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

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert
Also Present: E. Blaschik; J. Moreau; 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 Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of July 18, 2023 and Regular Meeting of July 19, 2023

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 18, 2023, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 19, 2023, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.

5. First Selectman's Report

   Ms. Haines provided the following report:

   - A new Broadband Implementation Committee has been formed which will review options on how to establish a municipal broadband service in Town, including securing grant funding for the project.

     Ms. Govert advised that she spoke with a representative from the state's Office of Consumer Council who agreed to attend an upcoming Board of Selectmen's meeting and discuss grant opportunities for municipal broadband programs. She stated that she had also spoken with a representative from the state's Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides credit to low-income households for internet service, and she will work with them to have a "navigator" come to East Haddam to assist residents with signing up for the program.

   - A new Resident State Trooper will be assigned to the Town.

   - The Chester-Hadlyme Ferry is operational again and she is trying to add its daily status to the Swing Bridge notification system.

- She is also looking into cell towers to determine if any of the Town's dead-zones can be addressed.

- The Town's contracted engineering firm is working on a report that will provide preliminary estimates for implementing each of the options the New Library Study Committee provided for updating the Town's library space.

- Work has started on temporary repairs to address structural issues with Fire Company No. 2's building.

- She met with representatives from the CT Department of Economic & Community Development to discuss the brownfield assessment grant the town received for the Village property. DECD has agreed to assist the Town with drafting RFPs for the work.

- During the week of August 14th, the state will be treating the CT river with a red dye which will help determine the movement of Hydrilla through the water. Ms. Zemienieski stated she will add a notice about the state's research project to the Town's website.

6. Public Comment

Mr. Moreau commented on the following:

- He advised that it is his option that the reason the budget failed at referendum was because of the increase in the tax burden on residents, rather than the ambulance controversy.
- He stated that the Town has a strong volunteer base; however, he noted that too much reliance on volunteers can also have a downside.
- He believes that retention of the Town's part-time firefighters is at risk because of the autocratic nature of the Fire Chief.
- It is not within the scope of the Board of Fire Commissioners Chairman duties to direct operations during crisis situations in Town such as the recent emergency plane landing.
- He feels the comments made and language used by Mr. Sarnik at the investigation hearing into his behavior as a Fire Department Captain were "disgusting" and he encouraged the Board to revisit the investigation and reevaluate his position as the Town's Deputy Fire Marshal.

Ms. Haines thanked Mr. Moreau for his comments.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Board of Selectmen and Treasurer Term Length Ordinance Discussion: Ms. Haines stated that she feels the public might perceive putting an extension of the Board of Selectmen's term up for a referendum vote again as self-serving; however, she stated she would support the recommendation of the Board members.

Ms. Govert stated she favors moving forward with a referendum vote on extending the terms of both the Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Dill stated he is neutral on the term length extensions. There was a general discussion regarding the best time to bring the term length extensions up for a vote. There was consensus among the Board members to limit the next referendum to a vote on the FY2023-2024 budget and elections in November to focus on election matters. Ms. Govert and Mr. Dill agreed with Ms. Haines' recommendation that the term length

extensions and the Open Space questions (i.e., the Kronberg property and renewal of the $5M bond authorization for open space) be put to a vote at referendum in January.

B. Open Space Award Discussion – Kronberg Property: This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and further discussion was postponed.

C. Resident State Trooper Contract: Ms. Haines stated that, since the contract lack certain specific information about the role of the Resident State Trooper, she has setup a potential meeting with the CT State Police to get clarification on the responsibilities of the Trooper assigned to East Haddam and what the Town should expect as to the amount of time the Trooper should spend in the Town.

Mr. Dill stated he would like Ms. Haines to report back to the Board on the results of her meeting with the State Police before passing a motion authorizing her to sign the contract. The Board agreed to postpone the motion on the Resident State Trooper Contract.

D. Transfer Station Fee Schedule Changes: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets which had been presented by Public Works Director Velez at the July 19th Board of Selectmen's regular meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution and send acceptance of said amendment to Town Meeting for approval:

RESOLVED: That the Solid Waste Ordinance Article II, Section 296-6, Licensing of Commercial Collectors; Fees, Item B. adopted July 24, 1990 and amended at Town Meeting on March 28, 2018, is hereby amended as follows:

B. All licenses shall be for a period of one year from date of issuance. The license fee shall be paid in advance of granting said license. The fee for a license shall be [DELETE: "$250 per year"] ADD: <u>set by the Board of Selectmen</u>.
Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, that upon passage at Town Meeting of the amendment to the Solid Waste Ordinance Article II, Section 296-6, Licensing of Commercial Collectors; Fees, Item B. the Board of Selectmen approve a license fee of $500.00 for commercial collectors. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the following fee schedule changes, to become effective September 15, 2023, as proposed by the Public Works Director:

Tires			
Current: $2.00 per tire	New Recommended Fee:	Up to 18"	$3.00 each
		19" – 20"	$6.00 each
		Over 20"	$10.00 each
		Rims	$10.00 fee per tire
Freon Products			
Current: $10.00	New Recommended Fee: $20.00		

Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve an annual no cost Resident Permit Program for all residents, to become effective September 15, 2023, as proposed by the Public Works Director. Unanimous aye.

After a brief discussion by the Board, a motion to approve imposing an annual $50.00 Commercial License Permit Program for any business owner using the Transfer Station for business trash was postponed.

After a brief discussion by the Board, a motion to approve imposing a $150.00 Temporary Contractor License Permit Program for contractors doing business in the Town of East Haddam, to be able to dispose of demo or other building related trash for a 30-day period was postponed.

8. New Business

A. Homeland Security Memorandum of Agreement Resolution: Ms. Haines explained that this is a regional collaboration grant. She stated that funding goes to our Region 3 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) to benefit all Region 3 towns.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Irene M. Haines as the First Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of East Haddam and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.
Unanimous aye.

B. Bond Authorization for Open Space: This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting. Further discussion was postponed at this time.

C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (ZBA, RA): Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding the following Commission member changes:

Zoning Board of Appeals

Motion made by Mr. Dill., seconded by Ms. Govert, to accept, with deep regret, the resignation of Diane Quinn as a regular member on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

Ms. Haines thanked Ms. Quinn for her service. Ms. Govert encouraged the public to come out and volunteer for membership on Town Boards, Commissions and Committees. She also asked current members of Town Boards, Commissions and Committees to put forward the names of citizens who are qualified and may be willing to serve in a volunteer capacity.

Redevelopment Agency

Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to an email from Chairman Melanie Kolek, noting the recommendation made for reappointments to the Agency. It should be noted that these reappointments do need to be ratified at Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: Pursuant to Chapter 130, of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the "Town of East Haddam Ordinance to Create the East Haddam Redevelopment Agency for the Development of the Former Town Office and Garage Property and Certain Surrounding Properties" the Board of Selectmen hereby reappoints Jacqueline Nowell and Gary Laskowski, electors of the Town of East Haddam, to the Town of East Haddam Redevelopment Agency, to serve for 5 year terms expiring August 31, 2028, and subject to approval of a Town Meeting to be held on August 29, 2023. Unanimous aye.

D. Tax Refunds

There were two tax refunds considered at the meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to award tax refunds in the amounts as presented:

- $ 89.92 to Laura Wieleba, and
- $210.73 to Katrina Ceceri.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

In response to a question raised by Mr. Moreau, Ms. Haines confirmed that any overpayment of taxes, paid this year, due to a potential decrease in the FY2023-2024 budget would be applied to reduce next year's budget (FY2024-2025).

Mr. Moreau recommended citizens be informed of the value of any property being taken off the tax role as a result of it being approved at referendum for purchase by the Town as open space.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison Reports: Ms. Govert reported that the Sustainability Team will be hosting a "Repair Café" on August 19th. She advised that volunteers will be present to help repair various household and technology items.

B. Other

1. Budget Public Hearing (August 16, 2023 @ 7:00pm – HS Auditorium): Ms. Haines reminded the Board and the public of the Budget Hearing scheduled for August 16th, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School auditorium.

2. Discussion of Board of Selectmen Meeting August 16, 2023: The Board discussed rescheduling their August 16th meeting for an earlier start to avoid conflicting with the scheduled Public Hearing on the budget. They agreed to reschedule their Regular 7:00 p.m. meeting on August 16, 2023 to 5:00 p.m. on the same date. It was noted that they would also

hold a special meeting after the Public Hearing and Board of Finance meeting concludes to pass a resolution to send the budget to Town Meeting.

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 8:21 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary