

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
May 17, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines (remotely); E. Dill; T. Govert (remotely)
Also Present: K. Conover; L. D'Aquila; N. D'Aquila; D. Dill; D. DiStefano; J. Moreau; L. Zemienieski;
and other members of the public

1. Selectman Dill 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 Ms. Haines, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of May 2, 2023

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Haines, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 2, 2023, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Dill read the following correspondence:

- A letter from Joene Hendry with recommendations on how to move forward with the proposal to replace the East Haddam Ambulance Association with a hybrid program under the direction of the Fire Department.

Ms. Haines thanked Ms. Hendry for her comments and suggestions.

- A letter from Amalia Shaltiel suggesting the Town use ARPA funds to shore up the East Haddam Ambulance Association (EHAA).

Ms. Haines thanked Ms. Shaltiel for her comments.

- A letter from Laurel White expressing her concern about the lack of clarity in the proposed FY2023-24 budget with respect to the proposed hybrid version of emergency medical services.

Ms. Haines thanked Ms. White for her comments.

5. First Selectman's Report: The First Selectman's report was postponed.

6. Public Comment

The following public comment was discussed:

- Denise DiStefano read a prepared statement regarding the Town's proposal to create a hybrid emergency medical services program, under the direction of the Fire Department, to replace the EHAA. She expressed her concern that, in her opinion, the decisions regarding this matter have not been made in a public format. In response to several questions raised by Ms. DiStefano, Ms. Haines confirmed that the selection committee for the RFP had met earlier in the day and that one responder had been disqualified. She also provided clarification about how the Town plans to move forward regarding the how emergency medical services are provided to citizens and how changes to the budget will be made to support whatever decision is made.

Ms. Zemienieski provided information from the statute that governs Freedom of Information requests regarding responses to RFPs. Ms. Haines confirmed that she has received a lot of public input regarding the situation and she will continue to let the residents of the Town continue to participate in the discussion regarding the EHAA.

- Jay Moreau advised that he had attended the May 15th information meeting regarding the Town's proposal to move emergency medical services under the direction of the Fire Department and stated that he was very upset about the way the officials from the Fire Department treated Ms. D'Aquila. He stated that he supported the proposed hybrid model for emergency medical services; however, he does not believe it will be successful under the current Fire Department leadership.
- Laurie D'Aquila commented on the unprofessional tone at the May 15th information meeting and reviewed financial figures that she believed were more realistic for the proposed hybrid ambulance service. She stated that she feels the information provided at the meeting was truthful and that the public is upset with the situation. Ms. D'Aquila proposed a moratorium so that the Town can establish an objective committee to consider solutions.

Ms. Haines noted that she and Ms. D'Aquila are scheduled to meet with an arbitrator next week and that next steps will be considered at that time.

7. Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business discussed at the meeting.

8. New Business

- A. Memorandum of Agreement with Town of Hebron Regarding Police Accountability Act: Ms. Haines provided background information about the Police Accountability Act and accreditation. She called the Board's attention to a Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Hebron to share the services of Officer Jeffrey Rhoades as the Accreditation Manager for East Haddam and Hebron as part of the State of Connecticut's Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Haines, that Irene M. Haines, the First Selectman, be and is herewith authorized to execute a Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the Town of East Haddam with the Town of Hebron as part of the State of Connecticut's Law Enforcement Accreditation Program to share the services of Officer Jeffrey Rhoades as the Accreditation Manager for the Towns of East Haddam and Hebron. The terms of the agreement shall remain in effect until Officer Rhoades completes the accreditation for East Haddam and Hebron.

Unanimous aye.

- B. RFP Award – Tax Increment Financing Consultant: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to an email from Melanie Kolek, Chairman of the Redevelopment Agency regarding award of proposal for a Tax Increment Financing Consultant.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Haines, to accept the recommendation of the Redevelopment Agency and award the contract for a Tax Increment Financing Consultant to Camoin Associates per their proposal for Phase I - \$18,260 and Phase II - \$23,995 (if approved by the Redevelopment Agency to proceed with the project based on the outcome of Phase I), for a total amount of \$42,255. Unanimous aye.

- C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (AGC)

Agriculture Commission

Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to minutes from the Agriculture Commission meeting of 9/12/22 recommending a change in membership.

Motion made by Ms. Haines, seconded by Mr. Dill, to change the status of Aaron Taylor from alternate member to regular member to fill a vacant term on the Agriculture Commission to expire January 1, 2025.

- D. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds considered at the meeting.

9. Public Comment

In response to a question raised by Ms. Karen Conover, Ms. Haines stated that the Town can try again to change the term of the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Conover stated that she feels people are generally in favor of the change, however, they did not want it to happen so close to the elections.

10. Selectmen’s Discussion

- A. Liaison Reports

Mr. Dill reported that he met with Public Works Director Velez and Facilities Director Angersola to discuss changes, such as traffic flow, planned for the Transfer Station.

- B. Other

1. Memorial Day Parade (May 29, 2023): Mr. Dill reminded those present that the Memorial Day parade will be held on May 29th.
2. Reschedule of June 7, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting: Mr. Dill and Ms. Haines agreed to reschedule the regular June 7th Board of Selectmen’s meeting to June 8th at 5:00 p.m.

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 7:55 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary