

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
July 20, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: J. Curtin; D. Dill; R. Dill; E. Kolasinski; J. Moreau; R. Smith; L. Zemienieski; and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Haines stated that she would like to add the following item to the agenda under Unfinished Business item B.1-Redevelopment Agency Ordinance Map Amendment

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 15, 2022, Special Meeting of June 16, 2022, and Special Meeting of July 1, 2022

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 16, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 1, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

- A. Update on Request to Create an Ordinance Regarding Term Lengths for Elected Officials

Ms. Haines provided an update on Town Clerk Denette's recommendation to increase the term lengths for several elected Town officials. She noted that the Town's attorneys are reviewing a Special Act adopted by the Town in 1939 that may have an impact on whether the term can be modified by an ordinance or whether a Town Charter would be required.

Ms. Haines also reported the following:

- An August 29th re-opening is still projected for the Strong Brook project on Route 82.
- The Ambulance Association is answering all of their first calls and the Town is continuing to work on finalizing its agreement with the Association.

- The firefighters' contract is under negotiation.
- A preliminary needs assessment of Fire Company 2 has been completed which indicates that the Company has all of the apparatus it should need through 2040; however, there are some space issues that the Town is addressing.
- She is collecting estimates for the work that must be done on the Fire Company No. 2 building and she will provide additional information regarding the work once all the information is received.
- The Town is working on trying to reduce speeding on its roads and three speed monitors are being posted around Town. In response to a question from Mr. Dill, she advised that two monitors are on long-term loan from the state and four are owned by the Town including the one in the Police's possession and one that needs a new battery. She encouraged the Selectmen to advise her if they receive requests to install monitors in specific locations. Ms. Govert advised that the state has \$2.6M in its budget for grants to address speeding on rural roads and there is also a federal program.
- Public Works has been chip-sealing several of the Town roads and doing roadside mowing. The second mower has not been received yet which will speed up the process.

6. Public Comment: The following public comments were made at the meeting:

- Jay Moreau – provided his qualifications and some history of his concerns regarding the operations of the Town's Fire Department. He reiterated his opinion that the original, Town approved budget and structural repairs for Firehouse Co #2 were mismanaged and stated that he feels there is a "disturbing trend" in the Fire Commissioners' meeting of no one being willing to take ownership of that fact. He further stated that the exhaust systems installed as part of the former building project was another poorly managed project that will end up costing the Town more money as those systems cannot be used by the Quint. He expressed concern for a proposed project to enlarge Firehouse Co. #2 from 8400sf to 18,000sf that was discussed at a recent Fire Commissioners' meeting and stated that he does not feel there is any functional need for the expansion. He also questioned whether any of the Fire Department's plans would improve the Town's ISO rating.

Mr. Moreau noted several other issues/expenses that he felt were unreasonable and examples of poor management. In particular, he was strongly opposed to the Department's request to serve beer and wine at a planned Wet Down of the new Quint and participation in the tri-town parade. He stated that he feels both are unnecessary expenses and risky undertakings in that they would severely limit the Department's ability to respond to any emergency which occurred during the events. Mr. Moreau concluded his comments stating that the paid staff is made up of experienced firefighters who will leave if they, and the Department, continue to be mis-managed.

- Robert Smith – stated that he concurred with many of Mr. Moreau's comments, particularly those about the tri-town parade and serving of alcohol during the planned Wet Down. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Smith regarding the need for a second round-about on the Haddam side of the Swingbridge, Ms. Haines stated she would provide him with contact information at the CT DOT.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Broadband Discussion & Consulting Services Agreement Approval

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to a Consulting Services Agreement from EntryPoint in their meeting packets. She advised that the Agreement has been reviewed by our town attorney and, in response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, she confirmed that a total of \$20k had been included in the 2022-2023 budget to do the broadband feasibility study.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to authorize Irene M. Haines, First Selectmen, to execute on behalf of the Town of East Haddam a Consulting Services Agreement with EntryPoint Networks, Inc. for a scope of work for analyzing the feasibility of deploying town-wide fiber optic infrastructure and developing a detailed Digital Access Broadband Master Plan. Unanimous aye.

B. Redevelopment Agency Appointment Recommendations

Ms. Haines reviewed the list of chosen members for the Town's Redevelopment Agency and noted that staggered term lengths must be determined.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert to enter into executive session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss applicants and term lengths for the Redevelopment Agency. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen returned to their regular meeting at 7:43 p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, 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 the following electors of the Town of East Haddam to the Town of East Haddam Redevelopment Agency, to serve for their respective initial terms as set forth herein, and subject to approval of a Town Meeting to be held on August 3, 2022:

Jacqueline Nowell (D), for a 1 year term,
Gary Laskowski (D) for a 1 year term,
Caitlin Taylor (D), for a 2 year term,
John Cotter (R), for a 2 year term,
William DiCristofaro (R), for a 3 year term,
Andrew Lord (R) for a 3 year term,
Melanie Kolek (D), for a 4 year term,
James Curtin (D), for a 4 year term,
Thomas Sevigny (D), for a 5 year term, and
Randolph Dill (R), for a 5 year term,
Unanimous aye.

1. Redevelopment Agency Ordinance Map Amendment: Ms. Haines advised that the Town attorneys had advised that the "scrivener's error" on the Redevelopment Agency's ordinance map could be corrected by notating the private properties on the map as such.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, 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 “Ordinance”) the Board of Selectmen corrects the Map attached to the Ordinance to include and show on the Map the labels of Privately Owned properties, and recommends the ratification of this corrected Map for approval of the Town Meeting to be held on August 3, 2022.

Copies of the revised map showing the “privately owned” properties are on file in the Town Clerk’s Office during normal business hours.

Unanimous aye.

- C. Bid Waiver – Boat for Marine Patrol: Ms. Haines provided the background on the search for a replacement marine patrol boat. She advised that the company the police are working with has one boat that meets the police’s requirements but they are not sure how long it will be available. Consequently, the Police Department is asking the Selectmen to waive the bid process for purchasing this boat, motor and trailer. Ms. Haines also reviewed the financing available to purchase the replacement boat.

Mr. Dill commended the police for initially locating a used boat for purchase; however, he stated that, since that deal fell through and the current purchase is for a new boat, he is not in favor of granting the request for a bid waiver. He also reiterated his budget season recommendation that the Police and Fire Departments meet to see if the existing fire boat can be used for police patrol.

Ms. Govert stated that historically, written documentation is provided comparing the alternatives as justification for a bid waiver and she agreed with Mr. Dill’s logic regarding waiving the bid process.

Ms. Haines stated she would inform the police of the Board’s decision regarding their request for a bid waiver and also instruct the Fire and Police Department officials to meet and discuss sharing the Fire Department’s boat with the Police Department.

- D. Athletic Complex Grant Resolution: Ms. Haines advised that the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has been assigned the management of the \$1,400,000 grant awarded for the Athletic Complex. She noted that, even though the resolutions passed by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, and ultimately approved at Town Meeting and Referendum clearly states that the First Selectman is authorized to execute any contracts, grant agreements etc., the DEEP is requiring that the Town pass a resolution specific to the requirement of this project.

She stated that, although redundant, this will require the Board to pass an additional resolution and send it to Town Meeting for approval.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill , to adopt the following resolution and send to Town Meeting for approval:

RESOLVED, that Irene M. Haines, First Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam, be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of East Haddam a Personal Service Agreement/Grant Contract under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with

the State of Connecticut for a \$1,400,000 grant for the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Track and Field Athletic Complex. IN ADDITION, that Irene M. Haines, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut.

Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

- A. Disposition of Engine 2-15 Discussion: Ms. Haines reviewed an email from Fire Department Chief Brian Auld and other Fire Department staff requesting the Town keep Engine 2-15, and potentially move it to Company #3, to help with the Town's ISO rating. She advised that the Town reached out to FEMA who confirmed that doing so would not be a violation of their Quint grant terms. She stated that the Board of Finance may need to weigh in on this decision as it is a change from what was proposed for the grant received for the Quint.

Officer Kolasinski responded to questions from the Board and there was a discussion regarding whether or not there is adequate housing for the Fire Department's apparatus. He confirmed that the 1930's vintage Buffalo fire truck will never be used at a fire and that FEMA had okayed the Department keeping Engine No. 2. He provided additional information on the terms of the grant and the Department's plan to fit the Quint out with equipment from Engine 2. In response to a question from Mr. Dill, Mr. Kolasinski confirmed that additional expense would be incurred if the Department retains Engine No. 2 because the equipment moved from it to the Quint will have to be replaced and, further, the Quint is still not completely fitted out.

The Selectmen agreed to postpone their decision about the disposition of Engine 2-15 until the questions raised in this meeting's discussion have been addressed.

- B. Beer & Wine Request – Fire Department: Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to an email in their meeting packets from Fire Chief Brian Auld, dated July 8, 2022, advising that the Fire Department is hosting a "Wet Down" for the ladder 1-15 and they would like to serve beer and wine at the event. There was a general discussion regarding the concerns raised by Mr. Moreau earlier in the meeting.

This item was postponed until the next meeting.

- C. Call for Town Meeting: Ms. Haines advised that items approved at a previous meeting and at tonight's meeting must be moved forward to a Town Meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, 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, August 3, 2022 at 8:00 p.m., for the following purposes:

Item 1: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a gift in the amount of \$10,000 from Consumer Reports for the Senior Meal Program (revenue account 29545-44877 and expense account 29544230-58400).

Item 2: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the M. Jones Fund at the Community

Foundation of Middlesex County for the purpose of supporting summer youth camps (revenue account 28045-44709-R1040 and expense account 28045033-56900-R1040).

Item 3: 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 “Ordinance”) the Board of Selectmen corrects the Map attached to the Ordinance to include and show on the Map the labels of Privately Owned properties, and recommends the ratification of this corrected Map for approval of the Town Meeting.

Copy of the revised map showing the “privately owned” properties is on file in the Town Clerk’s office during normal business hours.

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 the following electors of the Town of East Haddam to the Town of East Haddam Redevelopment Agency, to serve for their respective initial terms as set forth herein, and subject to approval of a Town Meeting:

Jacqueline Nowell (D), for a 1 year term,
Gary Laskowski (D) for a 1 year term,
Caitlin Taylor (D), for a 2 year term,
John Cotter (R), for a 2 year term,
William DiCristofaro (R), for a 3 year term,
Andrew Lord (R) for a 3 year term,
Melanie Kolek (D), for a 4 year term,
James Curtin (D), for a 4 year term,
Thomas Sevigny (D), for a 5 year term, and
Randolph Dill (R), for a 5 year term.

Item 5: To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Irene M. Haines, First Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam, be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of East Haddam a Personal Service Agreement/Grant Contract under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with the State of Connecticut for a \$1,400,000 grant for the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Track and Field Athletic Complex. IN ADDITION, that Irene M. Haines, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut.
Unanimous aye.

D. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (COA, HDC, CC GATEWAY, IWWC):

Commission on Aging

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to a letter dated June 30, 2022 from Barbara Davis, Secretary of the Commission on Aging noting reappointment to the Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Joseph Sina, Barbara Davis and Josephine Golec as regular members for three-year terms to expire June 30, 2025 on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Mary Ellen Klinck and Elaine Flaherty as alternate members for a one-year terms to expire June 30, 2023 on the Commission on Aging. Unanimous aye.

Historic District Commission

Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to an email dated June 22, 2022, from Will Brady, Chairman of the Historic District Commission regarding recommendations for reappointments.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to reappoint David Nelson as a regular member of the Historic District Commission for a five-year term to expire November 20, 2024. Unanimous aye.

Conservation Commission

Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to an email dated June 16, 2022 from Gary Wilson, Chairman of the Conservation Commission noting reappointments and changes to the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to change the status of Charlotte Gelston from regular member to alternate member to fill a vacancy with a term to expire June 30, 2024 on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to change the status of Charles Myers from alternate member to regular member to fill a vacancy with a term to expire June 30, 2024 on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to reappoint Thom Delventhal and John Olin as regular members for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2024 on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Connecticut River Gateway Commission

Ms. Haines noted that a verbal confirmation was received from Crary Brownell that he will accept a reappointment to the Gateway Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Crary Brownell as the regular member for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2024 on the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Unanimous aye.

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Ms. Haines noted that IWWC did not discuss their reappointments at their last meeting. This item was postponed until after the next IWWC meeting.

E. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to two tax refunds.

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

- \$ 54.84 to Elaine Wilson
- \$210.22 to Nissan Infinity LT.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

The following public comments were discussed at the meeting:

- Randy Dill – In response to questions raised by Mr. Randy Dill, Ms. Haines and Mr. Erik Dill provided clarification on the size of the replacement marine patrol boat the Police Department is looking to buy and stated that Officers Rhoades and Southworth are managing the research. Mr. Randy Dill stated that the Board should receive written documentation from the Police Department including specifications for the marine patrol boat as well as the need for and proposed use of the craft.
- Robert Smith – expressed his concern that police officers would be taken off the roads to operate the marine patrol craft and that overtime could be incurred. In response to a question he raised, Ms. Haines confirmed that she does not plan to hire additional police officers at this time.

Regarding the disposition of Fire Engine No. 2, he noted that the original plan was to retire the apparatus because of its history of repairs.

Concerning the Redevelopment Agency, Mr. Smith expressed concern about the potential consequences on votes due to the even number of members on the Agency. In response to his noting that several of the proposed Agency members serve the Town in other capacities and may have to recuse themselves from some Agency discussions and/or votes, Ms. Govert advised that that issue had been discussed with the applicants during the interview process.

- Jay Moreau – reiterated his objection to serving beer or wine at the Fire Department for any reason and emphasized that the Board of Selectmen should feel comfortable saying no to any requests from Town departments to deviate from standard operating procedures. He noted that he has spoken up about his concerns about the management of the Fire Department at a number of Town meetings; however, if the Fire Department always gets its way, he does not see the value of continuing to do so.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison Reports: Ms. Govert reported that the East Haddam Sustainable CT Committee is currently uploading information that will increase the Town's sustainability score with the state. She noted that there are still two components that need to be addressed. One is related to equity and the Committee plans to do a survey on the composting program and how it can be made more assessable to all residents. She reviewed several of the survey questions and noted that it was loaded on the Town's website and Facebook page. The second item is to assign a homeless liaison for the Town. There was a brief discussion regarding the requirements for the position and Ms. Govert confirmed that she will research same.

B. Other: There were no other items discussed by the Board at the meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss Ms. Govert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary