Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
March 5, 2025
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: B. Duhaime; Trooper G. Fraites: B. Knox-ATESD: Fire Capt. C. Leidemer; Stacy Noto-ATESD; Officer J. Rhoades; A. Shaltiel; Officer D. Southworth; 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 amend the agenda to discuss Unfinished Business item A – Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices - immediately following the approval of the agenda.

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

7. Unfinished Business

A. Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) Discussion: Ms. Haines provided a brief overview of how the ATESD system works. She noted that the Town's attorney is reviewing a draft ordinance for the proposed project. Mr. Haines introduced Brendan Knox & Stacy Noto who were attending the meeting remotely and who, she stated, could answer questions and speak to concerns raised by the Board members.

Given the population of East Haddam, Ms. Bourgoin expressed skepticism about whether or not the number of citations projected by ATESD for the Town is realistic and would cover the cost of the system. She also expressed concern that there is no way the Town could enforce payment of any fines issued. Mr. Knox stated that East Haddam is not the smallest town that has successfully adopted the program and noted that the data about projected citations that they have provided is based on ATESD's experience across may states. He further stated that the Town has the option to turn unpaid citations over to a collection agency.

Mr. Knox further stated that, while he understands the Board's concern about the system paying for itself, the underlying reason for adopting the program is to change behavior and mitigate speeding in Town. He noted that ATESD has documented a 30%-40% attrition rate after the first few months the cameras are in place. Mr. Knox confirmed;

however, that he estimates East Haddam would issue an average of 2,000 citations per month.

Mr. Dill noted that he has similar concerns about the cost of the system but stated that he would be satisfied if it is self-sustaining. He also expressed his frustration that the state will dictate where the Town can place the cameras.

Mr. Knox stated that the state will not decide on the locations where the cameras can be placed; however, the Town must justify its need for the system to them. In response to Mr. Dill's question about the administration of the system, Mr. Knox stated that it would be the Police Department's responsibility to administer the decisions on which driver gets issued a citation and which gets a warning; however, once that determination is made ATESD processes the citations.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, Officer Rhoades stated that he did not believe that, given the size of the Town, there will ever be enough police staff to keep on top of speeders. He stated that he feels the ATESD would be a beneficial tool for the Town to use to reduce speeding. There was a brief discussion about the additional workload the Police Department would be taking on.

There was a general discussion regarding benefits that could be recognized if the cameras could be moved around from location to location; however, Mr. Knox confirmed that, at this time, the State of Connecticut requires that the cameras remain stationary for three years.

Ms. Bourgoin stated that she does not feel that the ATESD system is the most effective way to fix the Town's problem with speeders. Mr. Knox reviewed the purchase and lease option pricing for the system and the Town's ability to cancel the contract with a 90-day notice. In response to a question from Ms. Zemienieski, Mr. Knox advised that the lease program is not a lease-to-own; however, it does provide for software updates, maintenance, and hardware upgrades free of charge.

Ms. Haines states she would provide Ms. Bourgoin with the data regarding Town locations with a high level of vehicular crashes.

3. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting of February 18, 2025, Special Meeting of February 19, 2025, Regular Meeting of February 19, 2025, Special Meeting of February 22, 2025, Special Meeting of February 24, 2025, and Special Meeting of February 26, 2025.

   Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to several sets of minutes in their meeting packets.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 18, 2025 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 19, 2025 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2025 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 22, 2025 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 24, 2025 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 26, 2025 as written. Unanimous aye.

Ms. Haines noted the Board of Finance will begin their budget workshop meetings on Monday, March 10th and suggested the Board of Selectmen provide them with the minutes from their budget discussions as background information. The Board agreed with Ms. Haines' suggestion.

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 comment was brought up at the meeting:

- Amalia Shaltiel – spoke in support of the Town's composting program and stated that the Town's program is changing habits. She noted that, although 70% of the Town's residents do composting at home, there is some food waste that cannot go into their compost so the Blue Earth program at the Transfer Station is still a valuable resource for them. She advised that Blue Earth is working with River COG to establish a regional composting program, and encouraged the Board to continue to provide the service at the Transfer Station until the RiverCOG's program is set up.

  Ms. Shaltiel thanked the Board for entering into discussions with RiverCOG about participating in its household hazardous waste drop-off program.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) Discussion: This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is covered in the above minutes.

B. Three Bridges Cemetery Discussion and Potential Resolution: There was no update on this agenda item and further discussion was postponed.

C. Purchasing Ordinance Discussion: There was no update on this agenda item and further discussion was postponed.

8. New Business

A. Bid Waiver Request – Used Ambulance: Captain Leidemer advised that the town of Ellington has a used ambulance for sale which includes a 2-year unlimited warranty. He noted that the ambulance is three years newer than the Town's existing vehicle, has 75k miles on it, and has been well maintained. He advised that the total price for the ambulance, a power load stretcher, and additional required equipment is $202,000.00.

Captain Leidemer responded to questions from the Board. He confirmed that OEMS would have to certify the ambulance before the Fire Department can put it into operation. He advised that there is currently a balance of $302,000.00 in the Town's Capital savings account for a new ambulance.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to waive the bid process for the purchase of a used 2019 AEV Ford E450 (V10) Ambulance and power load stretcher unit by Striker and authorize Captain Leidemer and the Ambulance Vehicle Committee, to negotiate a purchase agreement for the ambulance with Ellington Ambulance per their quote of $130,000 for this vehicle, and with Striker per their quote of $72,000.00. Unanimous aye.

Ms. Haines thanked Captain Leidemer, and other members of the Fire Department staff, for their efforts in getting the Town's ISO rating reduced from 9 or 10 to 8B. She stated that the new rating will have a positive impact on reducing insurance premiums for property owners in Town.

B. 2024-2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant Resolution: Ms. Haines advised that the Town submits for this grant each year and requires an authorizing resolution from the Board of Selectmen for the chief executive officer to sign the application.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Irene M. Haines, as First Selectman of the Town of East Haddam is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents. Unanimous aye.

C. Household Hazardous Waste Designation Site: Ms. Haines stated that she agrees with Ms. Shaltiel's comments about the benefits of composting; however, she stated that it has

not made any significant impact on the fees the Transfer Station incurs for dumping the waste in the hopper. She encouraged the Sustainability Team to initiate a campaign to motivate the remaining 30% of the Town that are not composting to participate in the program.

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to material in their meeting packets regarding the option to participate in a regional household hazardous waste disposal program with the RiverCOG towns. She noted that East Haddam currently participates with the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRRA) program and there was a general discussion about how far away from Town the SCRRRA events are held.

In response to a question from the Board, Ms. Haines stated that the Town can join the RiverCOG household hazardous waste program effective April 1 and the fees will be prorated.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to participate in a regional program with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments towns for household hazardous waste disposal per the stipulated operations and management dues assessment per year. Unanimous aye.

Ms. Bourgoin stated that she feels there is still a need for a composting program at the Transfer Station and asked that the Board continue its discussion of how best to provide one.

Ms. Haines reported that she had met with Jesse Scott and Amber to discuss the Sustainability Team's Heat Smart program. She advised that she will be providing them with a letter of endorsement from the Town.

D. Call for Town Meeting: Ms. Haines advised that items approved at previous meetings need be moved forward to a Town Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to approve the following call for Town Meeting:

The Electors and citizens of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Room 1 & 2 located on 1 Plains Road in Moodus, Connecticut on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., for the following purposes, to wit:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the recommendation that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements with the Transportation Commissioner of the State of Connecticut for the receipt of State Aid for town highways in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut.

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that a grant in the amount of $5,500.00 is hereby accepted from the State of Connecticut, State Library, for the purpose of historic document preservation and appropriated to the Historic Document Preservation Fund (account 26041-43000); 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 Document Preservation Grant.

Item 3: To consider and act upon the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That a Moodus Firehouse Building Committee is hereby established for the purpose of the design and construction of the Moodus Firehouse. The committee is charged with (1) the demolition of the current firehouse and planning/design and construction of a new facility, of the current Moodus Firehouse also known as Company #2 Firehouse located at 44 William F. Palmer Road, Moodus, Connecticut, which shall without limitation include, (i) the demolition of approximately 7000 square feet constituting the current building, (ii) the design and construction of a firehouse to include the expansion of existing size, including vehicle bays, sleeping quarters, kitchens, bathrooms, offices, training space, storage and other designated areas as needed or required, (iii) the installation of new building electrical service, building generator, well and septic (if required), and vehicle exhaust system, (iv) code compliance work, including handicapped accessibility code, (v) hazardous material and asbestos abatement. (2) the purchase of furniture, fixtures, equipment, IT infrastructure, and other materials for the foregoing project; (3) site improvements, including parking, lighting, regrading and improved site lines where possible; (4) the preparation and printing of bid documents, cost estimate reports, traffic and other studies, environmental reports, informational materials and other preliminary materials, studies and reports related to the project; and (5) all permit fees, engineering, construction management, architectural, insurance, testing and inspections, legal, administration, temporary and permanent financing, costs of issuance, printing, capitalized interest and any other costs and expenses related to the project.

Section 1. The Committee shall consist of 3 members and 1 alternate, to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The term of office of said members shall continue until the project is complete and accepted by the Town and the committee is discharged, except that any member may resign or be removed by a vote of the Board of Selectmen for just cause. Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee shall select its own chairman, secretary and treasurer. This committee shall answer to the Board of Selectmen and shall make quarterly progress reports to the Board of Selectmen.

Section 2. The members of the Committee shall not receive any compensation for their services. The necessary expenses of the committee shall be included in the

estimated project cost and any appropriation to be requested by the Committee from the Town. All records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection in accordance with applicable state statutes.

Section 3. The Town of East Haddam Land Use Administrator and Facilities and Finance Directors will serve as advisory staff to the committee.

Section 4. The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To consult with the Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal, Emergency Management and its administrators concerning the plans for said project and its construction and the schedule therefore;

(b) To develop required drawings and outline specifications for the project and to review and approve all plans for said project, and to supervise and/or provide for the proper supervision of the project in the Town's best interest;

(c) To assist in the application and filing for any grants or federal loan that may be available to the Town for said project, and provide or execute any necessary documentation for such a grant or loans;

(d) Within the future approved appropriations, to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name of and on behalf of the town to design, build and complete the project, and approve all design and construction expenditures for the project.

Section 5. Upon completion of the Moodus Firehouse project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Board of Selectmen.

Item 4: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen 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 appoints Jeffrey Miller, elector of the Town of East Haddam, to the Town of East Haddam Redevelopment Agency, to serve and fill a vacant term expiring August 31, 2028, and subject to approval of a Town Meeting.

Unanimous aye.

E. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board, Commission, or Committee changes considered at the meeting.

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

9. Selectmen's Discussion

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

B. Other: Ms. Haines reminded the other Selectmen that the Board of Selectmen will be presenting their proposed FY2025-2026 budget to the Board of Finance on Monday, March 10th.

10. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to adjourn the meeting 9:32 a.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary