Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
October 16, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: P. Burke; R. Casner; M. Callahan; D. DiStefano; C. Guilmette; Ryan Miner; M Robidoux; A. Shaltiel; R. Swol; Glenn Theriault; L. Zemienieski; D. Zimmerman; 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

Ms. Haines stated she would like to amend the agenda to discuss item 5.B. immediately before item 5A.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 2, 2024

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 2, 2024 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

A. Resident Email Regarding Staff Appreciation: Ms. Haines noted she had received a letter from Deborah Mazer praising the services she has received from the following Town employees: Denise Dill, Patty Veselak, Jim Ventres, Kathy Klinck, and Bev Christopher.

Ms. Haines stated that she had also received communications from the following:

- Honora Myers – thanking the Town for the actions it has taken to provide more safety on the curve on Davison Road.

- Amalia Shaltiel – expressing concern about a tree removal on Hemlock Valley Road.

5. First Selectmen's Report

B. Board of Assessment Appeals – Fall 2024 Report: Ms. Haines reviewed a report submitted by Edward Blaschik, Chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals. She

noted that two vehicle appeals had been heard at a public hearing in September, resulting in a reduction of $10,020.00 in the grand list. She advised that expenses for the public hearing totaled $144.00 and noted that Mr. Blaschik stated in his report that "*The number of appeals was low compared to previous years*".

A. Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) Presentation: Ms. Haines introduced Mr. Glenn Theriault, Chief Business Development Officer of Dacratech. Mr. Theriault provided some background information on himself and reviewed a presentation on automated speed enforcement devices. He reviewed his company's history, how their program works, technology, process, and procedures, and provided visuals of the equipment in actual situations.

   There was a general discussion regarding Mr. Theriault's presentation and he responded to questions from the Board.

6. Public Comment

The following public comment was brought up at the meeting:

- Amalia Shaltiel – reiterated her comments in her communication to Ms. Haines regarding a tree removal on Hemlock Valley Road and recommended creating a citizens' group to oversee the tree removal process. She also emphasized that Town flooding issues need to be addressed.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Ambulance Task Force: In response to a request from Ms. Bourgoin, Mr. Dill and Ms. Haines stated that they are not in favor of establishing an Ambulance Task Force. Mr. Dill confirmed that he had read Ms. Bourgoin's draft resolution; however, stated he did not see anything in the resolution that would help expedite a resolution to the current situation. The Selectmen discussed the possibility of establishing a formal annual subsidy for the Ambulance Association.

   In response to Ms. Bourgoin's statement that she had not yet seen a budget that outlines all of the expenses of transferring responsibility of emergency medical responses to the Fire Department, Ms. Haines advised that she had presented the proposed East Haddam Fire & Emergency Services budget to the Board of Finance at their September 9th meeting and she would provide Ms. Bourgoin with a copy.

B. Amendment Resolution Authorizing an Increase in the Appropriation and the Amount of General Obligation Bonds and Notes of the Town to Finance Said Appropriation from $4,150,000 to $6,200,000 for the HVAC Improvements and Chiller Replacement Projects, as well as Establishing a Date for a Referendum:

   Ms. Haines provided background information on this agenda item. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Bourgoin, Ms. Zemienieski provided clarification on the process of scheduling Town Meetings and Referendums.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to adopt the following Resolution:

*WHEREAS,* on December 20, 2023, the Board of Selectmen (the "Board") of the Town of East Haddam (the "Town"), adopted, and recommended to the Board of Finance, a resolution authorizing an appropriation of $4,150,000 for the funding of HVAC improvements and other indoor air quality improvements at the East Haddam Elementary School and the purchase, installation and replacement of an air cooler and chiller at the Nathan-Ray High School (the "Projects") and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance such appropriation in an amount not to exceed $4,150,000 (the "Resolution");

*WHEREAS*, the Resolution was approved by the voters at referendum on January 30, 2024;

*WHEREAS*, the Board wishes to amend the Resolution, subject to the approval of the voters at referendum, in order to increase the amount of the appropriation and the amount of bonds and notes to finance such appropriation.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Board hereby adopts, and recommends to the Board of Finance with respect to, the following:

(1) That the Resolution is hereby modified to replace "$4,150,000" wherever it appears in Sections (1) through (6) of the Resolution with "$6,200,000".

(2) That other than as expressly set forth herein, the Resolution shall be unchanged and remain in full force and effect.

(3) That this amendment resolution shall become effective after approval at referendum vote.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that, should the Board of Finance approve the foregoing amendment resolution as recommended above, the Board hereby calls a Special Town Meeting of the Town to be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at the Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, Connecticut at 8:00 p.m., and submits the following resolution to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town for their approval or disapproval, at said town meeting, the notice of such meeting to be published as required by the Connecticut General Statutes:

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE APPROPRIATION AND THE AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION FROM $4,150,000 TO $6,200,000 FOR THE HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AND CHILLER REPLACEMENT PROJECTS

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the Board, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, hereby removes the aforesaid amendment resolution on the call of the Special Town Meeting for submission to the voters for a "yes" or "no" vote by voting machine to be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, during the hours from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, Connecticut, in the manner provided by the Connecticut General Statutes, and that the Town Clerk be

directed to post and publish notice of such referendum in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, which notice shall state the question to be voted on as follows:

> "Shall the resolution entitled, 'AMENDMENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE APPROPRIATION AND THE AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION FROM $4,150,000 TO $6,200,000 FOR THE HVAC IMPROVEMENTS AND CHILLER REPLACEMENT PROJECTS', be approved?
>
> Yes _____ No _____"

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

> "Shall the Town of East Haddam increase its appropriation and the amount of general obligation bonds and notes to finance said appropriation from $4,150,000 to $6,200,000 for the HVAC improvements and chiller replacement projects?
>
> Yes _____ No _____"

The moderator of such Special Town Meeting shall adjourn such meeting after reasonable discussion of such resolution and conclusion of other business as may properly come before the Special Town Meeting and order such vote by voting machine in accordance with this resolution and Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the Board hereby authorizes the preparation and printing of explanatory text in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes for the question to be voted upon approved hereby. Subject to the approval of the Town Attorney, the Board further authorizes the preparation and printing of materials concerning the question to be voted upon approved hereby in addition to the explanatory text in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statute.

Unanimous aye.

C. Amendment Resolution Authorizing an Increase in the Appropriation and the Amount of General Obligation Bonds and Notes of the Town to Finance Said Appropriation from $2,800,000 to $2,944,387 for the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Track and Field Athletic Complex Project, as well as Establishing a Date for a Referendum:

Ms. Haines provided background information on this agenda item.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to adopt the following Resolution:

*WHEREAS*, on April 26, 2022, the Board of Finance (the "Board") of the Town of East Haddam (the "Town"), recommended to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town a resolution authorizing an appropriation of $2,800,000 for the funding of the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Track and Athletic Complex Project (the

"Project") and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance such appropriation in an amount not to exceed $2,800,000 (the "Resolution");

*WHEREAS,* the Resolution was approved by the voters at referendum on May 24, 2022;

*WHEREAS,* the Board wishes to amend the Resolution, subject to the approval of the voters at referendum, in order to increase the amount of the appropriation and the amount of bonds and notes to finance such appropriation.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,* that the Board hereby accepts the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, adopted at its meeting held on October 16, 2024, and recommends to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town, the following:

(1) That the Resolution is hereby modified to replace "$2,800,000" wherever it appears in Sections (1) through (6) of the Resolution with "$2,944,387".

(2) That all expenditures heretofore made in respect of the Project which are consistent with this amendment resolution are hereby ratified and confirmed.

(3) That other than as expressly set forth herein, the Resolution shall be unchanged and remain in full force and effect.

(4) That this amendment resolution shall become effective after approval at referendum vote.

(5)

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that, should the Board of Finance approve the foregoing amendment resolution as recommended above, the Board hereby calls a Special Town Meeting of the Town to be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at the Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, Connecticut at 8:00 p.m., and submits the following resolution to the electors and citizens eligible to vote at town meetings of the Town for their approval or disapproval, at said town meeting, the notice of such meeting to be published as required by the Connecticut General Statutes:

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE APPROPRIATION AND THE AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION FROM $2,800,000 TO $2,944,387 FOR THE NATHAN HALE-RAY HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX PROJECT

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the Board, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, hereby removes the aforesaid amendment resolution on the call of the Special Town Meeting for submission to the voters for a "yes" or "no" vote by voting machine to be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, during the hours from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, Connecticut, in the manner provided by the Connecticut General Statutes, and that the Town Clerk be

directed to post and publish notice of such referendum in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, which notice shall state the question to be voted on as follows:

> "Shall the resolution entitled, 'AMENDMENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE APPROPRIATION AND THE AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION FROM $2,800,000 TO $2,944,387 FOR THE NATHAN HALE-RAY HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETIC COMPLEX PROJECT', be approved?
> Yes _____ No _____"

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

> "Shall the Town of East Haddam increase its appropriation and the amount of general obligation bonds and notes to finance said appropriation from $2,800,000 to $2,944,387 for the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Track and Field Athletic Complex Project?
> Yes _____ No _____"

The moderator of such Special Town Meeting shall adjourn such meeting after reasonable discussion of such resolution and conclusion of other business as may properly come before the Special Town Meeting and order such vote by voting machine in accordance with this resolution and Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the Board hereby authorizes the preparation and printing of explanatory text in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes for the question to be voted upon approved hereby. Subject to the approval of the Town Attorney, the Board further authorizes the preparation and printing of materials concerning the question to be voted upon approved hereby in addition to the explanatory text in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

A. Grant Acceptance – Bullet Proof Vest Grant: Ms. Haines noted that the Town received a grant award under the Fiscal Year 2024 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership solicitation. She advised that the Board will need to accept the grant and send it to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for acceptance.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to accept a grant in the amount of $2,666.62 from the US Bureau of Justice Assistance, Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

Ms. Haines stated that the Board of Finance will take action on this item at their October 21st meeting.

B. Grant Acceptance – SHPO Partners in Preservation Grant: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Mary Dunne, Architectural Historian, Department of Economic and Community Development, dated October 7, 2024, advising that the Town had been awarded a grant of $15,000.00, which requires matching funds, for the consulting services of a community planning firm to facilitate visioning workshops for the redevelopment of the old Town Office Site, 1 & 7 Main Street, East Haddam.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept a grant in the amount of $15,000.00 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development, Community Investment Account for the consulting services of a community planning firm to facilitate visioning workshops for the redevelopment of the old Town Office Site, 1 & 7 Main Street, East Haddam, upon the terms and conditions set forth in an Assistance Agreement between The State of Connecticut, Acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Town of East Haddam, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

C. Bid Waiver – Fire Department Turnout Gear: Ms. Haines recognized Deputy Fire Chief Swol. Mr. Swol apologized for the tardiness of submitting his request letter to the Board. He read the letter which requested a bid waiver for purchase of firefighter turnout gear that will be purchased with grant funds awarded to the Town on behalf of the Fire Department and presented the justification for the request. Deputy Fire Chief Swol responded to questions from the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to waive the bid process for purchase of a turnout gear and authorize the Deputy Fire Chief Ray Swol to negotiate with Firematic Supply Co. Inc. for this purchase. Unanimous aye.

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

**Redevelopment Agency**

Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a portion of the minutes from the last Redevelopment Agency meeting, noting the recommendations made for reappointments to the Agency. She noted that these reappointments need to be ratified at Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to adopt the following Resolution:

*RESOLVED*: Pursuant to Chapter 130, of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the "Town of East Haddam Ordinance to Create the East Haddam Redevelopment Agency for the Development of the Former Town Office and Garage Property and Certain Surrounding Properties" the Board of Selectmen hereby reappoints Caitlin Taylor and John Cotter, electors of the Town of East Haddam, to the Town of East Haddam

Redevelopment Agency, to serve for 5 year terms expiring August 31, 2029, and subject to approval of a Town Meeting to be held on November 6, 2024. Unanimous aye.

**Broadband Implementation Committee**

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Theresa Govert resigning from the Broadband Implementation Committee.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept, with deep regret, the resignation of Theresa Govert from the Broadband Implementation Committee. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: Three tax refunds were considered at the meeting:

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

- $125.53 to Toyota Lease Trust,
- $167.17 to JP Morgan Chase Bank NA, and
- $415.85 to Toyota Lease Trust.

Unanimous aye.

9. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison's Reports: Ms. Bourgoin stated that the Sustainability Team's energy assessment program is going well and stated that 30+ assessments have been scheduled.

Ms. Haines reported that the state has awarded the Town the designation of Climate Leader. She noted that a presentation will be made on November 13th at The Kate in Old Saybrook. She congratulated the Sustainability on achieving the award.

B. Other: Ms. Haines reported the following:

- Early voting will begin on October 21st between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. She noted that from October 29th and October 31st, the hours will be extended to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- There are vacancies on the Board of Finance and the Redevelopment Agency.
- A public information session concerning information on how to mitigate flooding from Succor Brook will be held on October 24th.

The Selectmen scheduled a Special Meeting for October 22nd at 5:00 p.m. to approve a call for a Town Meeting.

1. Executive Session – Banner Golf Course Real Estate Discussion

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to enter into executive session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the potential sale and purchase of Banner Golf Course real estate and invite Robert Casner, Michael Robideau, Michael Callahan, Dan

Zimmerman, Chris Guilmette, Patrick Burke, and Linda Zemienieski into this session. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen returned to regular session at 9:45pm. No motions or decisions were made.

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 9:46p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary