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

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

Also Present: T. Bourgoin; J. Olin; R. Smith; 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 Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 18, 2023

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

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

5. First Selectmen's Report

   Ms. Haines reported that she had held a Department Head meeting earlier in the day and she provided the following updates:

   - The recently hired Technology Manager is on board, working out well, and currently developing an inventory of Town and Board of Education technology assets.
   - The Assessor reported that the property tax bills for motor vehicles are being prepared for distribution.
   - Building Department info:
     - In general, permits are down but there are a number of applications for permits for solar projects.
     - Planning & Zoning approved the Moodus Mud application, and they plan to begin renovating their space at the Lumber Yard.
     - Work at 23 Main is moving forward.
     - Banner is making progress toward achieving its Certificate of Occupancy.
   - Facilities is looking into installing solar panels on the Municipal Office Complex and EV chargers in the parking lot at the Grange Hall.
   - An interview with a candidate for the Finance Director position is scheduled for later this week.
   - Land Use reported that there are two new roads at Lake Haward and also discussed Open Space issues.
   - The Library System is developing a strategic plan with input from surveys they collected from the public. They plan to issue the plan at the end of December.

- The Police Department advised that State Trooper Gary Allen has submitted his application for a permanent assignment as the Town's Resident State Trooper and on 11/2 the Town Clerk will swear in two new officers.
- Public Works has distributed approximately 5,000 Transfer Station permits and the Director provided updates on road work and drainage projects. They are finalizing a 15-year road work plan which will be available to the public when it is completed.
- The Recreation Director reported that 861 residents attended Project Halloween and between 6/30/2022 to 6/30/2023, there were approximately 16,000 sign-ins to Recreation programs.

Ms. Haines further reported that she had attended a "Prevention Starts With You" conference in Hartford and stated that the Town recently sponsored a successful Drug Takeback event. She noted that the Town also has a supply of drug deactivation kits available that will be distributed strategically.

6. Public Comment

Robert Smith – raised the following issues:

- In response to Mr. Smith's inquiry about the $32k Trails grant, she advised that there would be a Public Meeting scheduled to accept the grant and there will be individuals in attendance who can speak to how the grant funds will be used.
- He expressed concern about purchasing another brush truck for the fire department and stated he felt the Town would be better served by using the $325k to purchase a new ambulance. Ms. Haines stated she would get back to him regarding the justification for the brush truck.
- In response to his inquiry regarding the status of the responses to questions he raised at the October 4th meeting, Ms. Haines noted she had provided responses to his questions at the October 18th Board 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: There was no new update on this agenda item.

D. Eversource Aerial Easement Request: Ms. Haines advised that all of the outstanding questions regarding Eversource aerial easement request have been worked out.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, that the Board of Selectmen endorse and refer to the Town Meeting for consideration and approval the granting to Light and Power Company, dba Eversource Energy, a permanent and exclusive right Aerial Easement of approximately 2,321 +/- square feet in the northwest corner of property owned by the Town of East Haddam on Main Street, East Haddam, which is more fully defined on a certain Easement Map entitled "MAP SHOWING AERIAL EASEMENT TO BE ACQUIRED BY THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY DBA EVERSOURCE ENERGY, EAST HADDAM, CONNECTICUT, further identified as Assessor's Map 026, Lot 090, in exchange for consideration in an amount not less than $1,500.00, and that the First Selectman be authorized to negotiate and execute any documentation related to such easement. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

   A. Bid Award – CO #1 Firehouse Roof: Ms. Haines presented a recommendation letter from Facilities Director Angersola regarding the roof replacement at Company #1.

      Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to award the bid for the removal and replacement of the Company #1 Firehouse Roof to JPW Building, LLC dba Guaranteed Roofing in the amount of $36,845.00 with and add alternate of $5.00 per square foot for any damaged wood found during the removal of roofing material. Unanimous aye.

   E. Fee Schedule for Contracted Snow Tree Removal: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

   F. 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 was no additional public comment made at the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

   A. Liaison Reports: There were no liaison reports provided at the meeting.

   B. Other: In response to a question raised by Ms. Govert, Ms. Haines stated she would confirm that the Tax Incentive Program information is available on the Town's website on the Economic Development Commission page.

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 7:21 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary