

Board of Selectmen  
Town Office Annex  
March 5, 2008  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen present: Mark Walter, Peter Govert, and Emmett Lyman  
Also present: Al Burr, Scott Mackinnon, and Sharon Wheeler

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the meeting agenda as written. Unanimous aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 20, 2008 and Special Meeting of February 27, 2008.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 20, 2008 as written. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 27, 2008 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence:

Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a copy of a letter in their meeting packets from Richard and Roxanne Roy, dated March 3, 2008, concerning paving O'Connell Road Extension. He noted that the letter referenced previous meetings and communications with the Board of Selectmen concerning the condition of the road and the desire of a number of residents to have the road paved.

Mr. Govert advised that he had been at the March 21, 2007 Board of Selectmen's meeting referenced in the Roy's letter. He stated that many of the O'Connell Road Extension residents had attended that meeting and, while they were in agreement that something needed to be done to improve the condition of the road, opinions were split fairly evenly on whether to pave it or do improvements to maintain it as a dirt road. He noted that the group had discussed a number of possible consequences that could result from paving the road, other than changing the rural character of the neighborhood. Two of the issues discussed were a developer's desire to build a subdivision in the area and the use of the road as a by-way to Colchester. It was noted that paving the road would facilitate the developer's objectives and also increase traffic and speed on O'Connell Road Extension.

Mr. Walter advised that he and Mr. Thumm had inspected O'Connell Road Extension, which was in poor condition, and visited several other well-maintained dirt roads in Town. He noted that there was money in the budget to pave the road, however, he concurred with Mr. Govert's comments on the possible negative consequences of doing so. Mr. Lyman also expressed his concern about unintended results of paving the road. Mr. Govert suggested that Mr. Thumm provide the Board of Selectmen with figures on what it would cost to make the improvements necessary to adequately maintain O'Connell Road Extension as a dirt road so that they could make an educated decision on whether to pave it or upgrade its basic foundation so that it could be properly maintained as a dirt road. Mr. Walter agreed to follow-up on the matter.

Mr. Walter reported that he had received a report on the Town's 2007 Grand List and noted that a copy of the report was included in the Selectmen's meeting packets. He advised that, before assessment appeals, the Grant List for 2007 had increased by approximately \$280M over the 2006 Grand List. There was a general discussion about the growth of the Grand List over time.

Mr. Walter read a letter he had received from Mr. Al Burr's son, David Burr, thanking him for kits and commenting on the new hands-on Science Center in Hartford and legislation on cyber-bullying.

Mr. Walter advised that he had received a letter from Brian Denette, dated March 5, 2008, commenting on the portion of the February 6, 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting minutes related to his Eagle Project presentation. Mr. Dennett's letter indicated that it was incorrectly reported that he would be putting in a walking path on the property and spreading mulch in the area that he clears.

5. First Selectmen's Report: Mr. Walter reported that he and Mr. Thumm had met with representatives of CT's Department of Transportation (DOT) and the State Police concerning the three cross-walks in the Village area. He stated that the DOT had informed him that they have determined that the "rumble" brick technique used for traffic calming at cross-walks to be ineffective. They will not, therefore, be repairing the bricks used in the cross-walks in the Village. They will, however, repaint the white lines at the cross-walks and the State Police will install "Yield to Pedestrians" signs at the locations. Mr. Walter noted that he has informed the Historic District Commission of the plans.

Mr. Walter further reported that he has asked the police to increase their efforts to reduce speeding in Town. He also advised that several home break-ins have been reported and they appear to be drug-related.

6. Citizen's Concerns: In response to a question from Mr. Burr, Mr. Walter confirmed that the contractors were preparing to widen and pave Clark Gates Road in anticipation of the increased school bus traffic related to the new Middle School. Mr. Burr stated that some trucks continue to speed on the road and use their jake-brakes which were very loud. There was a general discussion about the truck-traffic and it was agreed that the offenders were isolated to a few contractors. Mr. Walter stated he would ask that a sign prohibiting the use of jake-brakes be installed on the road.

7. Unfinished Business: Motion made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, that in consideration of Mr. Mackinnon's schedule, discussion topic 7.E. Clean Energy 20% by 2010 Campaign – under this agenda item be covered first. Unanimous aye.

E. Clean Energy 20% by 2010 Campaign: Mr. Walter recapped the history of this agenda item and referred to letter from Attorney Bennet commenting on the limit of the Town's authority in this matter. He noted that Atty. Bennet advised that the Town cannot commit to definite percentages of sources of energy in 2010, but could resolve to a goal of a certain percentage. He referenced Middletown's program that has set up a task force to encourage residents to participate in the Clean Energy program. Mr. Walter stated that he and Mr. Govert had discussed the possibility of the proposed Green Committee acting in this capacity; however, they decided that a separate task force would be more appropriate. Mr. Govert indicated that several adult members of the Green Committee could also serve on the Clean Energy task force.

Mr. Walter referred to the report Mr. Harris had previously provided listing several sources for purchasing Clean Energy. He advised that Mr. Mackinnon and his family had donated \$1173 to the Town to underwrite the cost of purchasing clean energy. He noted that the amount of the donation corresponded with

the cost of the Community Energy option; however, it did not obligate the Town to that option. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Mackinnon and his family for their generous donation.

Mr. Walter stated that he would like to have a vote on the creation of the Green Committee and the Clean Energy Task force at the next Town meeting. Mr. Govert advised that he had e-mailed Ms. Zemienieski the latest draft of the Charge for the Green Committee for Attorney Bennet's review.

A. 4 - 8 Middle School Discussion: Mr. Walter reported that the Town had received a \$13,000 insurance reimbursement for the theft of \$18,000 worth of copper from the Middle School building site. He stated that the Town would pursue reimbursement for the balance of \$5,000 from the family(ies) of the person(s) who perpetrated the theft.

B. East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee: Mr. Walter stated that he planned to talk with Attorney Bennet about establishing an East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee. He noted he would include an article in the next Town Newsletter soliciting volunteers. There was a general discussion about appropriate candidates for the committee and Mr. Govert recommended requesting current resumes from all applicants.

C. Goodspeed Update: Mr. Walter referenced the February 26<sup>th</sup> multi-Commission meeting and the Goodspeed's presentation on the proposed actors' housing project. The Selectmen expressed mainly positive impressions of the proposal; however, Mr. Lyman indicated that he would prefer the cluster of cottages on Creamery Road to be less regulated in appearance. Mr. Govert encouraged him to provide the Goodspeed with that feedback. The Selectmen agreed that they liked the design of the cottages and indicated that they hoped some cosmetic personalization could be done to each.

The Selectmen also discussed the potential impact of a shift of the Town center to Moodus once the Town Offices relocate to the Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School.

D. Ethics Policy: Mr. Water reported that the final draft of the proposed Ethics Policy had been revised to address concerns raised by Mr. Ventres and Ms. Ziobron.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to approve an ordinance entitled "Code of Ethical Conduct" which establishes a Municipal Ethics Commission and which creates a Code of Ethical Conduct for town elected and appointed officials and town employees and send to the next Town Meeting for approval. Unanimous aye.

E. Clean Energy 20% by 2010 Campaign: This item was previously discussed.

F. Green Committee Resolution: This item was previously discussed under Clean Energy 20% by 2010 Campaign.

G. Food Bank Transportation & Bus: Mr. Walter reported that, due to the size of the Senior Center bus, a CDL license may not be required. Mr. Thumm was researching the requirements. Mr. Govert suggested that the Town should also place a "Help Wanted" notice in the Town Newsletter for appropriately licensed back-up drivers.

H. Signage Discussion: Mr. Walter advised that he had informed the Rotary and Lion's Clubs about the Selectmen's preference for using the Town's slogan, "*Alive with history, art, and natural beauty*", on the welcome signs. He stated that they will update the signs and reinstall them at the existing locations.

He noted that he had not been able to follow-up on Mr. Govert's suggestion to ask the High School graphics art class to design the Schools' Sports Championship sign. He agreed to ask Mr. Iacovelli to look into getting the sign designed.

8. New Business

A. Bid Award – Heating Oil & Diesel: Mr. Walter explained the heating oil & diesel bids and the process for locking in the price at a fixed and/or differential rate. He noted that although the cut-off date for participating in the regional bidding plan had passed, he has been in contact with the contractor the Town has previously done business with. Mr. Govert noted that the contractor had very good insights into the market in the past and was a good resource.

Motion made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Govert, to finalize prices with the low bidder, East River Energy, for #2 heating oil and diesel fuel for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, and to authorize the First Selectman to enter into said agreement on behalf of the Town. Unanimous aye.

B. Acceptance of Conservation Easement & Restrictive Covenants – Oak Ridge Farms Subdivision: Mr. Walter advised that this item was still under review with the attorney. He stated that he also wanted to get more information on the subject from Mr. Ventres. The Selectmen agreed to table this item until their next regular meeting.

C. Juvenile Review Board: Mr. Walter called the Selectmen's attention to a brochure included in their meeting packets that was published by AMH, a non-profit youth services agency in the Towns of Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough. He noted that East Haddam's Youth and Family Services will be establishing a similar Board for the Town. He noted that the Town's Juvenile Review Board will be officially approved by the State of Connecticut and will be a last-chance effort to avoid criminal charges being imposed on juvenile offenders. The Selectmen all expressed their support of the initiative and indicated that it would send a strong message to the Town's youth that there were many people interested in keeping them out of trouble.

D. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds to consider at this meeting.

9. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

10. Selectmen's Discussion: There was no additional Selectmen's discussion.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Govert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Unanimous aye.

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Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary