Stricker and Crary Brownell to the Long-Range Capital Improvements Committee with terms to expire with the 2023 municipal election. Unanimous aye.

D. Board/Commission/Committee Change (GATEWAY, BOFC)

Connecticut River Gateway Commission
Ms. Haines noted that the candidate that had expressed interest in serving on this commission has decided not to apply for the position.

Board of Fire Commissioners
Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to an email in their meeting packets, dated December 8, 2021, from Commissioner Mansfield, stating that at the Board of Fire Commissioners December 7th meeting the Board voted to recommend the reappointment of Timothy Reynolds for a three-year term. Ms. Haines noted that Mr. Reynolds had previously been appointed to complete the unexpired term of former Commissioner Bogue.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Timothy Reynolds for his first full three-year term, to expire January 1, 2025, as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to two tax refunds.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to award tax refunds in the amounts as presented:

- $350.64 to Robert Andrews, and

- $555.28 to ACAR Leasing, LTC.
  Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

Amalia Shaltiel provided the Board with her written comments and read the following highlights at the meeting:

She thanked the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee for its work and suggested it was a good time to "*analyze what was problematic in their charge and performance*".

"The EHVRC's charge was limited to the municipal plot. The plan they presented us was far larger, beyond the scope of this charge, including quite a few other buildings in the town. But they only wanted us to vote on the part that was in their charge. Hopefully the Redevelopment Agency will be charged with a larger scope that will include the Master Plan for the village including the parking and traffic situation and the inclusion of other properties as part of that plan, so a developer does not have to do our job for us.

"Peopling the Redevelopment Agency with a wide variety of people, experts in development, but also an architect and a building or construction engineer, someone who has investment knowledge and someone who understands the implications of climate change on development; someone with outreach abilities and someone who resides in the Village; someone who commutes every day and a local business owner and someone from Goodspeed, would probably help create a more dynamic and knowledgeable Agency.

"The EHVRC did not have a budget to hire experts to evaluate the developers plans or to call in experts, or llhire someone to write a good grant for the Brownfield. Hopefully the Redevelopment Agency will have a budget.

"The EHRVC (sic) may have consulted with different stakeholders, but they did not consult with them about this iteration of the plan, or if they did, they did not publish this information or disseminate it to the public. I have no idea from EHRVC (sic) about Goodspeed's interests in this plan, nor have I heard about local businesses that have been consulted and their opinions. Nor have the public's opinion for this plan been published beyond a stance against the critics of the plan. Hopefully the Redevelopment Agency will be more proactive in their dialogue with ALL stakeholders beyond their meetings, creating opportunities for dialogue within community settings.

"As the EHRVC (sic) did not have a budget they relied in their review on estimates provided by the developer instead of having their own specialists review the project before bringing it to the town. Hopefully the Redevelopment Agency will have the ability of hiring experts.

"This should be addressed at an earlier stage as part of a Master Plan by the Redevelopment Agency, in order to avoid confusion. Again, this should not be the task of the developer.

"The EHRCV (sic) did not provide their own estimates but relied on the estimates provided by the developer. Hopefully the Redevelopment Agency can provide objective estimates and publicize them in a way that will reach a broad segment of the townspeople so they can understand the costs to the town.

"Hopefully, the Redevelopment Agency will research what is necessary to get a higher rating for Brownfield grants as part of a blighted area, and write a successful grant, so we do not have to rely on a developer to take care of this problem, and so will have more options open to us.

Ms. Haines thanked Ms. Shaltiel for her comments.

Mr. R. Dill, Chairman of the Village Revitalization Committee, had a brief response to some of Ms. Shaltiel's comments. He noted that the Committee, in conjunction with the Town, held several out-reach forums with the public and the Committee's regular meetings were always open to the public where they could share their comments and concerns. He stated that, as far as consulting with stakeholders and local businesses, he noted that the Committee did reach out to stakeholders and businesses and, in fact, the Chairman of the Economic Development Commission is a member of the Committee and he is closely in touch with local business owners on a regular basis who share their thoughts, concerns, and opinions with him.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

    B. Budget Calendar Discussion: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a draft 2022-2023 Budget Development Calendar in their meeting packets. She provided a brief overview of the calendar and encouraged the public to get involved early in the process. She noted the calendar is on the Town's website and will be updated as needed. She also advised that Clear.gov will have line-by-line budgetary information for each department and a will be available to the public during the 2022-2023 budget development process.

    Ms. Zemienieski recommended the Selectmen schedule five workshops in February and the Board discussed their availability. Ms. Zemienieski advised that she would create a potential schedule and circulate it to the Board members.

    C. Other: There was no additional Selectmen discussion at the meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary