Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
January 2, 2025
Special Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: J. Cardinal; D. Cewe; M. Cohen; S. Cohen; X. Coulter; B. DeCarli; D. DeCarli; D. Dill; D. Duby; T. Dumaine; S. Hollander; S. Hollander; W. Hunt; M. Mordecai; M. Sewell; M. Velez; L. Zemienieski and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of December 4, 2024 and Special Meeting of December 9, 2024

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

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 9, 2024 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 brought up at the meeting:

   - Steven Cohen – stated that he is a member of the Sipple Hill Association and expressed his frustration that, after 40-years, the Town will no longer plow or sand the Association's roads. He said he is concerned about the risk to the safety of the Association residents, especially in an emergency situation.
   - Jason Cardinal – requested the Town provide the Association residents with the rules related to road work in private communities and suggested the Selectmen meet with residents of the Town's private communities to try to work out a solution for snowplowing and sanding their roads.
   - Steve Hollander – noted that the roads of his community had previously been cleared by the Town in the winter months and stated that he is concerned about safety. He said that he feels it is important for the Town to take care of the people living here.

- Susan Hollander – advised that her family situation requires her to be able to travel regularly and receive medical deliveries via her community's roads. She stated she is also concerned about the liability issue for the Town.
- Ward Hunt – expressed his frustration with the lack of communication by Public Works regarding the snowplowing issue.
- Michael Sewell – advised that there is at least a 54-year precedent for the Town snow-plowing and sanding his community's roads. He stated that the Town had repeatedly grandfathered in the winter maintenance of those roads.
- Dale Duby – inquired as to what caused the Town to revisit and change its standing policy of plowing and sanding the Association community's roads.
- Marybeth Mordecai – also asked what precipitated the change in the Town's previous policy of maintaining the Association's roads in the winter. She stated that she believes the Town does care about the condition of the community's roads in the winter because of the related liability issues. Ms. Mordecai stated that the Association members are taxpayers and questioned why they don't get the same benefits as other citizens.
- Another member of the Association stated that she is 87 years old and recently slipped and fell on ice on the road in her community and had to be taken to the hospital for a concussion.

Ms. Haines confirmed that the Town will plow the roads of a private community if there is a situation that requires emergency vehicles to get through. She advised that she had driven through several of the private communities when this issue came up and noted that the condition of a number of the roads make it difficult for snowplows and sanders to navigate; also, that overgrown brush and trees on the sides of the roads make the roads too narrow for the equipment. She stated that she would like to meet with the residents to discuss this issue further.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) Discussion: In response to an inquiry from Ms. Haines the Selectmen confirmed that they had reviewed the draft ordinance. There was a general discussion regarding the program and Ms. Haines responded to several questions; she confirmed that the Town would, in fact, received two devices for the price of one.

   Ms. Haines reviewed the administrative procedures for the programs and the Board agreed to set the devices at a 11 mph grace speed. She agreed to research if/how other municipalities provide a ticket appeal process and to confirm that the tickets issued by the ATESDs would not have an impact on citizens' insurance.

B. Three Bridges Cemetery Discussion and Potential Resolution: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding Three Bridges Cemetery. She advised that there is a historic cemetery located on personal property near Three Bridges and that the owners of the property have indicated that they would be willing to transfer ownership of the cemetery parcel to the Town. She noted that she is waiting to receive confirmation of their intent in writing.

8. New Business

A. Grant Acceptance – FY25 Historic Document Preservation Grant: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets from the CT State Library, dated December 17, 2024, regarding an award of a Historic Documents Preservation Grant for $5,500.00.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to recommend to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of $5,500 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, State Library, for the purpose of historic document preservation; and that Irene M. Haines, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality, a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant. Unanimous aye.

B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (COA)

Commission on Aging

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to a letter from Joe Sina, Chair of the Commission on Aging, regarding recommendations to the membership of the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to appoint Heather Hunt to fill a vacant three-year term, to expire June 30, 2025, as a regular member on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to appoint Thomas O'Brien to fill a vacant a one-year term, to expire June 30, 2025, as an alternate member on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to four tax refunds:

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

- $333.83 to Timothy Guodace,
- $137.06 to CCAP Auto Lease LTD,
- $762.49 to JP Morgan Chase Bank NA, and
- $651.57 to CCAP Auto Lease LTD.

Unanimous aye.

9. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison's Reports: Ms. Bourgoin advised that the Sustainability Committee had taken the month of December off in observance of the holidays.

B. Other: Mr. Dill inquired about the recent difficulties with the YouTube recordings of the Town meetings. Ms. Zemienieski advised that there were a few glitches when they switched over to the new system; however, most of the issues have been resolved. Mr. Dill suggested setting up a group training session on the new system for the Chairmen of all the of the Town's Boards and Commissions. Ms. Zemienieski advised that it is difficult to get all of the Chairmen together at the same time and that she had provided each with individual training and written instructions on how to operate the A/V recording system.

Mr. Dill and Ms. Bourgoin offered to participate in the meeting with members of the Sipple Hill Association and other private communities to discuss their snowplowing concerns. Ms. Haines welcomed their participation and Ms. Zemienieski stated she would schedule a special Board of Selectmen meeting for the discussion so all Selectmen could attend.

10. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to adjourn the meeting 10:05 a.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary