

Board of Selectmen  
Municipal Office Complex  
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2  
November 15, 2023  
Special Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: D. Dill; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 5:00 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 November 1, 2023

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 1, 2023 as written. Unanimous aye.

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

5. First Selectmen's Report

Ms. Haines noted that Ms. Govert is ending her term as Selectman and read a proclamation thanking her for her service to the Town.

6. Public Comment: There was no public comment discussed at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Open Space Award Discussion – Kronberg Property: Ms. Haines noted that this topic was discussed at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Finance meeting and the Board supported moving forward with a January referendum on an open space award for the Kronberg Property. Ms. Zemienieski reviewed a timeline for a January 30, 2024 referendum, including holding a public information meeting to educate the public on the parameters of a bond authorization. She reviewed a draft legal notice and the Board agreed she should publish the notice.

B. Bond Authorization for Open Space: Ms. Haines advised that this topic was discussed at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Finance Meeting; however, they did not take any action on it. Ms. Haines stated that she had proposed splitting the \$5M bond authorization request equally between its use for open space purchases and economic development projects. She noted that the bond counsel and the Board of Finance are considering her recommendation; however, they want to have more specifics about what type of economic development projects would qualify for the program.

8. New Business

- A. Public Act No. 22-34 Veterans Related Property Tax Relief Discussion: Ms. Haines advised that the Town currently offers a tax relief program for veterans; however, recently enacted Public Act No. 22-34 would allow for an increase in the amount of the relief offered. She stated that there are some details that need to be worked through before the Town makes a determination about whether or not to increase the current veteran's tax relief.
- B. Gift Acceptance – Consumer Report: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a letter in their meeting packets from Jennifer Stockburger, Director of Auto Test Operations, Consumer Reports, Inc., dated November 1, 2023, advising of a payment in lieu of property taxes donation of \$5,000.00 for furniture for East Haddam Youth & Family Services.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Haines, to accept a gift from Consumer Reports on behalf of Youth & Family Services in the amount of \$5,000.00 to purchase furniture for their new office space. Mr. Dill abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes

**Agriculture Commission**

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to the minutes of the November 6, 2023 meeting of the Agriculture Commission noting recommendations on membership changes for the Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Mark Henderson for a two-year term to expire January 1, 2025 as an alternate member on the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Ronald Distefano and Ronald Gross for three-year terms to expire January 1, 2027 as regular members on the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Shaleen Thody for a two-year term to expire January 1, 2026 as an alternate member on the Agriculture Commission. Unanimous aye.

**Conservation Commission**

Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to correspondence relating to membership changes on the Conservation Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Thom Delventhal from the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to change the status of Camerson Beard from alternate member to regular member to fill a vacancy with a term to expire June 30, 2024 on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to reappoint Gary Wilson, Susan Pagnano and Bernie Gillis as regular members for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2025 on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

D. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to one tax refund.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to award a tax refund in the amount as presented.

- \$233.32 to CCAP Auto Lease LTD.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment made at the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

B. 2024 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule: There was a general discussion regarding scheduling one regular morning meeting and one regular evening meeting in 2024. The Board agreed to postpone any decision on the 2024 Board of Selectmen meeting schedule until their first December meeting.

C. Other: There were no other items discussed during the public portion of the meeting.

D. Executive Session – Firefighter Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to enter into executive session at 5:27pm to discuss the East Haddam Firefighters' Union (UPPFA, IAFF, LOCAL 3831) Collective Bargaining Agreement and to invite Linda Zemienieski into this session.  
Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen returned to regular session at 5:41pm. No motions or decisions were made.

E. Vote on Firefighter Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Haddam and the East Haddam Firefighters' Union (UPPFA, IAFF, LOCAL 3831) for the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.  
Unanimous aye.

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 5:42p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Erik Dill, Secretary