Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
January 17, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; T. Bourgoin; E. Dill
Also Present: B. Auld; J. Boynton; J. Cotter; D. Dill; S. Gworek, M. Kolek; R. Kolek; G. McDonald; J. Moreau; K. Mosig; 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. 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 – Special Meeting of January 3, 2024

   Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 3, 2023 as written. Unanimous aye.

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

5. First Selectmen's Report: The First Selectmen's report was postponed.

6. Public Comment

   The following public comments were made at the meeting:

   - Jay Moreau – objected to waiving the bid process for the proposed purchase of a brush truck for the Fire Department and also questioned the need for the truck. Mr. Moreau also objected to purchasing another command vehicle for the Fire Department.

   - Robert Smith – stated he feels he has been "stonewalled" on his requests for background information related to the proposed purchase of a brush truck for the Fire Department. He said that he is in favor of justified purchases of fire equipment and asked if a needs or cost-benefit analysis had been done for a new brush truck. He also questioned whether or not a 50" high water rescue truck is appropriate for the needs of the Town.

7. Unfinished Business: There was no Unfinished Business discussed at the meeting

8. New Business

   A. Bid Waiver – Fire Apparatus: Ms. Haines asked Fire Captain Kyle Mosig to provide information regarding the Department's request to waive the bid process for the purchase of a brush truck.

Captain Mosig advised that the cost of the brush truck the Fire Department would like to purchase is approximately $282k. He stated the new truck will replace the Department's 20-year old brush truck and Engine 6-15 which is 40-years old. He said that Acela, Inc. is the sole provider of this piece of fire apparatus with a 50" water fording kit which is the reason for the bid waiver request.

Mr. Mosig responded to a number of the concerns raised by Mr. Moreau and Mr. Smith. Ms. Haines noted that the Town has $325k in capital reserves set aside for this piece of equipment. Captain Mosig responded to several questions raised by Ms. Bourgoin.

Motion made by Ms. Haines to waive the bid process for the Fire Apparatus-Brush Truck and authorize the Firehouse Vehicle Committee to negotiate with Fire Line Equipment/Acela Inc. as a sole source provider per their quote of $288,325.00. There was no second to the motion and the motion failed.

B. Grant Acceptance – Ann T. D'Addario Family Foundation Fund, Edmund T. and Barbara S. Delaney Fund and William McCann and Best Cleaners Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding notification of a grant to the East Haddam Library System.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to accept a grant in the amount of $5,000.00 from the Ann T. D'Addario Family Foundation Fund, Edmund T. and Barbara S. Delaney Fund and William McCann and Best Cleaners Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the purpose of supporting the East Haddam Library system's website renovation project, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

C. Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Device (ATESF) Plan Discussion: Ms. Haines asked if the Board members had reviewed the materials she had provided regarding ATESF and solicited their feedback.

In response to a question from Ms. Bourgoin, Ms. Haines confirmed that the primary purpose of the devise is to capture pictures of the license plates of cars speeding and running red lights, and its secondary purpose is to capture pictures of the license plates of vehicles entering and leaving Town. She agreed to follow-up on the questions raised by Ms. Bourgoin and Mr. Dill.

D. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (BOFC)

Board of Fire Commissioners

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Commissioner Reynolds that at their meeting on December 12th they voted to recommend reappointment of Craig Mansfield for a second three-year term on the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to reappoint Craig Mansfield for a second three-year term to expire January 1, 2027 as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds considered at the meeting.

9. Public Comment

The following public comments were made at the meeting:

- Robert Smith – advised that the owner of the building that houses the Hadlyme Country Market has stated that an ATESF device could be affixed to the building. He also noted that there is a camera on the Swingbridge; however, Ms. Haines pointed out that that camera only records in real time.

- Attorney Kolek – stated that, two years ago, there was a fire in the woods behind her house and she was very grateful that the Fire Department came and had the appropriate equipment to put it out. She strongly encouraged the Board of Selectmen to "listen to the experts" recommendations on the type of equipment they need to do their job.

- Jay Moreau – addressed Atty. Kolek's comments and stated that "not everyone is an expert". He added that the Town sometimes must make do with what it can afford.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison Reports: Ms. Bourgoin reported that the Sustainability Team met on January 16th. She stated that the Team is working on projects to achieve a silver-level certificate. In response to a request from Ms. Haines, she agreed to ask the Team to revisit the Town's composting project.

B. Other

1. Budget Meeting Schedule: Ms. Haines reviewed the budget process and encourage the public to attend the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance budget workshops and provide their input to the proposed budget.

Ms. Zemienieski reviewed a tentative schedule for the BOS budget workshops and solicited input from the Board on their availability.

Ms. Haines stated she would like to schedule a brief Special Meeting Executive Session to discuss the police contract. The Board agreed to meet at 12 noon on Friday, January 19th.

11. Adjournment: Motion was made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill to adjourn the meeting. There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned 7:46 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary