Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
August 17, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert (remotely)
Also Present: E. Blaschik; D. Dill; R. Funk; D. Southworth; J. Ventres; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski; and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:03 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 Meeting of August 3, 2022

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. Update on Request to Create an Ordinance Regarding Term Lengths for Elected Officials

      Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a summary of the Charter revision/adoption process provided by the Town's attorney, dated August 11, 2022. She stated that she feels the best approach to address the recommendations made by Town Clerk Denette, including changing the term lengths for elected offices, is to adopt a Charter. She advised that she is planning on establishing a new Charter Committee.

      Ms. Haines solicited input from the other Board members who had stated they had no comments or questions at this time

   Ms. Haines also reported the following:

   - The state reopened the section of Town Street near the Town Office Building and all work is expected to be finalized by October 31.
   - The state's Strong Brook project is on schedule to be completed by August 29.
   - A traffic impact survey related to the Swingbridge project was done and Ms. Haines reviewed the planned closures schedule.

- The state has declared a Stage 2 drought for Connecticut and Ms. Haines reviewed recommended water restrictions; Ms. Zemienieski advised that the Town has temporarily suspended issuing open burning permits.

- Speed monitors continue to be used throughout the Town and they seem to be slowing drivers down.

- Regarding the Ambulance Association: the Town's attorney will be submitting a final Agreement for the Association's sign-off, and the Town's Emergency Management Services and the Fire Commissioners have expressed concern about the resignations of the Association's Chief and Deputy Chief, effective August 31.

- The Redevelopment Agency has been established and their first meeting is scheduled for August 31.

Ms. Haines introduced Mr. Robert Funk, the Town's new Finance Director. She stated that Mr. Funk's previous position was as the Finance Director for the New London Board of Education.

6. Public Comment

Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from Mr. Jay Moreau, dated August 3, 2022, which was submitted as a public comment She read Mr. Moreau's email to the Board which reiterated his concern about the Fire Department serving alcohol at the planned Quint Wet Down.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Broadband Discussion: Ms. Govert called the Board's attention to a draft Resolution to establish a Broadband Feasibility Committee in their meeting packets which included a potential charge for the committee. She advised that several individuals have expressed interest in serving on the committee, but she is still looking for a representative from the business community to serve on the committee. In response to a comment from Ms. Zemienieski, Ms. Govert confirmed that she would have all of the potential committee members submit an application to the Town.

There was a general discussion regarding extending the proposed deadline for the Committee to submit a master plan for the Town's consideration from 90 days to 120 days.

B. Disposition of Engine 2-15 Discussion: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to correspondence in their meeting packets from the Board of Fire Commissioners, dated August 16, 2022, responding to questions the Board raised during their August 3, 2022 meeting regarding putting Engine 2-15 back into service. The Commissioners' letter advised that the cost for putting the fire truck back into service would be $22,500, which would be covered by the Department's 2022-23 operating budget, donations and fundraising.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the request to retain Engine 2-15 as part of the Fire Department's apparatus. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

A. Bid Discussion – Boat for Marine Patrol: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a memo in their meeting packets from Officer David Southworth, dated August 17, 2022, requesting the board "… *reopen the bid waiver process for the replacement of the patrol boat*". Officer Southworth's memo noted that the boat had been put out to bid, as requested by the Board of

Selectmen, but no bids were received. Ms. Haines also noted an email she had submitted to Chief Auld regarding their conversation confirming that the Fire Department does not think it is a "viable option" to share their rescue boat with the police.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to waive the bid process and follow the recommendation of the Police Department to negotiate with DinghyPro and purchase a new boat, motor and trailer for marine patrol not to exceed the amount quoted of $45,195.00.

Mr. Dill noted that he had not suggested the Fire Department share its rescue boat with the Police Department but, rather, turn it over to the Police Department since he was not certain the craft was appropriate for use as a rescue boat. Officer Southworth noted that the Fire Department boat would be too heavy to be towed with the police cruisers which is why they were looking to purchase an inflatable boat. The motion passed by unanimous ayes.

B. Open Space Discussion – Kronberg Property – North Moodus Road: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets from the Open Space Commission and she recognized Mr. James Ventres.

Mr. Ventres reviewed the Commission's request to submit an application for a grant to Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental (DEEP) for the Kronberg property. He advised that the Kronberg property is on North Moodus Road, contiguous to the Middle School, and is actively farmed. He stated that while the Commission would like to purchase all 95+/- acres, and designate the majority of the property as open space, it recommends setting aside 21 acres across from the Middle School for future municipal use. Mr. Ventres stated that DEEP typically provides grant funds of 30% to 65% of eligible contract price for open space purchases.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Ventres stated that there is a balance of $485,650 in Town's open space funds and that the impact of the proposed purchase of the Kronberg property on the grand list would be nominal. There was a general discussion regarding the fact that the first $5M bond authorization for open space was approved approximately 20 years ago and is now almost depleted, and Mr. Ventres confirmed that, consequently, the Open Space Commission would like the Town to consider taking steps to approve another open space bond authorization.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, that the Board of Selectmen support an application to the State of Connecticut's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program for funds to purchase the Kronberg property as described in the July 2022 document submitted by the East Haddam Open Space Commission. Unanimous aye.

C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (IWWC)

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from IWWC Chairman Randy Dill, noting the Commission's recommendation for reappointments to the Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Randolph Dill and Jennifer Burton-Reeve as regular members for two-year terms to expire July 1, 2024 on the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission. Unanimous aye.

D. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to five tax refunds.

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

- $505.33 to ACAR Leasing LTD,
- $ 48.70 to Joanne Thereau,
- $ 38.53 to David Edgington,
- $535.82 to ACAR Leasing LTD, and
- $605.16 to David Milak.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

There was no additional public comment discussed at the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

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

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss Mr. Dill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary