Meeting Minutes for the
7 PM, 9/9/21 Special Meeting of the
Board of Finance Communication Sub-committee

Approved MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Joe Corbett, Bruce Dutch, Todd Gelston
Staff Present: None
Guests Present: None

AGENDA
For the
9/9/21 BoF Communications Sub-committee Special Meeting
7 PM at the MOBC, Meeting Room #4

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes – December 9, 2020 Special Meeting
3. Discussion on adding a member of the Public to the Communications Sub-committee
4. Review potential subjects for communication articles
5. Review of the first DRAFT of the "Quint" article
6. Other subjects to discuss
7. Scheduling for the next Meeting
8. Adjournment

DISCUSSION

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM in Meeting Room 4.

The attendees reviewed the meeting minutes for the 12/09/20 Meeting. Bruce Dutch moved that the meeting minutes, as presented, be approved. Joe Corbett seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 was generated by a request heard at the August 24, 2021 Board of Finance (BoF) meeting that perhaps it would be a communication improvement to add a member of the Public to the Communications Sub-committee. The discussion on item 3 of the Agenda started with a statement that none of the Communications Sub-committee members had any initial objections to adding a member to the sub-committee who is not a member of the Board of Finance. However, during the discussion, these questions came to mind:

1. What have we been doing wrong that would be corrected by adding a non-BoF member to the sub-committee?
2. How would we choose a person to add to the sub-committee who would fairly represent the residents and taxpayers? We need to be careful to provide a balanced viewpoint. It was assumed that the potential new member would not be elected nor appointed.
3. Would it be better to invite an East Haddam News Reporter to attend the BoF meetings to cover the discussions and actions of the BoF?

4. Would it also be beneficial to continue to encourage residents and taxpayers to attend the BoF meetings and Communications Sub-committee meetings ?

After more discussion, the attendees reached a consensus on the following conclusions:

1. The Communications Sub-committee is not the target of this proposed improvement. Nobody has complained about the Sub-committee.
2. We need to better understand why the suggestion to add a non-BoF member was made. What is the complaint or problem we are trying to correct?
3. We are not sure that adding non-BoF member to the Communications Sub-committee is the right action to take for fair representation.
4. Communication can probably be improved by inviting the East Haddam News to attend our BoF meetings and/or our Communications Sub-committee meetings.
5. We need to continue to invite people to attend the BoF Meetings and the Communications Sub-committee meetings.
6. We are open to suggestions on how to improve BoF communication without adding a non-BoF member to the sub-committee.

Next, the attendees reviewed potential subjects for the next articles which are as follows:

- How the campaign for the "Quint" Fire Engine Grant was won.
- The FEMA Process explained
- The World of Municipal Government Financial Audits
- COVID-19 Funding is not forever and has strings

At the time of this meeting, the first DRAFT of the "Quint" article had not been completed. It will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Communications Sub-committee.

Lastly, the members tentatively scheduled the next meeting for Wednesday, 10/6/21.

Meeting was adjourned at 7: 39 PM.

The Meeting Minutes were written by Todd Gelston.