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

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert
Also Present: L. D'Aquila; E. Blaschik; J. Shea; L. Zemienieski; and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:01 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 October 19, 2022

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 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 The Connection, Inc., thanking the Town for its donation of $650.00 for FY2021-2022 for The Eddy Shelter in Middletown, The Connection's emergency housing program.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   Ms. Haines reported the following:

   - Regarding the Swingbridge project:
     - A change from 20 tons to 16 tons was approved.
     - East Haddam and Haddam emergency services teams met to discuss the management of regular and mutual aid calls during the project.
     - The Chamber of Commerce advised that the bridge will be closed to traffic on November 11th from 11:30 pm until 8:00 am on November 12th; however, this has not yet been confirmed by CT DOT.
   - The Broadband Feasibility Committee has released a survey to the public; it is on the Town's website and also out on Facebook.

6. Public Comment

Ms. D'Aquila, Board President of the East Haddam Ambulance Association, reviewed the current statistics for emergency calls. She noted that, due to staffing challenges, mutual aid calls have increased from 5% to 10%, and commented that surrounding towns are having the same issues. She advised that repairs on their second ambulance have been completed and it is now back in service. She also reported that Medicare/Medicaid calls are reimbursed at a significantly lower rate than regular calls and that has had an impact on their revenues.

Ms. D'Aquila advised that there is currently a two-year lead time for acquiring new ambulances. In response to a question raised by Ms. Haines, she stated that the cost for a new ambulance is between $250k and $300k.

7. Unfinished Business

   A. Update on Request to Create an Ordinance Regarding Term Lengths for Elected Officials Discussion: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

   B. Nutmeg Nor'easter Event Approval: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

8. New Business

   A. Bid Award -Winter Sand for Snow and Ice Control: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of a recommendation letter in their meeting packets from Michele Velez, Public Works Director, regarding this year's purchase of the Town's sand for snow and ice control; the recommendation is pending testing on the sand. She stated that Director Velez advised that an additional vendor would not be necessary as a second back up this year because of the quantity of sand currently on hand.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to award the bid for the purchase of Sand for Snow and Ice Control to Hubert E. Butler Construction, Co. LLC in the amount of $25.40/cubic yard subject to documentation that the sand is in compliance with the Town's specifications and that the insurance requirements for the award are satisfied. Unanimous aye.

   B. Fee Schedule fort Contracted Snow Plowing: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of a memo in their meeting packets from Michele Velez, Public Works Director, dated November 2, 2022, providing a summary of quotes received and her recommendation for snowplowing prices for the winter.

   Ms. Haines explained that this was the process used to set the fee schedule for different size trucks for contracted snow removal. She noted that if we used contractors other than the ones who submitted prices, they would be paid at the set rates.

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director and set the snow plowing rates as follows: Between 10,000 and 25,999 GVW with sander-$165.00 per hour. Unanimous aye.

Ms. Govert advised that UConn will be holding a Green Snow Pro seminar for municipalities. She stated that Green Snow Pro is a best-practices program on how cities and towns can safely apply sand and salt to the roads which generally results in a lower cost to the municipality.

C. Grant Acceptance – FY 2023 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets from Joseph Cristalli, Jr., Transportation Principal Safety Program Coordinator, CT Department of Transportation, regarding approval of the Town's application for a Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program grant.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to accept a grant in the amount of $19,568.42 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, entitled "FY 2023 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program for Resident Trooper Towns", and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

D. 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant Resolution: Ms. Haines advised that the Town submits for this grant annually and it requires an authorizing resolution from the Board of Selectmen for the chief executive officer to sign the application.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Irene M. Haines, as First Selectman of the Town of East Haddam is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents. Unanimous aye.

E. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (CC, ZBA)

Conservation Commission

Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to an email from the Conservation Commission Chairman noting a recommended appointment to their commission.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to appoint W. Cameron Beard as an alternate member to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2023. Unanimous aye.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from the Zoning Board of Appeals recommending a number of reappointments to the board.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Gregory Daigle as a regular member for a five-year term to expire January 2025 on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to reappoint William Smith and Diane Quinn as regular members for five-year terms to expire January 2026 on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Richard Fiala as a regular member for a five-year term to expire January 2027 on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to reappoint James Fennema as an alternate member for a five-year term to expire January 2026 on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

F. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to one tax refund.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to award a tax refund in the amount presented:

- $274.89 to Bonnie Wittman.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no additional public comment brought up for discussion at the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison Reports: Ms. Govert reported that the Sustainability Team had achieved the Bronze certification from Sustainable CT. She noted that she and Ms. Shaltiel will attend a presentation ceremony on November 14th. Ms. Haines expressed her appreciation for the good work the Team is doing.

In response to a question from Ms. Zemienieski, Ms. Govert stated that she and Ms. Shaltiel will draft a press release regarding the Town achieving the Bronze certification.

B. 2023 Board of Selectmen Meetings: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

C. Other: Ms. Haines called the Board's and public's attention to the following events:

1. Elections – Municipal Office Complex (11/8/22 from 6:00am to 8:00pm)
2. Stuff a Cruiser Event – Municipal Office Complex (11/19/22 from 10:00am to 2:00pm)

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 7:33 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary