

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
January 3, 2024
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; T. Bourgoin; E. Dill
Also Present: J. Olin; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of December 20, 2023

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

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.
5. First Selectmen's Report

Ms. Haines provided the following public safety report:

- On December 29th and 30th, there were several car break-ins in East Haddam and several surrounding towns. One of the vehicles broken into in East Haddam belonged to a CT State Trooper who resides here. The break-ins are being investigated by the CT State Police Eastern District Crimes Unit.
- The police have been trying to hire another full-time officer; however, the salary is less than what is being offered by other municipalities. An Executive Session will be scheduled in the near future to discuss police personnel matters and the upcoming police union contract negotiations.
- The Fire Department has added twenty new medical and fire-fighting volunteers to its staff.

She called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets published by Grayson Wright concerning DOT guidance for municipalities using automated enforcement safety devices to monitor traffic coming into town. She asked the Selectmen to review the materials for discussion at a future meeting.

6. Public Comment: There were no public comments or questions raised at the meeting.
7. Unfinished Business: There was no Unfinished Business discussed at the meeting.
8. New Business

- A. Grant Acceptance – Senior Center ARPA: Ms. Haines advised that the State of Connecticut, Department of Aging and Disability Services has been assigned the management of the \$24,150.00 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant awarded to support upgrades for municipal senior centers in Connecticut. The funds will support HVAC upgrades and replacement at the East Haddam Senior Center.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to adopt the following resolution to be referred to the Board of Finance and then Town Meeting for approval:

RESOLVED: That an American Rescue Plan Act Grant for Senior Centers in the amount of \$24,150.00 is hereby accepted upon the terms and conditions set forth in a certain Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Fiscal Local Recovery Fund (“CSLFRF”) Beneficiary Agreement between the Town of East Haddam and the State of Connecticut, Department of Aging and Disability Services for the purpose of HVAC upgrades and replacement at the East Haddam Senior Center. 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 American Rescue Plan Act Grant for Senior Centers with the State of Connecticut, Department of Aging and Disability Services.
Unanimous aye.

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

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, 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 Nathan Hale-Ray High School Auditorium, 15 School Road in Moodus, Connecticut on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the recommendation that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements with the Transportation Commissioner of the State of Connecticut for the receipt of State Aid for town highways in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen:

RESOLVED, that the Town of East Haddam hereby agrees to grant to Connecticut 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.

Item 3: To consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance:

RESOLVED: That a grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 is hereby accepted from Eversource Energy Service Company (“Eversource”) through the Energize Connecticut Community Partnership Initiative (revenue account 33050-43000 and expense account 33055011-58820) for the purpose of actions leading to an increase in homes participating in Home Energy Solutions-Income Eligible and increase in the adoption of heat pumps among income-eligible customers upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding for Energize Connecticut Community Partnership Initiative By and Between Eversource Energy Service Company and the Town of East Haddam.

Item 4: To consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance:

RESOLVED: That a grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development (revenue account 33050-43000 and expense account 33055011-58820) for the purpose of conducting a brownfield environmental assessment as part of the Village District Assessment Project upon the terms and conditions set forth in an Assistance Agreement by and between The State of Connecticut Acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Town of East Haddam.

Item 5: To consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance:

RESOLVED: That a grant in the amount of \$10,500.00 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, Office of the Secretary of the State (revenue account 33050-43000 and expense account 33055011-58820 Project Code G2101) for the purpose of costs related to implementing and conducting early voting upon the terms and conditions set forth in an Agreement between The State of Connecticut, Office of the Secretary of the State and the Town of East Haddam.

Item 6: To consider and discuss (but not vote on) the following resolutions:

- I. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000 FOR OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR.
- II. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$514,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE KRONBERG PROPERTY AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$514,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR.

- III. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$4,150,000 FOR THE HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AND CHILLER REPLACEMENT PROJECTS AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,150,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR.

The full text of the foregoing authorizing resolutions is on file and open to inspection at the office of the Town Clerk, Municipal Office Complex, Moodus, Connecticut for the use or inspection of any interested person.

All electors and persons eligible to vote in town meetings of the Town are hereby further notified that pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Board of Selectmen of the Town has removed the above items from the agenda of this Special Town Meeting for submission to the voters for vote by voting machine. The questions to be voted upon are as follows:

- I. “Shall the resolution entitled, ‘RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000 FOR OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR’, be approved?

Yes _____ No _____”

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

“Shall the Town of East Haddam appropriate \$5,000,000 for open space acquisition and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?

Yes _____ No _____”

- II. “Shall the resolution entitled, ‘RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$514,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE KRONBERG PROPERTY AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$514,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR’, be approved?

Yes _____ No _____”

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

“Shall the Town of East Haddam appropriate \$514,000 for the acquisition of the Kronberg Property and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?”

Yes _____ No _____”

III. “Shall the resolution entitled, ‘RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$4,150,000 FOR THE HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AND CHILLER REPLACEMENT PROJECTS AND THE FINANCING OF SAID APPROPRIATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN AND NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,150,000, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS THEREFOR’, be approved?”

Yes _____ No _____”

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

“Shall the Town of East Haddam appropriate \$4,150,000 for the HVAC improvements and chiller replacement projects and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?”

Yes _____ No _____”

The vote on said questions will be conducted on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, during the hours from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, Connecticut. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s Office. Voters approving the resolution will vote “Yes” and voters opposing the resolution will vote “No”.

Unanimous aye.

C. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board, Commission, or Committee changes considered at the meeting.

D. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to two tax refunds.

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

- \$369.28 to CCAP Auto Lease LTD, and
- \$307.06 to Timothy Gorman.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

Mr. Olin wished the Board a Happy New Year. He noted that the Town had experienced extreme rainfall during three weekends in a row in December and January and he reported that a number of trees had toppled over from the roots due to the soggy ground.

He advised that he had attended and presented at a NY-CT Sustainability and Resilience Conference in early December. He noted that the Town's representation at such conferences open up the possibility for grants. He stated that the towns of New Rochelle and Port Chester, NY and East Haddam have been selected to be used as case studies for implementing resiliency projects.

Mr. Olin responded to several questions from the Board.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

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

B. Other: Ms. Bourgoin advised that she had spoken with several citizens regarding the upcoming referendum. She noted that the individuals were not clear on the distinctions between the referendum question on purchasing the Kronberg property as open space and the question on whether or not to authorize a \$5M open space bond authorization. Ms. Haines noted that a public information meeting concerning those issues had been held and further clarification can be provided at the January 17th Town Meeting prior to the referendum.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary