Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
June 21, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert
Also Present: L. D'Aquila; N. D'Aquila; D. Dill; L. Zemienieski; 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 June 8, 2023 and Special Meeting of June 13, 2023

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 8, 2023, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 13, 2023, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   Ms. Haines reported that she had received correspondence from Joan Dill regarding the potential for the state to waive the fee charged by the Hadlyme Ferry during the Swingbridge construction work. Ms. Haines stated that both towns of East Haddam and Haddam had approached the state DOT requesting some accommodation be made for the commuters using the ferry during the bridge work and the DOT had provided a limited number of passes. She reviewed how the passes had been distributed and advised that she plans to revisit the request with the state once she sees how the passes work.

   Ms. Haines noted however, that the ferry is beginning to have long wait times at either side of the river and their hours of operation are limited. Ms. Haines stated she would reach out to Ms. Dill and provide her with this information.

5. First Selectman's Report

   A. Board of Assessment Appeals – Spring 2023 Report: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to the Spring 2023 Board of Assessment Appeals report in their meeting packets. The Board had no questions regarding the report.

6. Public Comment: Laurie D'Aquila read a prepared statement and requested the Town replace First Selectman Haines as the liaison on the East Haddam Ambulance Association Board of Directors with

another "impartial" board member. She noted that the subject of replacing the Ambulance Association with the Fire Department EMS staff has become a divisive topic in Town.

7. Unfinished Business

   A. Board of Selectmen and Treasurer Term Length Ordinance Discussion: Ms. Haines asked the Board if they would like to move forward to a Town vote the new term length ordinances for the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer. Ms. Govert stated she prefers to see the July 11th referendum dedicated to the FY2023-2024 budget and Mr. Dill agreed. There was a general discussion regarding referendums for the budget, term length ordinances, and the Kronberg Open Space property.

      Ms. Zemienieski advised that the Town Clerk would need the questions for the term length ordinances by early September in order to include it with the November Town elections vote. The Board agreed to postpone further discussion of this agenda item until its July 19th regular meeting.

   B. 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act Approvals: Ms. Haines reported that on June 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., Theresa Govert moderated a public hearing on the Neighborhood Assistance Act proposals received. Ms. Govert stated that the Goodspeed Opera House had applied for $90,100.00 for energy efficiency upgrades and the Town of East Haddam applied for $20,000.00 for the Open Space trust fund. Ms. Haines advised that the next step is for the Board of Selectmen to approve the applications and send the proposals to the state for final approval.

      Motion made by Ms. Haines, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve and forward to the State, for their approval, two (2) projects requesting funding by the Neighborhood Assistance Act for 2023. Unanimous aye.

   C. Open Space Award Discussion – Kronberg Property: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

8. New Business

   A. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board, Commission or Committee changes considered at the meeting.

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

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

10. Selectmen's Discussion

   A. Liaison Reports: In response to a request from Ms. Haines, Ms. Govert agreed to ask the Sustainability Committee to work on a program encouraging residents to bring their kitchen compost material to the Transfer Station.

   B. Other

      In response to a question raised by Ms. Govert, Ms. Haines advised that Eversource's pipeline project in Town is not scheduled to be completed until next year and she provided a brief

overview of their planned work schedule. In response to a question from Mr. Dill, Ms. Haines advised that police presence at the worksite is primarily provided by Colchester with, due to staffing challenges, only a few shifts covered by East Haddam.

Mr. Dill inquired about when Ms. Haines expects the Municipal Office Complex Building Committee to close out its work. He noted that the Committee has not met for over six months and, since the project came in underbudget, it would be good to return the balance of the funds. Ms. Haines agreed to follow-up on Mr. Dill's question with the Building Committee Chairman.

Ms. Govert advised that the Town will be receiving an additional $47k from the state's Local Capital Improvement Program.

1. Public Information Meeting – Revaluation (June 27, 2023 @6:00 p.m. – Municipal Office Complex): Ms. Haines reminded the Board and the public of a Public Information Meeting at the Municipal Office Complex on June 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., scheduled by the Town Assessor to review the recent Revaluation.

2. Budget Town Meeting (June 27, 2023 @8:00pm – HS Auditorium): Ms. Haines reminded the Board and the public of the Budget Town Meeting scheduled for June 27, 2023, at 8:00 p.m., in the High School Auditorium.

3. Public Information Meeting – Redevelopment Agency Update (June 29, 2023 @7:00 p.m. – Municipal Office Complex): Ms. Haines reminded the Board and the public about a Public Information Meeting on June 29, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Office Complex, scheduled by the Redevelopment Agency to provide an update on the work they have been doing regarding the old Town Office site.

4. Budget Referendum (July 11, 2023 – Municipal Office Complex Gymnasium): Ms. Haines reminded the Board and public of the July 11, 2023 budget referendum on the Town's revised FY2023-2024 budget. She advised that the voting place will be in the gymnasium at the Municipal Office Complex.

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 7:30 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary