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

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

Also Present: D. Angersola; A. Bordick; C. Hughson; J. Spurgeon; M. Velez; 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

Ms. Haines stated she would like to add the following item to the agenda: 4C. Replacement of Crosswalk Signage.

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

3. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of September 4, 2024

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2024 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. Resident Letter Regarding Public Works Tree Issues: Ms. Haines noted she had received a letter from Robert DelGatto commending Public Works Director Velez "…*for her personal attention to some 'tree issues' in East Haddam*". Mr. DelGatto stated in his letter that Ms. Velez is, *"…professional, knowledgeable, and polite*".

B. Installation of Centerline Rumble Strips: Ms. Haines advised that she had received notification from the CT Department of Transportation advising that, during its 2025 construction season, DOT would be installing centerline rumble strips on some of the state roads in East Haddam. She noted that the correspondence instructed that if a public information meeting about this project is desired, she should notify DOT to schedule it. The Selectmen agreed that they did not believe it is necessary to schedule a public information meeting.

C. Replacement of Crosswalk Signage: Ms. Haines reported that she had received correspondence from the CT DOT advising that they will be refreshing crosswalk markings on existing "uncontrolled intersections and mid-block crosswalks" in East

Haddam. She noted that the correspondence instructed that, if a public information meeting about this project is desired, she should notify DOT to schedule it. The Selectmen agreed that they did not believe it is necessary to schedule a public information meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

A. Notice of Board of Finance Resignation: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of an email in their meetings packets from Rebecca Whatley, dated September 11, 2024, informing Board of Finance Chairman Gelston of her decision to resign from the Board, effective immediately. Ms. Haines noted that the BOF will now work to fill her position.

Ms. Haines also reported that the Board of Education had voted to add an SSO at the High School. She advised that the BOE will use funds freed up from the resignation of an administrative staff person for the SSO's salary.

B. School HVAC & Athletic Complex Update – Facilities Director Don Angersola: Mr. Angersola reported that the HVAC project bids for the High School and Elementary School came in above what the estimator had projected and the amount the Town had approved at referendum. Ms. Hughson noted that the Town had approved $4.15M but the total bid, for both projects, was $6.2M. She also advised that the state grant is $2.59M and Eversource will provide a grant of $100k toward the project; consequently, the BOE is requesting additional funding of $2.05M to complete the projects as planned. Mr. Angersola and Ms. Hughson responded to several questions from the Board.

Ms. Haines advised that a Public Hearing is scheduled for October 7th to discuss the BOE's request before it is brought to a referendum.

Ms. Hughson further reported that the Athletic Complex had resulted in a $124k project overrun due to a number of significant change orders. She reviewed several of the larger change orders and stated that they had been approved by the Board of Finance. Ms. Hughson stated that they will be asking the Town to approve the additional funds to close out the project. It was noted that this request will also be on the agenda for the October 7th Public Hearing.

6. Public Comment

The following public comments were brought up at the meeting:

Andrew Bordick – read a prepared statement objecting to the proposed ordinance banning wake boarding on Bashan Lake. He expressed concern about the lack of communication from Bashan Lake Association's president about this issue. He requested no action be taken on the proposed ordinance until the summer months when a majority of the affected residents of Bashan Lake can be present for the discussion. He also noted that the current ordinance draft is vague and unenforceable and he requested the Town "*go back to the drawing board and*

draft a better version of regulation that will allow people to enjoy the lake while protecting our neighbors and their property".

Ms. Haines stated that she had also received communications from Tyler LeClair, Jason Hoops, and Linda Simmons objecting to the proposed total ban on wake boarding on Bashan Lake and suggesting a better compromise could be reached. Ms. Haines read those communications for the Board members.

Ms. Haines advised that the proposed wake boarding ordinance was not initiated by the Board of Selectmen and that Bashan Lake Association President Denya has been working with CT DEEP to draft the ordinance and he had just recently provided the completed draft to her for the Board of Selectmen's review. She confirmed that any new ordinance or ordinance change requires a Public Hearing where citizens can ask questions and discuss the proposed new or revised ordinance. She emphasized that no action would be taken on this issue at the present meeting.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Bourgoin, a member of the audience provided an explanation of the difference between wake boarding and wake surfing.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Ambulance Task Force: This agenda item was postponed until the October 16th Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Dill clarified a statement that he had made at the previous meeting, advising that the Fire Commissioners oversee the day-to-day activities of the full-time staff but not the volunteers.

B. Bashan Lake – Wake Surfing Potential Ordinance Discussion: Ms. Haines noted that it does not appear that the proposed ordinance banning wake surfing on Bashan Lake has the full support of all of the members of the Bashan Lake Association or the lake community. Mr. Dill expressed concern about how such an ordinance could be enforced.

There was a general discussion about the timing of a Public Hearing on this issue and it was agreed to postpone further discussion of this agenda item until the Board is ready to schedule the Public Hearing, preferably at the beginning of the next boating season.

8. New Business

A. Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) Discussion: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets related to this agenda item. She provided an explanation of the ATESDs, noted that they have been approved the CT DOT and can be place on state roads. She confirmed that fines from the speeding tickets issued are paid to the Town. Ms. Haines stated that she would like the Board to approve a 3-week study of traffic speeds in Town.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to authorize Irene Haines, First Selectman, to move forward with a complimentary three-week study to gather the

speeding data necessary in order to make a decision on a long-term commitment to this program. Unanimous aye.

B. Grant Acceptance – Early Voting Grant 2024: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding a notification of a grant to the Town from the state to offset the expense of early voting.

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

RESOLVED: That a grant in the amount of $2,899.74 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, Office of the Secretary of the State 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. Unanimous aye.

C. Letter of Support for OSWA Grant Application: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets requesting a letter of support for the East Haddam Land Trust. She noted that the Land Trust is preparing another OSWA grant application in connection with a 14.12 acre parcel the Land Trust has contracted to buy on Tater Hill Road. Ms. Haines advised that this parcel will serve as part of a critical connection between two larger open space parcels – EHLT's Miller Farm and the Town's Lena Preserve.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, that the Board of Selectmen support an application from the East Haddam Land Trust to the State of Connecticut's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program for funds to purchase the Tater Hill Property, a 14.12 acre property on Tater Hill Road. Unanimous aye.

D. Transfer Station Waste Agreement: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a recommendation from Public Works Director Velez that the Town continue its contract with Willimantic Waste for MSW, MBW hauling, recycling, cardboard, tires and equipment rental. She noted that the current contract expired September 30, 2024, and this is a new 5-year agreement with the option to extend for two additional five-year terms by written agreement of both parties.

Public Works Director Velez reviewed changes to the Agreement and noted that there is an approximately 5% annual increase in cost over the previous contract.

Ms. Zemienieski advised that contracts of five or more years generally require approvals of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and at Town Meeting, unless they contain a "municipal out" clause. She noted that she had sent the new Agreement to the Town's attorney; however, she has not yet received the attorney's opinion on it.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to approve a five-year Waste Hauling and Processing Agreement with the option to extend for two (2) additional five

(5) year terms by written agreement of both parties for municipal solid waste collection, bulky waste disposal, hauling services, single stream recycling, corrugated cardboard processing, tire disposal and equipment rental with Willimantic Waste Paper Co., Inc. and send the multi-year contract to the Board of Finance, then to Town Meeting for approval, if necessary, based on the Town attorney's opinion. Unanimous aye.

E. Beer & Hard Cider Request – Grange Hall – Moodus Drum & Fife Corps: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from the President of the Moodus Drum & Fife Corps requesting approval to serve beer and hard cider at their October 19th muster at the Grange Hall.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to approve the serving of beer and hard cider at the Grange Hall for the "Moodus Drum & Fife Muster" on October 18 & 19, 2024. Unanimous aye.

F. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (RA, ETHICS): The following Board/ Commission/Committee changes were discussed at the meeting:

Redevelopment Agency

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to a letter in their meeting packets, dated September 11, 2024, from Gary Laskowski advising of his resignation from the Redevelopment Agency.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Gary Laskowski from the Redevelopment Agency. Unanimous aye.

Ethics Commission

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to the minutes of the Ethics Commission recommending two reappointments.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to reappoint Kevin Staehly and Paul Stuhlman for three-year terms as members of the Ethics Commission with terms to expire June 30, 2027. Unanimous aye.

G. Tax Refunds: Five tax refunds were considered at the meeting:

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

- $ 174.61 to Key Human Services Inc.,
- $1,108.99 to Toyota Lease Trust,
- $ 494.90 to Porsche Leasing LTD,
- $ 199.36 to Patrick Lacy, and
- $ 68.77 to Maureen Pierson.

Unanimous aye.

9. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison's Reports: There were no liaison reports presented at the meeting.

B. Other

1. Executive Session – Rubin Tax Appeal Settlement

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to enter into executive session at 9:17 a.m. to discuss the Rubin tax appeal settlement and to invite Ms. Zemienieski into this session. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen returned to regular session at 9:27 a.m. No motions or decisions were made.

2. Vote on Rubin Tax Appeal Settlement

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to accept the recommendation of Owen Weaver, Town Attorney's, proposed settlement of the Melissa P. Rubin, et al. v. Town of East Haddam tax appeal. Unanimous aye.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary