Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
December 21, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert
Also Present: D. Angersola; W. Barney; D. Barlow; J. Bielot; M. Callahan; D. Dill; E. Dillon; J. Leatherbee; M. Lehmacher; M. Mazur; C. McCarthy; M. Sullivan 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

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of December 7, 2022

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

4. Correspondence

   A. Email from Friends of Machimoodus-Sunrise: Ms. Haines advised that she had received correspondence from the Friends of Machimoodus-Sunrise advising that they had received a $15,000.00 grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for their invasive plant eradication project.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   Ms. Haines reported the following:

   - She has conferred with CT DEMHS and the Town's Emergency Management team regarding preparations for the anticipated severe winter weather event.

   - CT DOT will be closing the Swingbridge to vehicular traffic from January 4th to the 20th, on Mondays through Fridays, between the hours of 7:00 pm through 6:00 am.

   A. New Library Study Committee Final Report Presentation: Ms. Haines recognized Mr. William Barney, Chairman of the New Library Study Committee.

Mr. Barney introduced the Committee members in attendance and acknowledged all the support they had received from Town employees. He reviewed how the Committee had reached its conclusions and summarized the report that they had submitted.

Mr. Barney stated that the existing libraries are not ADA compliant, and it would be very costly to retrofit them for 21st century use. He advised that the Committee recommends selling the two buildings and using the funds to build a new library. He noted that state guidelines recommend a 16,000 sf facility for a town the size of East Haddam and the Committee's recommendation is to construct a one-level building. He reviewed a prioritized list of potential locations that the group had identified for a new library.

Ms. Haines thanked the Committee for their work and Mr. Barney and the Committee members responded to several questions. Mr. Barney stated that the next steps are for the Town to look into forming a New Library Building Committee.

6. Public Comment

Dawn Barlow, a Library Trustee, complimented the work the New Library Study Committee had done and encouraged the Town to keep moving forward to make a new library facility a reality.

Michael Callahan stated that given the expected proceeds from the potential sale of the Town's two libraries, plus savings realized from avoided upgrades to the existing buildings, and possible grant funding, building a new library facility makes financial sense.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Update on Request to Create an Ordinance Regarding Term Lengths for Elected Officials Discussion: Ms. Haines advised that there was no new material update on this agenda item. In response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, she stated she would like to make all the ordinance-related changes the Board's initial priority.

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

C. Cemetery Committee Letter & By-Laws: Ms. Haines advised that the draft Cemetery Committee by-laws are being reviewed by the Town's attorney.

D. Request for Proposal for Architectural/Engineering Services for Company 2 Renovations Discussion: Ms. Haines reported that the Fire Commissioners had interviewed representatives from the company that had submitted the high bid for the architectural/engineering services for Company 2 renovations and had advised that their original recommendation to award the bid to Silver Petrucelli & Associates and request funding of $175,000.00 stands.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Haines, to forward the Fire Commissioners recommendation to award the bid for architectural/engineering services

for Company 2 renovations to Silver Petrucelli & Associations and allocate $175,000.00 to cover the cost of the bid plus any reimbursable expenses and required temporary repairs to the Board of Finance for approval. Ms. Haines and Ms. Govert voted aye; Mr. Dill voted nay. The motion passed by a majority of ayes.

8. New Business

   A. Road Acceptance – Taylor Lane: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

   B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (BOFC)

      Board of Fire Commissioners

      Ms. Haines advised that the Board of Fire Commissioners met earlier in the day and provided her with their recommendation to replace Bruce Dutch whose term on the Commission is expiring. Ms. Haines thanked Mr. Dutch for his service on the Board of Fire Commissioners.

      Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to appoint John Cotter to the Board of Fire Commissioners, effective January 1, 2023, with a first three-year term to expire January 1, 2026. Unanimous aye.

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

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

      - $76.93 to VW Credit Leasing LTD.

      Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

   In response to a question raised by Mr. Jim Leatherbee, Ms. Haines confirmed that the proposed Cemetery Committee by-laws relate to Town cemeteries only.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

   A. Liaison Reports: Ms. Govert advised that the Broadband Committee will be submitting their report to the Town shortly.

   B. Other

      1. Budget Calendar: Ms. Haines reviewed the proposed budget calendar with the Board and no scheduling conflicts were noted.

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 7:50 pm. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary