Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
October 18, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: 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 7:03 p.m. 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 October 4, 2023

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 4, 2023 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to an email from James Weselcouch giving "*a huge Shout Out*" to "*Public Works employees, Steve and Butch for stopping to assist me after I had a tire blow out on Town Street and Brooke Hill Road intersection".*

5. First Selectmen's Report

   Ms. Haines reported the following:

   - She provided an update on the Swingbridge repair work including an overview of the schedule of closures going forward.
   - She provided a report on the Public Works Director Velez accomplishments over the past 12-months, including digitizing work orders, the billing process, and files for Public Works and the Transfer Station.

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

7. Unfinished Business

   A. Board of Selectmen and Treasurer Term Length Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item.

   B. Open Space Award Discussion – Kronberg Property: There was no update on this agenda item.

C. Bond Authorization for Open Space: Ms. Haines provided information about several potential capital projects, in addition to the proposed Open Space bonding authorization, including a recent request by the BOE to undertake HVAC upgrades at all three of the Town's schools. She stated that she has placed a call in to the Town's financial adviser to discuss the appropriate amount of bond authorization the Town should assume. She also noted that she had suggested the Board of Finance consider splitting any new bond authorization equally between open space purchases and economic development initiatives. Ms. Zemienieski provided an overview of the related public meetings and referendum dates.

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 Removal: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a recommendation letter from Public Works Director Velez in their meeting packets regarding this year's purchase of sand for snow and ice control, pending the testing on the sand.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to award the bid for the purchase of Sand for Snow and Ice Control to Hubert E. Butler Construction, Co. LLC in the amount of $25.40/cubic yard subject to documentation that the sand is in compliance with the Town's specifications and that the insurance requirements for the award are satisfied. Unanimous aye.

B. Fee Schedule for Contracted Snow and Ice Control: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of a memo in their meeting packets from Public Works Director Velez, dated October 18, 2023, regarding her summary of fees received and her recommendation of snowplowing prices for the winter.

Ms. Haines explained that this was the process used to set the fee schedule for different size trucks for contracted snow removal. She noted that if the Town uses contractors other than the ones who submitted prices, they would be paid at the set rates.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Director and set the snow plowing rates as follows: Between 10,000 and 25,999 GVW with plow and sander-$200.00 per hour; over 26,000 GVW with plow and sander-$250.00 per hour, and over 26,000 GVW with plow and V-Jet sander-$330.00 per hour. Unanimous aye.

C. Call for Town Meeting: Ms. Haines advised that items approved at previous meetings need be moved forward to a Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Room 1 & 2 located on 1 Plains Road in Moodus, Connecticut on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

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: set by the Board of Selectmen. For fiscal year 2023-2024 this fee will be set at $500 and will not be increased more than 25% annually in subsequent years**.

Copies of said ordinance are on file in the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That a Lower Connecticut River Valley Heritage Trail/Bike Path-East Haddam grant in the amount of $32,000.00 is hereby accepted upon the terms and conditions set forth in a certain Personal Services Agreement between the Town of East Haddam and the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, State Parks Division for the purpose of planning and design of an outdoor bake path (account 10549010-59700). IN ADDITION, the First Selectman, Irene M. Haines, is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant in the name and on behalf of the Town of East Haddam for the fulfillment of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Heritage Trail/Bike Path-East Haddam grant with the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, State Parks Division.

Unanimous aye.

D. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (RA): The following Board change was considered:

Redevelopment Agency

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Redevelopment Agency chairman Melanie Kolek regarding her resignation.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept, with deep regret, the resignation of Melanie Kolek from the Redevelopment Agency. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to three tax refunds.

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

- $ 44.78 to Seth Whiting,
- $550.98 to Toyota Lease Trust, and
- $546.55 to Vault Trust.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: In response to a question raised by Mr. John Olin, Ms. Haines clarified that the Town is waiting for a final report from the New Library Study Committee regarding the projected

cost of implementing each of the potential options on their list to address the limitations of the current library facilities.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

    A. Liaison Reports: Ms. Govert reported that a series of public information meetings will be hosted by the Broadband Committee is on October 26th at 10:00 a.m., 12 noon, and 7:00 p.m. There was a general discussion regarding commercial internet companies doing work in Town.

    Ms. Haines noted that the Sustainability Committee achieved 350 of 500 points needed to reach the state's gold level of participation.

    B. Other: Ms. Haines reported that the following Town events are scheduled:

    - Halloween in the Village – October 21st
    - Drug Take Back – October 28th at the Municipal Office Complex
    - Project Safe Halloween – October 31st at the Municipal Office Complex

    Ms. Haines noted that the swearing-in ceremony for newly elected Town officials will occur at 7:00 p.m. on November 15th. She recommended changing the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting time on that date to 5:00 p.m. and the Board agreed with her recommendation.

    Ms. Zemienieski advised that a Freedom of Information Workshop is scheduled for November 29th at the Municipal Office Complex.

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 7:48 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary