Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
February 2, 2022
Via YouTube Live
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert
Also Present: T. McCabe; J. Moreau; R. Saraco; A. Shaltiel; C. Varricchio; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 6:01 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: Special of January 19, 2022 and Regular Meeting of January 19, 2022

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 19, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 19, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   A. Memo from Town Clerk Regarding Number of Electors

      Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a memo in their meeting packets from the Town Clerk regarding the number of electors in Town. It was noted that the Town currently has 6950 registered voters.

   B. Letter of Appreciation

      Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to an email in their meeting packets from East Haddam Ambulance Association Chief Missy Cotter, dated January 30, 2022, complimenting the Public Works Department on the job they did during the previous weekend's storm. She read the email to the Board which stated, in part, "*Steve and his crew, as difficult as it was … kept the roads and Company 1 lot as clear as humanly possible … Along, with clearing assistance for the Petticoat Lane call."* Ms. Cotter's email also noted that, '*Chief Auld and his crew, provided clearing and removing assistance at the Petticoat Lane call as well*."

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. Budget Introduction Discussion: Ms. Haines recognized Cindy Varricchio who provided the Board with an overview of the layout of the budget books as well as the budget workshop process. She reviewed the difference between the Town's Capital Plan (a 10-year projection) and its Capital Budget (the approved capital items for a specific year). She reviewed the definition of

a capital item and advised that the Long-Range Capital Improvement Projects Committee is reviewing the existing requests for the current Capital Plan and ranking them. She called the Board's attention to, and reviewed, several related Board of Finance policies. Ms. Varricchio responded to several questions.

B. Blue Earth Composting Discussion: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of the town of Haddam's agreement with the Blue Earth Composting company. She noted that Haddam and Durham joined together to purchase eco-caddies for residents who expressed an interest in participating in the composting program and she suggested East Haddam might realize some buying power benefit by joining that group also. She noted that Haddam has experienced significant growth in the program in a relatively short period of time.

In response to a suggestion from Mr. Dill, Ms. Haines stated she would provide Public Works Superintendent Hedler and Transfer Station Foreman Mackenzie with the information also. She asked the Selectmen to review the materials and provide her with their thoughts and/or questions.

6. Public Comment

Erin Hermann stated that she is strongly opposed to opening a cannabis dispensary in Town. She stated that her 23-year-old son was killed in a head-on automobile collision because the driver of the other car was high on medicinal marijuana laced with PCP. She stated that it is her opinion that allowing the retail sales of marijuana in Town will have a tremendous negative impact and quoted a number of statistics that supported her belief. Ms. Haines thanked Ms. Hermann for her comments. She invited Mr. and Mrs. Hermann to attend the Public Hearing, following this meeting, that is being held for the purpose of obtaining the public's input regarding a proposed ordinance banning the sale, cultivation, and production of cannabis products in Town.

7. Unfinished Business

A. New Library Study Committee Charge Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed. At the recommendation of Mr. Dill, the Board agreed to table consideration of this agenda item until after the budget season concludes.

B. Retail Cannabis Discussion: Ms. Haines reviewed the background on this agenda item and noted that a Public Hearing for the purpose of obtaining the public's input regarding a proposed ordinance banning the sale, cultivation, and production of cannabis products in Town would immediately follow this meeting.

C. Property Tax Exemption Request: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

8. New Business

A. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board, Commission, or Committee changes considered at the meeting.

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

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

- $423.48 to Daimler Trust, and
- $296.51 to Matthew Vaccarino.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

In response to a question from Ms. Shaltiel, Ms. Haines clarified the charge/role of the proposed Library Committee. She stated their charge is exploratory in nature and the Committee will identify options for the Town's consideration.

Ms. Shaltiel also stated that she hopes the Sustainability Committee will be up and running before the end of the budget season.

Mr. Moreau noted existing structural issues with Firehouse Company #2's building. He stated that "structural renovations" were part of the Building Committee's charge for renovations to Company #1 and #2 several years ago. He pointed out that a budget of $504k was initially approved by the citizens but was subsequently increased by an additional $104k and, after allocating $608k for the work, Company #2's building is still structurally unsound.

Mr. Moreau also commented on the recent appointment of a new captain at the Fire Department. He reviewed previous staffing changes that resulted in the resignation of 5 of the 6 part-time firefighters, himself included. He noted that the poor performance of the captain appointed at that time resulted in the open position. He questioned what the motivation was to appoint a relatively new firefighter to the position over two well-qualified part-time firefighters who have served the Town well and who each have many years of experience.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

B. Other: There were no additional items discussed by the Selectmen.

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 6:56 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Dill
Secretary