Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
January 9, 2023
Special Meeting Minutes
Tri-Board Meeting

In attendance:

Board of Selectmen Members: Irene Haines, First Selectman; Erik Dill; Theresa Govert

Board of Finance Members: Tracey Gionta, Chairman; Bruce Dutch, Secretary; Joseph Corbett; Todd Gelston; Harvey Thomas; Rebecca Whatley

Board of Education Members: Patricia Stricker, Secretary; James Francese; Terri Garrity; Keira Thompson; Laurel White

Also Present: Brian Reas, Superintendent of Schools; Rob Funk, Finance Director; Maureen Goff, Town Treasurer; Cindy Hughson, School Business Manager; Craig Mansfield, Board of Fire Commissioners; Donald Angersola, Facilities Director and other members of the public

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

   Ms. Gionta called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the pledge of allegiance.

   The Board of Selectmen and Board of Education called their meetings to order concurrently.

   APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   Motion made by Mr. Thomas to approve the agenda as written. Mr. Gelston seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

2. Tri-Board Meeting, 2023-2024 Proposed Budget-Boards of Finance, Education and Selectmen

   A. Review and Discussion: Ms. Gionta reviewed the annual budget process and encouraged the public to submit comments/questions/concerns early in the process.

      <u>Board of Selectmen</u>

First Selectman Haines provided an overview of how the Town moves through the budget process. She also encouraged the public to provide their input before the Boards get too far into the budget development meetings.

Ms. Haines reviewed current events, the Town's cost drivers and areas of focus. She responded to questions from the Board and there was a brief discussion about current and upcoming union negotiations and work being done to get several Town projects shovel-ready for grant opportunities. In response to a question from Ms. Whatley, Ms. Haines advised that the Town has posted the Library Director position and, currently, the two libraries are being directed by their branch managers.

Board of Education

Mr. Reas reviewed the BOE's budget development process and stated that the project will begin on January 10th when he presents his proposed budget to the Board. He provided an overview of the public schools' accomplishments, priorities, anticipated capital projects, and budget drivers.

Mr. Reas responded to several questions from the Board and agreed to research how the East Haddam schools' statistics compare to the national averages and provide the BOF with his findings. The group discussed the certifications and scheduling of school resource officers.

B. Guests and Audience Comments

Maureen Goff, Town Treasurer, expressed her concerns regarding the Board of Education's accounts payable check sign-off process and read a prepared statement. In response to a question from Ms. Haines, Ms. Goff stated that she had not requested to be removed from the BOE's Liberty Bank accounts.

3. Adjournment: The Boards of Selectmen and Education adjourned their meetings at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/
Erik Dill, Secretary