Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
October 4, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: E. Blaschik; T. Bourgoin; D. Dill; J. Olin; 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. 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: Regular Meeting of September 20, 2023

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2023 as written. Unanimous aye.

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

5. First Selectmen's Report

   Ms. Haines reported the following:

   - She provided an update on the Swingbridge repair work. She also provided an overview of the schedule of work going forward and advised that, as of December 1st, there would be one-way traffic across the bridge controlled by a traffic light.
   - The Town is discussing having a ceremony on Veteran's Day at Veteran's Memorial Green and hosting a breakfast for veterans at the VFW.
   - She reported that the sidewalks on Plains Road, by the Municipal Office Complex, have been completed and stated that lighting may also be added in the area through a grant.

6. Public Comment: There were no public comments raised at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

   A. Board of Selectmen and Treasurer Term Length Ordinance Discussion: The Board discussed this agenda item and the consensus was to suspend a decision on whether or not to schedule a Public Meeting and Referendum on the topic until after the November election.

   B. Open Space Award Discussion – Kronberg Property: The Board discussed this agenda item and the consensus was to tentatively schedule a Town Meeting in January 2024.

C. Bond Authorization for Open Space: The Board discussed this item and agreed that, prior to adding the topic to a Town Meeting agenda, the public should be educated on how the Bond Authorization could be used; i.e., no open space purchases would be made without prior authorization by the public through a referendum vote. Ms. Haines recommended scheduling a public information meeting where the Open Space Committee could explain the process and answer questions from the public.

D. Eversource Aerial Easement Request: There was no new update on this agenda item.

8. New Business

A. Bid Award – Winter Sand for Snow and Ice Control: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (EDC): The following Commission change was considered:

**Economic Development Commission**

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to an email from EDC chairman, Bob Casner, recommending a change in membership.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to change the status of David Merrick from an alternate member to a regular member filling a vacant position with a term expiration of June 30, 2027 on the Economic Development Commission. Unanimous aye.

Ms. Haines also noted that that the EDC Board had voted, at their September meeting, to appoint Michael Robidoux as Vice-Chairman of the Commission. She congratulated Mr. Robidoux and thanked him for his work on the Economic Development Commission.

C. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to four tax refunds.

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

- $410.97 to JP Morgan Chase Bank, NA,
- $ 74.16 to Maureen Peirson,
- $334.44 to Jane Smith, and
- $ 50.40 to Robert Laneri

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: In response to a question raised by Mr. Blaschik, Ms. Haines advised that the white dots on Town roads indicated catch basin work that has been completed by Public Works.

Ms. Haines also provided the following responses to several questions raised by Mr. Smith at the BOS' September 20th meeting:

- The 12" road patch placed at the intersection of Routes 82 and 149 after a sewer line break was repaired two years ago and is not causing any issues with the road and there are no current plans to repave the area. Ms. Haines further noted that the road may be re-routed

within the scope of any potential redevelopment project in the Village, making repaving at this time a moot point.

- The Town's former Human Resources Director spent 100% of his time on personnel matters.

- The Town has an existing Employee Handbook which is available to the public. Additionally, there are two updated drafts, one created by the former Human Resources Director and one created by our labor counsel 4 years ago, and there is a project in progress to consolidate all three versions; once the consolidated version is finalized, the new, updated Employee Handbook will be available to the public.

- The combined Facilities/Fire Marshal's vehicle and the Fire Command vehicle are SUVs that were purchased as off-lot from the state bid-list. Neither are hybrids and neither have a police package. They are not red because only black vehicles were available from the off-lot inventory.

- Public Works is researching the number of miles that were chip-sealed in 2022. No roads have been chip-sealed in 2023 because Public Works has been focused on the reclamation of several Town roads which includes culvert and catch basin work as well as re-paving. Ms. Haines provided a list of those roads. She further advised that CT DOT had fixed a number of areas where road run-off caused icing issues in the winter.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

    A. Liaison Reports: Mr. Dill stated that he had a productive meeting at the Transfer Station with Public Works Director Velez.

       Ms. Govert reported that the Broadband Committee is planning a series of public information meetings on October 26th. She stated that the three sessions will focus on separate interest groups.

    B. Other: There was no other Selectmen's discussion at the meeting

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary