Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
January 15, 2025
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: L. D'Aquila; S. Cohen; S. Hollander; W. Hunt; M. Masci; R. Masci; M. Moffett; M. Mordecai; 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 presented. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting of January 2, 2025

   Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to the minutes of their Special Meeting of January 2, 2025 in their meeting packets.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 2, 2025 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   The following correspondence was read at the meeting:

   - An email from Lance Salonia expressing support for the Town's automatic traffic enforcement safety device initiative.
   - An email from Goetch Stone contesting the Town's automated traffic enforcement safety device initiative.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   Ms. Haines reported that there will be one more 63-hour closing of the Swingbridge scheduled. There was a brief discussion about the projected completion date for the work.

6. Public Comment

   The following public comments were brought up at the meeting:

- Lori D'Aquila – provided a semi-annual report for the East Haddam Ambulance Association and reviewed the statistics for the past six months. She addressed misperceptions about the number of calls the EHAA responds to in comparison to the Fire Department staff, noting that 67% of the calls received are during normal EHAA coverage hours. She also stated that, since the Fire Department is down to only two firefighters/EMTs, the EHAA is helping to cover their shortage. Ms. D'Aquila provided a list of community events for which EHAA provided coverage and advised that they are staffed 24-7 and have a 5-year record of good performance. She stated that the Association is holding a Save a Heart, Save a Life event on February 8th from 9am to 1pm at the Grange.

- Michael Masci – asked the Board what assurance they could provide that the Public Works installation of a drainage pipe on Lake Shore Drive will be done correctly. He provided pictures of a drainage pipe on Daniel Peck Road that he believed was not correctly installed by the PWD staff. Mr. Masci also asked if there is anyone on the PWD that holds a state P6 license and Ms. Haines advised that she would get back to him on both issues. Mr. Masci stated that he feels no one on the PWD staff is paying attention to the quality of the work being done by its employees.

- Marybeth Mordecai – expressed her concern about the lack of communication from the Town to inform the 100+ residents of several private communities that their roads would no longer be plowed and sanded by the Town. She encouraged the Board to think seriously about what happened and how it happened.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) Discussion: Ms. Haines advised that the draft ATESD ordinance is being reviewed by the attorney. There was brief discussion about allowing the payment of fines and registration of appeals to be done in person, when the company issuing the tickets would apply its fee on the Town, the appropriate mph cut-off for issuing summons, and Troop K oversight. Ms. Bourgoin stated she would like to see the data from the trial period before determining the mph cutoff and Ms. Haines agreed to look into the per-ticket fee and Troop K oversight issues.

B. Three Bridges Cemetery Discussion and Potential Resolution: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

8. New Business

A. Letter of Support – Land Trust Hand Trail: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets from Land Trust Board Member Cameron Beard requesting a letter of consent from the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Beard provided information explaining that the East Haddam Land Trust, Inc. is submitting an application to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) seeking permission to construct a trail through the State of

Connecticut's so-called Hand Property, which is located in East Haddam (Map 32, Lot 4).

He advised that the application requires a letter of consent from all owners of property, other than the State of Connecticut, through which a proposed trail will pass. He noted that some 200 feet of the proposed 0.9-mile trail will be located on the town's Lena Reserve (Map 22, Lot 62), allowing the new trail to connect with an existing network of trails on Lena Reserve and connected conservation properties.

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 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for the construction of the new trail and has no objection whatsoever to a small portion of that trail being situated on Town property and connecting to a portion of the Town's existing trail network. Unanimous aye

B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (BOFC, SUSCT)

**Board of Fire Commissioners**

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to the minutes of the December 3rd Board of Fire Commissioners meeting noting their recommendation to reappoint Timothy Reynolds for a second three-year term on the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to reappoint Timothy Reynolds for a second three-year term, to expire January 1, 2028, as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Unanimous aye.

**Sustainability Team**

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Terri Garrity resigning from the Sustainability Team.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept, with deep regret, the resignation of Terri Garrity from the Sustainability Team. Unanimous aye.

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

9. Selectmen's Discussion

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

B. Other: Ms. Haines advised that the January 21st public meeting regarding Town roads has been rescheduled to January 28th.

Ms. Zemienieski stated that she and Finance Director Belles had drafted a budget workshop calendar. She reviewed the dates for the Board of Selectmen budget workshops and noted that their last workshop is scheduled for February 26th so that the

proposed 2025-2026 budget could be moved forward to the Board of Finance. She advised that a Public Hearing will be scheduled on April 8th, a Town Meeting on April 22nd, and the referendum on May 6th.

Ms. Haines encouraged the public to attend the workshops and provide their input regarding the 2025-2026 budget.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, Ms. Zemienieski confirmed that she has provided individual tutorials on the new A/V system to the heads of the Town's Boards, Commissions, and Committees, and that she also stays late on meeting dates to provide assistance if needed.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Bourgoin, Ms. Zemienieski confirmed that the Town Clerk had held an orientation for new Board and Commission members in November. She stated that she believed the session was recorded and she will get the date of same for Ms. Bourgoin.

10. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to adjourn the meeting 8:42 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Dill, Secretary