

Board of Selectmen  
Municipal Office Complex  
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2  
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE  
April 22, 2020  
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: R. Smith; T. Govert; C. Quinn  
Also Present: L. Zemienieski  
Virtual Attendance: S. Wheeler and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Smith 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 Minutes: Special Meeting of April 8, 2020

Motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 8, 2020 as written. Unanimous aye.

3. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Smith reported the following:
  - The Board of Finance approved the Town's 2020-2021 proposed budget with a zero mill rate increase. A virtual Public Hearing regarding the budget is scheduled for May 5, 2020.
  - Public Works crews have returned to work in staggered shifts and he expects they will be very productive. Mr. Smith noted that the Town has rented a second sweeper and crews are currently working on the spring street sweeping project.
  - The school and senior lunch programs are going well. School lunches are distributed on Mondays and Wednesdays and the Senior Center has now added distribution of lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays to their original Monday, Wednesday and Friday program.
  - Food Bank numbers have remained constant.

Mr. Smith also reported that Board member Govert and Youth & Family Services have established a new program that supplements the Food and Clothing Banks. He asked Ms. Govert to provide additional information on the new program.

Ms. Govert advised that the new program is called Personal Products Program and supplies items such as diapers, formula, Depends, feminine hygiene products, cleaning supplies, etc. She provided information on where items can be picked up or dropped off and recommended signing up on-line so the proper items can be made available for residents in need.

In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Ms. Govert stated that Nutmeg Pharmacy made a generous donation to the new program and the sponsors are fundraising to underwrite the cost of purchasing items. She noted that individuals can contact her if they would like to make a donation to the program.

4. New Business

A. Tax Relief Program Resolution – Deferment Program and/or Low Interest Rate Program:

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of East Haddam will participate in the Deferment Program created in Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 7S, as amended, as follows: (1) From April 1, 2020 through and including July 1, 2020, all taxes on real property, personal property, motor vehicles, C-PACE and municipal sewer, charges or assessment shall be deferred by three (3) months from the date that such tax became due and payable; (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, financial institutions and mortgage servicers that hold property tax payments in escrow on behalf of a borrower shall continue to remit property taxes to the Town of East Haddam, so long as the borrower remains current on their mortgage or is in a forbearance or deferment program, irrespective of the borrower's eligibility for or participation in the Deferment Program; (3) The deferral referenced in (1) shall be available to those landlords who meet the eligibility requirements set forth in said Executive Order and any supplemental guidance or instructions set forth in subsequent Executive Orders or directives from the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management; and be it further resolved that the First Selectman shall be authorized to notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management no later than April 25, 2020, of the Town of East Haddam’s participation in the Deferment Program.

Mr. Smith advised that Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 7S mandated municipalities provide property tax relief to their residents through a choice of one of two temporary hardship programs: either a three-month deferment program or a low interest rate program. He stated that the Board and other Town advisors had discussed both programs and agreed that the deferment program was the best option for residents as well as the easiest for the Town to administer. Ms. Govert provided additional clarification regarding the state’s mandate.

Unanimous aye.

B. Gift Acceptance – Consumer Reports: Mr. Smith called the Board’s attention to a letter from Consumer Reports advising of two donations to the Town. Mr. Smith explained that Consumer Reports has made a monetary gift totaling \$25,000.00 on behalf of the Senior Center and the Food Bank to be used as follows:

- \$10,000 to the Senior Center for its Senior Meal Program
- \$15,000 to the Food Bank to assist in servicing our citizens in need

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to accept a gift from Consumer Reports for the Senior Center in the amount of \$10,000 for the Senior Meal Program and send acceptance of said donation to the Board of Finance for approval. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and response, the Governor’s Executive Order 7CC issued April, 21, 2020 permits the municipality’s legislative body (Board of Selectmen) and budget-making authority (Board of Finance) to authorize certain actions by a majority vote of each such body to include (i) the application for or acceptance of any grants, funding or gifts. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to accept a gift from Consumer Reports on behalf of the Food Bank in the amount of \$15,000 to assist in servicing our citizens in need.

Unanimous aye.

The Board expressed their gratitude for the generous gift from Consumer Reports and Mr. Smith stated that he expected the Food Bank and Senior Center would send letters of thanks to Consumer Reports and he would also send a thank you note for the gifts on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

C. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds presented at the meeting.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:22 p.m.

5. Citizens' Concerns/Public Comment: There were no citizens' concerns/comments submitted for discussion.
6. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa Govert, Secretary