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

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert
Also Present: D. Angersola; K. Comsky; D. Denette; D. Dill; R. Dill; J. Moreau; J. Olin; B. Reas; A. Shaltiel; J. Spurgeon; P. Stricker; L. Zemienieski; and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:02 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 Meeting of February 10, 2022, Special Meeting of February 12, 2022, Special Meeting of February 15, 2022, Special Meeting of February 16, 2022, Regular Meeting of February 16, 2022, Special Meeting of February 17, 2022, Special Meeting of February 19, 2022, and Special Meeting of February 23, 2022

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 10, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 12, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 15, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 16, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 16, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 17, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

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

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 23, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. Blue Earth Composting Discussion: Ms. Haines reviewed several pictures of the composting station at Haddam's transfer station. She provided an overview of their process and noted that the program has quickly grown from their original three bins.

      Ms. Haines provided information regarding the composting kits that residents can order and stated she will follow-up with the Town's Transfer Station staff to discuss the program.

6. Public Comment

   In response to a question raised by Ms. Stricker, Ms. Haines advised that the anticipated cost to the Town for Blue Earth to pick-up the compost material is approximately $60 per month. Ms. Govert provided additional information regarding the potential savings that the Town can realize by implementing a composting program.

   In response to a comment made by Ms. Shaltiel, Ms. Haines noted that the problems related to single-stream recycling are being experienced state-wide. There was a general discussion regarding the Boy Scout bottle return drop-off shed. Ms. Govert advised that the state is looking into waste management in general and reviewed the new nip-bottle fee which the state recently implemented.

7. Unfinished Business

   A. Retail cannabis Discussion: Ms. Haines noted that the Selectmen had agreed to postponed discussion of this agenda item; however, they had also agreed that they would like to couple a referendum on the proposed ordinance banning the sale, growing, and manufacture of cannabis products in East Haddam with the upcoming budget referendum. Consequently, she asked Mr. Dill and Ms. Govert to review the draft ordinance and provide her with their feedback as soon as possible so that they could move the draft ordinance forward in a timely fashion.

   B. Property Tax Exemption Request: In response to a request from Ms. Govert, Ms. Haines agreed to research the value of the property tax exemption in question and provide it at the Selectmen's next regular meeting.

8. New Business

   A. Bid Waiver – High School Oil Tank Removal & Replacement – Superintendent Reas presented the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Committee (EHSCIP) request for a bid waiver for the project to remove and replace the oil tank at the High School. He advised that CT DEEP had recently informed the BOE that the date they have for the installation of the current tank is 1/1/1993, consequently, the new tank should be in place by 1/1/2023.

      Mr. Reas stated that the EHSCIP is focused on replacing the in-ground tank with an above-ground tank which is a less expensive project. He noted that they have quotes from two reputable companies, Kropp Environmental Services for a fee of $233,910.00 and Pasqualini Construction, Inc. for a fee of $221,000.00, which both include environmental clean-up if necessary. Mr. Spurgeon, Chairman of the EHSCIP, provided additional information.

      In response to Mr. Dill's expressed concern about acquiring quotes when there are no written specifications to ensure the estimates are comparable, Mr. Angersola provided information about the process for securing the referenced quotes and stated that he is comfortable with the assessments of the work involved. He further advised that he has been unsuccessful in getting

two other companies to respond to his request for a quote. Mr. Reas and Mr. Spurgeon responded to several questions from the Board.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to waive the bid process for the Nathan Hale Ray High School oil tank removal and replacement and authorize the East Haddam Schools Capital Improvement Committee, Superintendent of Schools Brian Reas, and Director of Operations Don Angersola to negotiate with the vendor providing the lowest quote received, considering all of the specifications are equal for this project. Unanimous aye.

B. Redevelopment Agency Ordinance Discussion: Irene Haines advised that the draft Redevelopment Agency ordinance had been reviewed and signed-off on by the Town's general and bond counsels. Ms. Govert noted several corrections to the draft and recommended it also include language that the agency's meetings must be open to the public and that minutes of the meetings are required.

In response to a concern raised by Ms. Govert, Ms. Haines agreed to circle back with the attorneys and request clarification of the proposed agency's eminent domain authority. There was a general discussion regarding the scope of the property that will fall under the Redevelopment Agency's responsibility and Ms. Haines noted that an applicable map of the area will be included as part of the proposed ordinance.

C. Grant Acceptance – Community Foundation of Middlesex County: Ms. Haines reviewed the particulars of the $5,000.00 grant that had been awarded to the East Haddam Library system by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Since East Haddam has two libraries each library was awarded $2,500. There was no application process and there are no matching requirements. This stipulation of the grant is to do something fun.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to accept a grant in the amount of $5,000.00 from the Peach Pit Foundation/Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the East Haddam Library System, and send said grant to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

D. Sustainable CT Discussion/Resignations/Appointments: Ms. Haines stated that she had received several letters of resignation and applications for membership on East Haddam Sustainability Team.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept, with regret, the resignations of Robert Smith and Candice Nero from the East Haddam Sustainability Team. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Haines, seconded by Mr. Dill, to appoint George Willauer, Edwina Trentham, Greg Coleman, Kayle Lopez, David Oakes, Bruce Dubay, Adam Bristol, and Theresa Govert to the East Haddam Sustainability Team to serve until the desired certification level has been achieved. Ms. Govert recused herself from the vote and the motion passed with a majority of ayes.

E. Cemetery Committee Discussion/Appointments: Ms. Haines advised that she had received a number of applications for the Cemetery Committee.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to appoint Alison Guinness and Richard Pettinelli as members of the Cemetery Committee for one (1) year terms, to expire on June 30, 2023, and Crary Brownell, Debra Denette, and Karl Sofko as members of the Cemetery Committee for two (2) year terms, to expire on June 30, 2024. Unanimous aye.

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

G. Tax Refunds: There were two tax refunds presented at the meeting.

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

- $176.55 to Robert and Diana Wright, and
- $132.28 to Elizabeth Schwenk.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

In response to an inquiry raised by Mr. Moreau, Ms. Haines stated she would look back at the questions he raised at the February 16th meeting and get back to him with her responses.

Ms. Dill advised that she had the property tax amount that is related to the agenda item 7B – Property Tax Exemption and Ms. Haines requested she forward her the information.

In response to questions raised by Mr. John Olin, Ms. Haines advised that the proposed ordinance establishing a Redevelopment Agency will not be posted on the Town's website until it has been approved to go to Town Meeting by the Board of Selectmen. She noted; however, that the draft is a boilerplate version of the language in the state's legislation. She further stated that the draft ordinance does not stipulate specific qualifications for members of the agency.

In response to concerns raised by Ms. Shaltiel, Ms. Haines advised that the Planning & Zoning Commission has pre-determined parking requirements with which new business developments must comply.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

B. Other: There was no other Selectmen's discussion at the meeting.

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11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss the meeting at adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary