

Infrastructure Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2018

6:00 PM

Town Office Building

30 Field Park Drive, Haddam 06438

**MEETING MINUTES**

Members present: Mike Fortuna, Diane Ifkovic, Kate Anderson, Lynne Cooper, Sean Moriarty, Patrick Pinnell, Mike O'Brien

Members absent: Peter Sonski

Also present: Lizz Milardo, Liz Glidden

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

- a. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

- a. Patrick Pinnell moved, Lynne Cooper second. All in favor.

**4. Public Comment**

- a. None.

**5. Old Business**

- a. Discussion of mission statement and scope of work
  - i. Mike Fortuna suggested to keep this on the agenda and wait three or four meetings until finalizing since once it's published, it's published.
- b. CT BAR Grant update
  - i. Liz Glidden reported the grant has been submitted. Mike Fortuna noted April 30 is commonly when sitewalks/interviews happen. Glidden has not been contacted by the state; will look into it.

## 6. New Business

### a. Clean Water Fund update

- i. Diane Ifkovic met (as a citizen) with someone from municipal wastewater section of CT DEEP. General discussion about the CT Clean Water Fund followed:

- 1. CT Clean Water fund is typically driven by contamination, not economic drivers. There is money available for planning projects to develop facilities plan to test for contamination. Some soils testing has been completed in/around center. Previous study done on select parcels has shown no reserve for many parcels (though there haven't been any failures, many were built around the same time). Glidden reported historically DEEP has given mixed reactions about CWF eligibility (also in flood plain). East Haddam example – waited until it failed then forced to replace it. There are questions surrounding whether the Town needs a Facilities Plan if we use bonded money and not DEEP funding. Selectman Milardo has been told by DEEP that the Town will need a Facilities Plan regardless of funding source to get DEEP approval for the final system. Discussion followed about whether to do so we have it and if any parts of the existing Wright Piece study can be used for the Facilities Plan. Facilities Plan runs ~\$150,000-\$165,000 and an update of the Wright Pierce plan would be ~\$25,000.

### b. Next Steps for the Committee

#### i. Timeline/Milestones

- 1. Mike Fortuna recommended a referendum in November to ask if the Town should spend the money to bring sewers to the Center. Discussion ensued:
  - a. Options include a pipe to Middletown, treat/discharge (i.e. blackbox) to River, treatment facility (question if this is still feasible? Possibly not if HES closes), or do nothing. Committee needs to know actual dollar value of project/what direction we're going. Referendum solely asks if we do it or not do it. Public info meetings prior to referendum will present scenarios & numbers. Property taxes will go up because property value

will go up – business owners are on board with this. Better quality of life – needs to be looked at long-term (not immediate short-term returns). Concern that townspeople will want cost surety. Goal is to share cost/benefit value with townspeople – consolidate relevant info, update old info, determine cost, impact on businesses and average taxpayer, and compile to share at public meeting. Present how options breakdown and available grants. Assume 4% per year for inflation from previous studies that gave cost estimates. We should contact City of Middletown to see if they are still willing to let us connect. Referendum question would need to be ready by early October.

- b. Discussion about the need to be self-sustaining or non-residential development will not happen. Current situation is not sustainable: .7% of Haddam is zoned commercial but comprises 6% of tax base. Personal property audits for commercial businesses are happening now – need to get updated tax numbers from assessor's office

2. Develop FAQ sheet. Some possible questions include:

- a. What's in it for me?
- b. How much will it cost?
- c. Why aren't the businesses paying for it?
- d. Businesses profiting from tax dollars

ii. Tasks/Action Items & Deliverables

- 1. Diane to follow up on Facilities Plan with CT DEEP and if the Wright Pierce study could be considered the FP, is it a start, etc.
- 2. Go through previous presentations at next meeting.
- 3. Discussion about transparency, availability, and being in agreement on FAQ answers.
- 4. Mike Fortuna will distribute past Powerpoint presentations.
- 5. Each member should start working on his/her own questions to be answered and considered for FAQ/future presentations

6. Plan B if we don't end up putting question on referendum - do we defer to next year? Have public hearings, town meetings?

**7. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:30. Lynne Cooper motioned, Mike O'Brien seconded. All in favor.