

Board of Selectmen  
Town Office Annex  
July 18, 2007  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen present: Brad Parker, Randy Dill, and Peter Govert.  
Also present: Sharon Wheeler

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by First Selectman Parker and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Special Meeting of June 27, 2007: Mr. Dill requested the following revisions:

- Page 5, under Old Business, item E – Review of Draft Plan of Conservation and Development:
  - Insert the following first sentence, *“Mr. Dill provided to the Board and to Mr. Ventres copies of a two page memorandum containing Mr. Dill’s detailed comments concerning the Draft Plan of Conservation and Development, including his concerns about the plan’s weak statement on economic development”*.
  - Revise the last sentence of the paragraph to read, *“He encouraged Mr. Dill to provide his feedback to the Economic Development Commission and Mr. Dill agreed to send them the memo that he had written to the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission. (By reference hereto, Mr. Dill’s memorandum, dated 13 June 2007, shall be attached to and made a part of these minutes.)”*.
- Page 6, under Selectmen’s Discussion, the last sentence of the second paragraph should read, *“Mr. Dill noted that the intersection at Colchester Turnpike and Beebe Road posed a potential danger due to the height of the grass and should be mowed as soon as possible”*.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 27, 2007 as amended. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Parker distributed a copy of a status report for the Revaluation project as of July 12, 2007. He noted that the project was slightly more than 38% completed. In response to questions from Mr. Dill, Mr. Parker advised that the project was scheduled to be completed in mid-October and the approach was that workers have been assigned different regions of the town to work in.

5. First Selectmen’s Report: Mr. Parker reported on the following items:

- The first Music on the River concert, featuring Eight to the Bar, would be held next Monday night; community support has been very positive. Mr. Parker noted that the goal was to raise enough donations to pay for the five concerts scheduled for this year and have seed money for next year's concerts. He advised that the Town has already received enough money in donations to pay for approximately 90% of this year's expenses.
- The State has rescheduled work on the Moodus Reservoir Dam for the fall of 2008. In response to several questions from Mr. Dill, Mr. Parker noted the following:
  - The bond money for the project has been secured, however, the State was still in negotiations with the owners of the two properties abutting the site to acquire easements to work on their property; the State was also still working on securing all of the necessary permits.
  - The State indicated at the Public Hearing that it would draw-down the lake by 5' and had provided maps that showed the impact of such a draw-down; the maps are available at the Town Offices for the public's information.
  - There have been no significant changes to the design of the new dam as far as he was aware.

Mr. Parker noted that he had heard that a number of property owners, who reside along the lake, plan to do work on their lakeside walls and docks and Mr. Dill confirmed that such work would have to be approved by the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

- Nino's restaurant has reopened and appears to be doing a strong business. Mr. Parker noted that the restaurant has a wide range of menu selections.
- Town Resident State Trooper Dave Luke will be training to be on the State Trooper dive team; he was also on the State's SWAT team. Since State Troopers cannot be on two special service teams and still act as resident State Troopers, a replacement for Trooper Luke would have to be found. The position was posted and the postings are now closed. Mr. Parker advised that he requested and received permission to participate in the interview process for Trooper Luke's replacement. Mr. Dill expressed concern that the Town would not be given equal weight in the decision-making process. Mr. Parker stated that there would be a set of predetermined questions for the interviews and noted that those questions would be vetted by an Affirmative Action committee. Further, that each applicant would be ranked on a point system that would be utilized by all of the interviewers. At Mr. Dill's request, Mr. Parker agreed to supply the Selectmen with a copy of the interview questions. Mr. Parker also advised that there were three towns in the area that have Resident State Trooper vacancies.

Mr. Dill revisited the subject of the Revaluation project. He asked if the workers were scheduling visits with homeowners or if there was a different process. Mr. Dill noted that he had received some complaints on the Revaluation workers showing up unannounced. Mr. Parker advised that the workers make two unannounced visits and, if no one was home on either visit, they would then call or write a letter to schedule an appointment. He noted that he has also received some calls about how the workers handle the unannounced visits and that he has talked with them about their approach. He also advised that the workers were recently provided with Town identification cards to facilitate the process. He added that the Town's Homeland Security program recently purchased an ID maker with grant funds and that Town employees, members of the CERT teams, and volunteers working on disaster drills would also be provided with Town IDs.

6. Citizen's Concerns: No citizen's concerns were discussed.

7. Old Business:

A. 4 - 8 Middle School Discussion: Mr. Parker reported that the steel was going up on the first wing and that brick may also be going up. The slab for the second wing was poured last week. Blacktop was laid on Clark Gates Road, which was now the main access road. Mr. Parker noted, however, that Sillimanville Road may still be used to bring in some of the longer pieces of steel. He advised that it appeared the project was on schedule.

Mr. Govert noted that the minutes from the Building Committee contain information on two change orders. He noted that the committee had negotiated one of the change orders to an amount that was significantly less than originally charged. Mr. Parker advised that he had spoken with Todd Moss about both change orders and one was a result of an error made by the electrical engineer on the wiring for outside lighting. He noted that the Building Committee approved the change orders but was drafting a letter that would allow them recourse with the architect at the end of the project. Mr. Parker stated that this was the standard procedure for large construction projects.

Mr. Dill expressed concern about the possibility that paying for the change orders up-front could result in a lesser quality of work. There was a general discussion about the price guarantee in place for the project and Mr. Govert referred Mr. Dill to the Building Committee minutes on the subject, which he said were very thorough and informative.

It was noted that the payment for the two change orders was taken out of the contingency fund and, in response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, Mr. Parker advised that Mr. Moss would provide a summary/status of the project's payment schedule at the August Board of Finance meeting. Mr. Govert noted that several members of the Building Committee were doing frequent site visits and were actively keeping track of the project's progress. He stated that they have been instrumental in keeping costs down.

B. Goodspeed Update: Mr. Parker reported that he has tentatively scheduled a meeting with the Goodspeed representatives for August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Dill and Mr. Govert advised that they would be available at that time and Mr. Parker stated he would confirm the meeting.

C. Ethics Policy: Mr. Parker suggested a meeting date of August 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., to talk with Attorney Wells' regarding his comments on the draft Ethics Policy. Mr. Dill and Mr. Govert advised that they were available at that time and Mr. Parker stated he would confirm the meeting.

D. Potential Open Space Acquisition – Patrell Parcel: Mr. Parker explained that the board would need to act on the resolution for the agreement with the Nature Conservancy and then act on the resolution for the purchase of the land. He stated he would like to schedule a short meeting with the Selectmen on August 7th to approve a call for a Town meeting on August 16, 2007. Mr. Dill requested the Selectmen's meeting be schedule in the morning and it was agree to meet at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Parker advised that the Town and the Nature Conservancy would jointly purchase the property and the Town's share of the cost was \$395,000. He noted however, that did not include any

potential State Grant funds and it was his understanding that there was a very good chance that the State would approve an Open Space grant for the purchase.

The board discussed the following resolutions regarding the agreement with the Nature Conservancy and the actual purchase:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam hereby authorize the First Selectman to execute a certain Agreement between the Town of East Haddam and the Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, Inc., pursuant to the participation of the Town and the Conservancy in the acquisition of forty five (45) acres, more or less, and being Lot 10, Map 31 in Lyme, and being Lots Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 on a subdivision map entitled, “Subdivision Plan and Site Development Plan Property of Sandy Associates, Baker Lane, East Haddam, CT, Dated May 27, 1993, Rev. July 15, 1995 and June 21, 1998”, prepared by Angus McDonald, together (the “Property”) from Sandy Associates, LLC, Brandy Associates, LLC, Connecticut Limited Liability Companies, acting by and through their Managing Member, Christopher T. Patrell provided that the performance of such Agreement is contingent upon the approval by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and the Planning and Zoning Commission under CGS § 8-24 as well as a Town Meeting all as provided for in said Agreement.

Mr. Parker noted that the following resolution would be used to approve the purchase:

“RESOLVED,

1. That the Town Meeting hereby appropriate the total sum of Three Hundred Ninety Five Thousand (\$395,000.00) Dollars, which includes the Towns portion of closing costs from the Undesignated Fund Balance, as recommended by the Board of Finance, for the acquisition of a One Hundred (100%) percent interest in that piece or portion of land actually located in East Haddam of certain property known generally as forty five (45) acres, more or less, and being Lot 10, Map 31 in Lyme, and being Lots Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 on a subdivision map entitled, “Subdivision Plan and Site Development Plan Property of Sandy Associates, Baker Lane, East Haddam, CT, Dated May 27, 1993, Rev. July 15, 1995 and June 21, 1998”, prepared by Angus McDonald, together (the “Property”) from Sandy Associates, LLC, Brandy Associates, LLC, Connecticut Limited Liability Companies, acting by and through their Managing Member, Christopher T. Patrell and/or successors and/or assigns in participation with the Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, Inc., and for payment of seventy (70%) percent of related closing costs, all pursuant to a certain Option Agreement for the purchase of real estate between the said Sandy Associates, LLC and Brandy Associates, LLC, and the Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, Inc. and the participation Agreement between the Town of East Haddam and the Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, Inc., dated July 19, 2007, and;

2. That the First Selectman be authorized to undertake all steps necessary to acquire One Hundred (100%) percent interest in that piece or portion of land actually located in East Haddam in the property described above from Sandy Associates, LLC and Brandy Associates, LLC., and;

3. That the First Selectman be authorized to apply for and undertake all steps necessary to apply for and obtain Open Space matching grant funds from the State of Connecticut or other sources to defray a portion of the acquisition price of the subject property; and;

4. That the First Selectman is authorized to execute all documents necessary to grant to the State of Connecticut and Open Space Easement on the subject property, and;

5. That the Board of Selectmen are authorized to undertake and participate in the acquisition, management and stewardship of the subject property in accordance with the agreement between the Town and the and the Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, Inc.

E. Earth Charter Endorsement: Parker reported that he has had several informal discussions about the Earth Charter's request for an endorsement from the Town. He stated that the consensus of opinions was that the Town did not generally endorse organizations. Mr. Dill distributed a draft statement that he suggested the Selectmen consider for use in this situation. Mr. Parker and Mr. Govert responded positively to the draft statement and agreed to consider using the language in place of a blanket endorsement. Mr. Parker stated he would carryover this item to the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Govert stated that the Earth Charter principles could be used to inform and motivate the Green Committee that he has proposed establishing for the Town.

F. Elderly Tax Relief Report: Mr. Parker reported that the Committee had presented their report to the Board of Finance and the Board would be considering their proposal at the August meeting. He noted that the Board of Finance would want to hold a Public Hearing after Labor Day. He recommended discussing next steps at the Selectmen's August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Dill referenced Public Act 490, which was the Open Space provision of the tax code, and noted that the provision includes a tax recapture clause for property owners who take advantage of the tax relief benefits of the provision and then do not maintain the property as open space for the stipulated period of 10 years. He suggested that if the Town adopted an Elderly Tax Relief program, it might want to consider a similar clause whereby a 10-year lien was placed on the property. In response to a question from Mr. Govert, Mr. Dill confirmed that the lien was removed after the 10-year period. Mr. Parker agreed to pass along Mr. Dill's suggestion to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Parker confirmed that, statutorily, it was the Board of Finance's decision about whether or not to approve the program and, as such, it would be their responsibility to hold the Public Hearing. He noted, however, that his office would assist with arrangements for the Hearing and he expected the Committee would be available to present their report and answer questions.

G. Middle School Conversion Committee: Mr. Parker reported that the Selectmen must accept a charge to establish a Middle School Conversion Committee and then the charge would be sent to a Town Meeting for approval at which time committee appointments could be made. In response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, Mr. Parker stated that no allocation for this project had been made in the current budget. There was a general discussion concerning whether or not the Committee could have an impact this year if it was not funded. Mr. Parker noted that the Committee could research grants, work on an RFQ, interview architectural firms, and develop cost estimates before any major fund expenditures were required. He agreed that the Committee would possibly require some minor funding before next year's budget process, however, they could make that request of the Board of Finance and the funds could be allocated from the contingency fund. Mr. Govert noted that part of the planning process would include a needs assessment, space analysis, and develop a budget.

Mr. Dill stated that he did not want to lose sight of the fact that the committee would need financial resources to complete its work and he felt those discussions should begin early in the process. He suggested it could be helpful to also discuss the project with the Board of Finance to

ensure that the Committee received all of the support it needed and that, due to the fact that the ultimate goal of the project was a building where the Town's government was housed, the Board of Selectmen should be a part of the process. It was suggested that the Resolution should be amended to include a statement that the Committee reported to the Board of Selectmen and must provide them with quarterly progress reports.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept the Middle School Conversion Committee charge as amended and send said charge to the Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

**RESOLVED:** That a Middle School Conversion Committee is hereby established for the purpose of the design and construction of Municipal Offices and related improvements at the current Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School.

Section 1. The Committee shall consist of 7 members and 2 alternates, 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 at any time. Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee shall select its own chairman and secretary. 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 Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To consult with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education and its administrators concerning the plans for said project and its construction and the schedule therefor;
- (b) To develop schematic 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 provide to the Board of Selectmen proper estimates of the project cost and a written request for an appropriation equal to the amount estimated necessary to complete said project in a timely and workmanlike manner;
- (d) To assist in the application for any grants that may be available to the Town for said project, and provide or execute any necessary documentation for such a grant application;
- (e) Upon the approval of said appropriation, and subject to the limits thereof, to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the town to design, build and complete the project, and approve all design and construction expenditures for the project.

Section 4. Upon completion of the school building project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Board of Selectmen.

H. Potential Vital Statistics Fee Ordinance: Mr. Parker referenced Ms. Denette's recommendation, at their June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, that the Town pass an ordinance that the fees for copies of vital statistics be maintained at \$5 per copy.

Motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Govert, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution and send acceptance of said ordinance to Town Meeting for approval:

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has amended Connecticut General Statute Section 7-74 to increase the fee which the Town Clerk shall charge for a long form certified copy of a birth certificate from five dollars to ten dollars; and

WHEREAS, all of said ten dollars, pursuant to said statute, is paid to the Town Clerk and deposited in the general funds of the Town; and

WHEREAS, this Town Meeting recognizes that said statute may impose a hardship on some persons, and wishes to alleviate said hardship;

Therefore, this Town Meeting hereby adopts the following ordinance:

RESOLVED: From and after the adoption of this ordinance, the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to collect only the sum of Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each such long form certified copy of a birth certificate, said Five Dollars (\$5.00) to be deposited to the general fund in the usual manner. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business:

A. Grant Acceptance Elderly Transportation: Mr. Parker advised that he had discussed this item with the Selectmen previously and the grant would cover the cost for drivers and maintenance of the vehicle(s) used for senior transportation.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Govert, to accept a grant in the amount of \$31,988.40 from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Bureau of Public Transportation (as administered by the Midstate Regional Planning Agency), entitled "State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation (Municipal Grant Program)", and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

B. Commission Status Change (IWWC, WPCA): Mr. Parker referenced correspondence from Mr. Dill, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, dated July 3, 2007, recommending changing Ms. Burton-Reeve's status from alternate to regular member of the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Parker, to change the status of Jennifer Burton-Reeves, effective immediately, from an alternate member to a regular member to fill a vacant

term to expire on June 30, 2008 on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Parker also referenced correspondence from Mr. Lord, Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority, dated July 16, 2007, recommending that Mr. Koskovich's status be changed from alternate to regular member to fill a vacancy.

Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Parker, to change the status of John Koskovich, effective immediately, from an alternate member to a regular member to fill a vacant term to expire June 30, 2011 on the Water Pollution Control Authority. Unanimous aye.

C. Commission Reappointment (IWWC, WPCA): Mr. Parker referenced correspondence from Mr. Dill, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, dated July 3, 2007, recommending reappointment of Mary Augustiny, Wendy Goodfriend, and Bryan Goff to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Parker, to reappoint Mary Augustiny, Wendy Goodfriend, and Bryan Goff as regular members for two-year terms to expire June 30, 2009 on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Parker also referenced correspondence from Mr. Lord, Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority, dated July 16, 2007, recommending that Mr. Lord and Mr. John Russell be reappointed to the East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint John Russell and Andrew Lord as regular members for five-year terms to expire June 30, 2012 on the Water Pollution Control Authority. Unanimous aye.

D. Commission Appointment (WPCA): Mr. Parker referenced correspondence from Mr. Lord, dated July 18, 2007, recommending that Christy Beauregard be appointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority as an alternate member.

Motion made by Mr. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to appoint Christy Beauregard, effective immediately, as an alternate member on the Water Pollution Control Authority for a five-year term to expire June 30, 2012. Unanimous aye.

E. Call for Town Meeting: Mr. Parker noted that the call covers several items that were discussed earlier in the meeting as well as some budget transfers that the Board of Finance dealt with at their last meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Govert, that the Call be amended to incorporate the amendment that was included on the Middle School Conversion Committee Charge. Unanimous aye.

Mr. Dill stated that since he did not support the resolution for the Town to execute a contract with the State Police for two Resident State Troopers (Item #5), he would abstain from the vote on the call.

Motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Govert to accept the following Call, as amended, for a Town Meeting. Motion passed by a majority of aye votes. Selectmen Dill abstained from the vote.

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 Town Hall on Town Street in the said Town of East Haddam at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, 2007 for the following purposes, to wit:

**Item 1:** 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 \$7,000 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; and that Bradley P. Parker, 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 a Historic Document Preservation Grant.

**Item 2:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to accept a grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Bureau of Public Transportation (as administered by the Midstate Regional Planning Agency), entitled “State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation (Municipal Grant Program)” in the amount of \$31,988.40; and to appropriate to Line #765 Aging and Elderly.

**Item 3:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to transfer \$2,500 from Contingency to Line 706 - Registrar of Voters in the 2006-2007 Budget.

**Item 4:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to transfer \$773 from Contingency and \$1,827 from Undesignated Fund Balance to Line 723 – Data Processing in the 2006-2007 Budget.

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

RESOLVED, that Bradley P. Parker, the First Selectman, be and is herewith authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of East Haddam with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for the services of two Resident State Troopers for the period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009.

**Item 6:** To consider and act upon the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That a Middle School Conversion Committee is hereby established for the purpose of the design and construction of Municipal Offices and related improvements at the current Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School.

Section 1. The Committee shall consist of 7 members and 2 alternates, 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 at any time. Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee shall select its own chairman and secretary. 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 Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To consult with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education and its administrators concerning the plans for said project and its construction and the schedule therefor;
- (b) To develop schematic 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 provide to the Board of Selectmen proper estimates of the project cost and a written request for an appropriation equal to the amount estimated necessary to complete said project in a timely and workmanlike manner;
- (d) To assist in the application for any grants that may be available to the Town for said project, and provide or execute any necessary documentation for such a grant application;
- (e) Upon the approval of said appropriation, and subject to the limits thereof, to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the town to design, build and complete the project, and approve all design and construction expenditures for the project.

Section 4. Upon completion of the school building project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Board of Selectmen.

**Item 7:** To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to approve a "Vital Statistics Fee Ordinance." Copies of said ordinance are on file in the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours.

Unanimous aye.

F. Tax Refunds: Mr. Parker called the Selectmen's attention to two tax refunds.

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

- \$49.73 to Donald J. or Marie J. Tyrseck, and
- \$63.84 to Stanislav Kostka.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

10. Selectmen's Discussion:

Mr. Govert referenced a newspaper article he had read stating that Congress had voted to authorize \$1 billion for grants to states and cities to buy radios for interoperable communications systems. Mr. Parker stated that East Haddam has put in for grant money. He noted that the funds would be allocated regionally and the Capitol region would disburse funds to towns in its region. He noted that interoperable communication systems were a high priority for Skip Thomas, head of Homeland Security for Connecticut. He stated that Mr. Thomas pledged that every town in Connecticut would get support for that project so that the fire, police, and EMT departments of all Connecticut towns could communicate with each other on the system. In response to a question raised by Mr. Dill, Mr. Parker stated that he did not know how the system would work. Mr. Dill noted that the State has spent \$70M on the State Police communications system, but it was an exclusive system and he did not know if the State Police would open it up to other police and emergency organizations. Mr. Parker stated that he did not understand the technical aspects of the system, but he would follow-up with Craig Mansfield to see if he could get more information on how the state plans to make it work.

Mr. Dill stated that he has received complaints about the roadside mowing contractor who was not mowing far enough back at the sides of the road. He advised that they were just cutting at the road level and not cutting the brush that came into the road. In response to a question from Mr. Parker, Mr. Dill stated that he had observed this on his road and others as he drove into town. Mr. Parker stated he would follow-up on the problem.

Mr. Dill received a call from Margaret Quinn regarding the lack of response by the police concerning her calls about vandalism and a break-in at her home. He noted that Ms. Quinn might be getting drawn into a dispute between two other neighbors. Mr. Parker stated that Ms. Quinn had also called him and he had spoken with Sgt. Steve Ostroski about the matter and it was his understanding that it had been resolved. He stated that he would follow-up again with Steve Ostroski. Mr. Dill expressed concern that reports of criminal activity were not being properly addressed.

In response to a question from Mr. Dill, Mr. Parker stated that he had also received a call from Mr. Bruce Fletcher inviting him to a lakes committee meeting. Mr. Dill stated that the message he received indicated that the organization was interested in talking with the Selectmen about the committee being elevated to a quasi-governmental/advisory committee that could meet periodically with the Selectmen to discuss lake issues. It was agreed to invite the lakes committee to a Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Mr. Dill noted that it was his understanding that that lakes committee was interested in discussing instituting a septic pump-out ordinance. Mr. Parker advised that many towns have a similar ordinance and noted that, statutorily, it fell within the jurisdiction of the Board of Health. He added that the Board of Health has discussed the subject and was considering instituting an ordinance for the district. There was a general discussion regarding how people would be educated about such an ordinance and how it would be implemented. Mr. Parker agreed to get a copy of the draft ordinance for the other Selectmen to review.

Mr. Dill stated that he had talked with Don Mackenzie earlier in the day who advised him that he had not attended any of the Transfer Station meetings. Mr. Dill expressed surprise that he had not yet been invited to any of the meetings since he was not in the union. Mr. Parker stated that

he had asked the committee if they would like to invite him to the previous night's meeting but they felt they were not ready to have him attend yet; they stated they wanted to gather more information. He noted, however, that Mr. Thumm has been keeping Mr. Mackenzie updated on the content of the committee's discussions.

Mr. Dill stated that word has gotten out about the "working-weekends", and Mr. Mackenzie advised him that he was never told about the possibility of working on Sundays and that he would look for another job if that were required. Mr. Parker disputed the fact that Mr. Mackenzie was not told about the possibility of having to work on the weekends and stated that he was at the meetings where that issue was discussed. There was a general discussion about the usefulness of opening the Transfer Station on Sundays. Mr. Dill stated that he felt it was a mistake for the committee to get so far along in their discussions without soliciting input from a staff person.

In response to a question from Mr. Dill, Mr. Parker advised that Paul Varkala was a committee member. He noted Mr. Varkala was a retired businessman with a background in construction and machinery.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Tape 533A  
533B  
534A

Respectfully submitted,

Peter T. Govert, Secretary