Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
January 5, 2022
Via YouTube Live
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert
Also Present: A. Blaschik; E. Blaschik; K. Blaschik; D. Dill; S. King; 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 Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular of December 15, 2021 and Special Meting of December 27, 2021

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2021, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 27, 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 introduced Mr. King of Blue Earth Compost. Mr. King provided a brief overview of the company and its programs. He stated that Blue Earth is the largest food hauler in the State of Connecticut and noted that the company currently works with several of the surrounding towns, including Haddam and Middletown. He responded to several questions from the Board. Ms. Haines thanked him for his presentation and stated she is very interested in setting up a composting program in East Haddam. She stated that she will follow-up with Mr. King after she speaks with some of the towns that currently have composting programs.

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

6. Public Comment

   There was no public comment at this time in the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. New Library Study Committee Charge Discussion: Ms. Haines stated that she would like to give qualified individuals two more weeks to submit applications for the New Library Study Committee.

8. New Business

A. Acceptance of Donation through Neighborhood Assistance Act – ConnectiCare: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets from the State of Connecticut, NAA Program, advising of a donation from ConnectiCare, Inc. & Affiliates to the Town's Open Space Trust Fund.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept a donation in the amount of $5,000.00 from ConnectiCare, Inc., through the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program, for the Open Space Trust Fund and send acceptance to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, Ms. Govert provided clarification regarding how the Neighborhood Assistance Act operates.

Unanimous aye.

Ms. Haines stated that a letter of appreciation will be sent to ConnectiCare.

B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board/Commission/Committee changes discussed at the meeting.

C. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to three tax refunds.

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

- $306.23 to Toyota Lease Trust,
- $585.36 to Enterprise FM Trust, and
- $ 6.31 to Montie Houston.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

The following public comments were discussed at the meeting:

- In response to a concern raised by Ms. K. Blaschik, Ms. Haines confirmed that Finance Director Varricchio has accepted a position with the town of Preston and will end her employment with East Haddam at the end of January. She stated that she hopes the Town can fill her position before Ms. Varricchio leaves; however, Ms. Varricchio has offered to help out on a consulting basis in the meantime.

- Susan E. Kinsman submitted the following email:

"I am unable to attend your meeting tonight either in person or remotely. I have three questions:
1. What are our current Covid positive numbers in East Haddam?
2. Are masks being required in all municipal buildings regardless of vaccination status? If not, why not? Are meetings of municipal boards and commissions being moved to remote rather than

in person? If not, why not?
"With the high transmissibility of this virus, our leaders should do everything possible to protect the public and the vulnerable members of our community by limiting opportunities for exposure. "Thank you"

Ms. Haines advised that real-time Covid statistics for East Haddam could be found on the Town's website. She confirmed that masks are again being required in all municipal buildings and schools. She stated that Town meetings continue to broadcast on YouTube and it is up to the Board/Commission/Committee members and the public as to whether they will attend in person or remotely.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

    B. Budget Calendar Discussion: Ms. Haines reviewed the budget calendar. She advised that budget season will kick-off with a Tri-Board meeting on January 10th where there will be an overview presentation of ClearGov. She stated that the Town has a goal of a zero-based budget for 2022-2023 and encouraged the public to participate early in the budget development process.

    C. Other: In response to an inquiry from Mr. Dill, Ms. Haines reviewed the positions the Town is currently trying to fill. She advised that "open" positions are posted on the Town's website for a defined period of time. At the end of the posting period, the positions are "closed" to new applications but are not necessarily filled at that point in time. She stated that she expects to post the position of Finance Director by the end of this week.

    Ms. Zemienieski advised that open positions are also posted on external job-related websites as applicable.

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 7:50 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary