Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
October 5, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert
Also Present: E. Blaschik; D. Dill; R. Dill; 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

   Ms. Haines advised that she would like to add an Executive Session for legal matters at the end of the Agenda.

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of September 7, 2022

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Jane Brawerman, Executive Director of the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc., dated September 21, 2022. Ms. Haines reviewed the letter which enclosed a Certificate of Appreciation for East Haddam's "….*annual contribution and continued support…*".

5. First Selectmen's Report

   Ms. Haines reported the following:

   - A Public Works Director has been hired and will begin work on October 17, 2022, the Human Resources Director has returned from sick leave, and the Board of Education has hired a business manager; as a result, the Town is close to fully staffed.
   - Due to mechanical issues, the Swingbridge must be opened manually; consequently, starting October 6th, until further notice there will only be two scheduled openings daily.

6. Public Comment

   Mr. Blaschik noted that the notices being circulated advising of traffic flow impacts resulting from the work on the Swingbridge are not always accurate. He stated that he believes people will stop relying on the notices if they feel they cannot depend on the information they convey.

   Mr. Blaschik also noted that the regular 1:00pm weekday openings are having a negative impact on Goodspeed patrons who must cross the bridge to attend matinee performances. Ms. Haines stated she would contact CT DOT to see if the 1:00pm weekday schedule can be modified to another time.

7. Unfinished Business

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

      Ms. Haines stated that she feels this topic can be broken up into three sections: (1) identify which elected officials and which Boards/Commissions would benefit by a change to their current term periods, (2) consider the pros and cons of creating a transitional period for elected officials by establishing an overlapping period for incoming and outgoing officials and make a recommendation, and (3) determine which of the proposed changes can be made through an ordinance and which would require a charter to effect the change.

      Mr. Dill suggested that an additional topic to consider would be whether or not imposing term limits for any of the elected and/or appointed positions would be beneficial.

      There was a general discussion by the Board and the general consensus was that, for most of the elected positions, 2-year terms are too short and their preference was for 4-year terms. Ms. Haines solicited input from several of the elected officials and commission chairman present at the meeting. Ms. Haines stated she would get input from the Town's attorney regarding the appropriate way to make amendments to the term lengths of the Town's Treasurer, Tax Collector, and Town Clerk.

   B. Moodus Mud Mobile Café Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

8. New Business

   A. Renewal of Agreement with Middlesex Hospital for Paramedic Services: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a letter from Middlesex Hospital's EMS Manager Santacroce, dated September 1, 2022, regarding the per capita charge for Paramedic Services to the Town She noted that there is no change to the charge and the Amendment to the Agreement extends the term of the Agreement by one year.

      Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, that Irene M. Haines, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign a one-year renewal of the Agreement with Middlesex Hospital for Paramedic Services with a term from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Unanimous aye.

   B. Nutmeg Nor'easter Event Approval: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets related to this agenda item. She advised that Jess Stone is coordinating the event for October 2023 and, therefore, no action is necessary at this time.

   C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (PZC, REC, RiverCOG)

      Planning and Zoning Commission

      Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a letter from P&Z Chairman Crary Brownell, dated September 28, 2022, advising of the Commission's unanimous support to recommend an appointment to their Commission.

      Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to appoint ToniMarie Dumaine to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill a vacant alternate term to expire with the 2023 municipal election. Unanimous aye.

      Recreation Commission

Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of draft minutes from the August 22nd Recreation Commission meeting noting recommendations for reappointments to their Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Michael Davis and Patrick Laffan as regular members for three-year terms to expire July 1, 2025 on the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Ms. Haines stated that Recreation Director Conroy informed the Selectman's Office that Mr. Carbo has declined reappointment to the Commission. The Board thanked Mr. Carbo for his volunteer work.

Regional Planning Committee (RiverCOG)

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Louis Salicrup as an alternate member of the RiverCOG Regional Planning Committee. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to appoint Debbie Langdon as an alternate member of the RiverCOG Regional Planning Committee. Unanimous aye.

Connecticut River Gateway Commission (RiverCOG)

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to appoint Debbie Langdon as an alternate member to fill a vacant two-year term to expire June 30, 2024 on the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Unanimous aye.

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

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

- $516.17 to ACAR Leasing LTD,
- $664.88 to Enterprise FM Trust,
- $862.54 to Vault Trust,
- $105.42 to Vault Trust,
- $751.51 to CCAP Auto Lease LTD, and
- $357.79 to Honda Lease Trust.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment:

Regarding the potential number of members on the Board of Selectmen, Randy Dill commented that state statutes allow for up to six Selectmen for towns with populations over 10,000.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison Reports: Ms. Govert reported that the Broadband Committee has met twice; most recently with EntryPoint. She expects them to start to move forward with next steps.

Mr. Dill reminded Ms. Haines to discuss the Town's driveway bond program with Michele Velez, the incoming Public Works Director.

B. Other: In response to an inquiry by Mr. Dill, Ms. Haines confirmed that the tallies on the Police report for "traffic citations" is for tickets given to motorists and "warnings" are all written warnings, exclusive of verbal warnings.

C. Executive Session – Legal Matters:

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to enter into executive session at 7:48 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Unanimous aye.

Selectmen returned to regular session at 8:20pm. No motions or decisions were made.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Haines, seconded by Mr. Dill, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary