

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
June 8, 2023
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines ; E. Dill; T. Govert

Also Present: D. Dill; L. Zemienieski; and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 5:00 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: Regular Meeting of May 17, 2023

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 17, 2023, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

Ms. Haines reported that she had received correspondence from William Carson thanking the Town for its work on East Shore Drive. Ms. Haines thanked Mr. Carson for his note.

5. First Selectman's Report

Ms. Haines reported the following:

- The Sunday to Wednesday 63-hour Swingbridge closings will begin on Sunday, June 11th. The closings are scheduled to begin on Sundays at 8:00 p.m. and will reopen on Wednesdays no later than 11:00 a.m.
- A piece of property across from the Ballack Farm fields was recently conveyed to the Town by the State. It may become the future site of a farmers' market.
- She has asked the Facilities Director to work with an engineer to provide preliminary estimates for several options for a new/updated library facility. When the engineering firm provides the information, Town residents will be surveyed to determine what they'd like in a new library.
- Representatives from CT DOT did a walkthrough of the Moodus business district with several Town representatives. After DOT provides its feedback on traffic flow, parking, etc., the Town will put that information together with its sidewalk plan and look into applicable grant opportunities.

- The Redevelopment Agency is gathering information about potential brownfield grants for the old Town Office site. Additionally, if the budget passes the next referendum, the Agency is positioned to award a contract for a TIF consultant.

A. Board of Assessment Appeals – Spring 2023 Report

Ms. Zemienieski advised that the full Spring 2023 Board of Assessment Appeals report had not been received and discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

6. Public Comments: There were no public comments/questions raised at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Board of Selectmen and Treasurer Term Length Ordinance Discussion: Ms. Haines reviewed the background of this agenda item. She advised that it was recently determined that the Town Treasurer's term can also be extended from two to four years. Ms. Zemienieski advised that it is too late to add the proposal to extend the term lengths of the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer to the July budget referendum.

There was a general discussion about the timing for a referendum on the proposal. The Board agreed to have the July referendum go forward with a vote only on the FY2023-2024 Budget and schedule a future Town Meeting/referendum for the extension of term lengths proposal. Ms. Zemienieski agreed to ask the Town's attorney to draft appropriate revisions to the Town's ordinance regarding the Treasurer.

8. New Business

- A. Open Space Award Discussion – Kronberg Property: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding approval of the Town's application for a state grant, not to exceed \$243,100.00, for the purchase of the Kronberg Property. She noted that this item and a request by the Open Space Commission to approve another \$5M bond authorization for open space purchases will be discussed at the June 12th Board of Finance meeting.
- B. Bid Award – Catch Basin Cleaning: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a memorandum in their meeting packets from Public Works Director Velez, dated May 18, 2023, recommending the Town award the bid for catch basin cleaning to American Pipe & Catch Basin Cleaning, LLC.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to award the bid for catch basin cleaning to American Pipe and Catch Basin Cleaning, LLC at \$34.00 per basin and \$46.00 per headwall for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, with the option to renew on a year-by-year basis for two (2) additional years, with the approval of the Town and the vendor. Unanimous aye.

- C. Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects Amendment Discussion: Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the Town's Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects. She stated that the Town's 10-year agreement with the state expires at the end of July. She noted that the state is preparing a new agreement for all towns but since it isn't completed yet, they would like the Town to sign an amendment to extend the current agreement for one year.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, that the Honorable Irene M. Haines, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement entitled “Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects”. Unanimous aye.

- D. Gift Acceptance – Consumer Reports: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Jennifer Stockburger, Director, Auto Test Operations, Consumer Reports, Inc., dated May 12, 2023, advising of a distribution of funds in lieu of property taxes donations.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept a gift in the Amount of \$25,000 from Consumer Reports for the purchase of a LUCAS Chest Compression System and the remainder of funds to be spent towards the purchase of an automated external defibrillator (AED) machine and send acceptance of said donation to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Dill abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

Ms. Haines noted that it is still under discussion whether some of the funds will be used for an extended maintenance agreement for the LUCAS system or for an automated external defibrillator.

- E. Broadband Implementation Committee Appointments: Ms. Haines provided background information on this agenda item and advised that several people have submitted applications to serve on the Broadband Implementation Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Haines, to appoint Stanton Conover, Theresa Govert, Bruce Harris, Craig Mansfield, Stuart Palmer, Thomas Sevigny and Laurel White to the Broadband Implementation Committee to serve until their charge is completed. Ms. Govert abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

- F. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (REC, CC).

Recreation Commission

Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to an email in their meeting packets from Lisa Conroy noting a recommendation for an appointment from the Recreation Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to appoint Barry Thiele as a regular member to fill a vacancy on the Recreation Commission with a term to expire July 1, 2026. Unanimous aye.

Conservation Commission

Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to a note from Gary Wilson, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, in their meeting packets recommending an appointment to the commission.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to appoint Alan Ponanski as an alternate member to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2025. Unanimous aye.

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

9. Public Comment: There were no public comments/questions raised at the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison Reports

Ms. Govert advised that the Sustainability Committee did not have a quorum at its last meeting and, therefore, it will be rescheduled.

Ms. Haines noted that several employees have resigned their position with the Town.

B. Other

1. Budget Public Hearing (June 13, 2023 @ 7:00pm – HS Auditorium): Ms. Haines reminded the Board and public of the June 13th Public Hearing on the Town's revised FY2023-2024 budget. She reviewed updates that the Board of Finance made to the proposed budget to address the public's perceived concern regarding sufficient funding for the Town's emergency medical services program. She also explained that the recent revaluation resulted in lower commercial property values and noted the impact that had on overall personal property taxes.
2. Neighborhood Assistance Act Public Hearing (June 14, 2023 @7:00pm – Municipal Office Complex): Ms. Haines reminded the Board and the public about a Public Hearing scheduled for June 14th to consider Neighborhood Assistance applications. She advised that, to date, the Goodspeed Opera House and the East Haddam Open Space Committee have submitted applications.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Govert, Ms. Haines advised that the Memorial Day parade went well.

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 5:41 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Dill, Secretary