

Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
July 17, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: L. D'Aquila; D. Dill; D. Distefano; T. Gelston; D. Pelletti; L. Woodward;
L. Zemienieski; and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Bourgoïn stated that she had emailed a request to the Board and Ms. Zemienieski to include a discussion on the agenda concerning the establishment of a task force to study the ambulance service in Town going forward. It was agreed that the item would be added to the Board's next regular meeting agenda.

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

3. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting of June 26, 2024

Ms. Bourgoïn noted that she had reviewed the recording of the meeting of June 26th and did not hear or observe Ms. Haines voting to approve the motion to provide supplemental funding for the Ambulance Association for FY2023-2024. She asked if Ms. Haines abstained from the vote. Ms. Haines stated that she did not abstain from the vote. No changes were recommended for the minutes of the June 26, 2024 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoïn, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 26, 2024 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

Ms. Haines advised that Joan Dill had sent an email, dated July 17, inquiring about when the weeds at the sides of Beebe Road would be cut back and expressing her concern about the overgrowth interfering with sight lines.

Ms. Haines advised that Public Works had done one pass on Beebe Road earlier in the summer and noted that, due to equipment and staffing limitations, it is very challenging to mow the Town's 120 miles of road multiple times throughout the summer. She advised that Public Works is currently focused on mowing intersections and convincing the CT DOT to

mow the sides of state roads. She encouraged residents to either personally cut down the overgrowth at the end of their driveways or arrange to have it cut down to improve their sight lines onto the road.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Ms. Haines reported on the following items:

- Work on the Swingbridge is a bit ahead of schedule and construction of the rotaries was started.
- She provided an update on Eversource's gas line project.
- A part-time police candidate has been identified and is being vetted.
- Interviews for the position of Building Official are being conducted.
- She provided an update on the development of a master plan for Moodus and noted that additional information can be found on the Town's website.
- The Redevelopment Agency is interviewing firms for the brownfield testing of the old Town Hall and garage site.
- The Lakes Association will come to a future Board meeting to present a request for an ordinance that prohibits the use of wake boats, particularly on Bashan Lake.

Ms. Haines also reported that the Town and Public Works Director Velez were served with a lawsuit from Robert Smith, Donald Goss and Sarah Gworek regarding the tree removal program. She stated that they have also submitted a FOIA request for numerous communications and documents and noted the amount of time it takes for employees to pull that information together. There was a general discussion regarding the lawsuit and FOIA request.

6. Public Comment: The following public comment was brought up at the meeting:

- Laurie D'Aquila - thanked the Boards of Selectmen and Finance for their time, support, and consideration of all of the Ambulance Association's complex operational and financial information. She also thanked the Board of Selectmen for considering the proposal to set up a task force to evaluate the future ambulance service within the Town and the community for its support and words of encouragement.

Ms. D'Aquila shared the East Haddam Ambulance Association's current performance statistics and Mutual Aid rates.

- Dean Pelletti – posed several questions concerning the tree removal lawsuit filed by Robert Smith, Donald Goss and Sarah Gworek represented by Attorney Scott Jezek and FOIA request to which Ms. Haines responded. He complimented Distinctive Tree Care on the removal and cleanup of trees on Wickham Road and noted that the direct and indirect expenses incurred by the lawsuit will be a burden on the taxpayers and recommended that the suing parties should be held responsible for those costs. He further noted that, since the Town has suspended the tree removal program as a result of the lawsuit, any liability for damages caused by falling trees that would have been removed should also be the responsibility of the suing parties.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects Renewal Discussion: Ms. Haines advised that the CT Department of Transportation email explains the renewal Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects and the request for Town signature.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoïn, that the Honorable Irene M. Haines, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign the 10-year renewal Agreement entitled “Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects”. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

- A. M. Jones Family Fund and Janvrin Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding notification of a grant to the Recreation Department.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoïn, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept a grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the M. Jones Family Fund and the Mary Janvrin and Natalie Janvrin Wiggins Fund for Birds, Other Animals and Nature at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the purpose of supporting summer camp programs, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- B. Grant Acceptance – FY 2022 Emergency Management Grant: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to a copy of an email in their meeting packets from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, dated June 27, 2024, advising that the Town had been awarded an Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoïn, to accept a grant in the amount of \$5,449.85 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entitled “FY 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant”, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

- C. Gift Acceptance – Open Space Trust Fund: Ms. Haines called the Board’s attention to materials in their meeting packets from the Joe Sina, of the Conservation Commission, and Plum St. Productions LLC advising of a donation from Plum St. Productions LLC to the Town’s Open Space Trust Fund as a thank you for allowing them to use the Patrell Property as a filming location for an historical docuseries telling the story of the battle of Lexington and Concord, the battle that started the American Revolution.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoïn, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Plum St. Productions, LLC, for the Open Space Trust Fund and send acceptance to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

Ms. Haines stated that a letter of appreciation will be sent to Plum St. Productions, LLC.

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

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

9. Public Comment: There was no additional public comment brought up at the meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison's Reports: Ms. Bourgoin advised that the Sustainability Committee is currently pursuing a Climate Leader certification for the Town. Ms. Haines thanked the Sustainability Team for their work.

Ms. Haines advised that she is working with John Olin, Climate Resilience, and the Army Corps of Engineers on a flood mitigation plan for the Goodspeed Village area.

B. Other

1. Executive Session – Public Works Collective Bargaining Agreement Discussion

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to enter into executive session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss the East Haddam Public Works Department (General Teamsters Union Local No. 493, an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters) Collective Bargaining Agreement and invite Ms. Zemienieski into this session. Unanimous aye.

The Selectmen returned to regular session at 8:11 p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

2. Vote on Public Works Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to except the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Haddam and General Teamsters Union Local No. 493, an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for the period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. Unanimous aye.

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 8:12 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary