



BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 27, 2019
Senior Community Center – 7 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – A Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at the Senior Community Center. First Selectman Hayden called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Selectman Doering and Selectman Ziobro were present.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE “PROPOSED RELOCATION OF WALNUT DRIVE THROUGH A LAND TRANSFER BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EAST GRANBY AND THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY** – Five residents and Town Attorney, Derek Donnelly were in attendance along with two residents from Windsor. First Selectman Hayden reviewed the engineered drawings that showed the proposed relocation of the roadway and the proposed swap of 22,688 square feet. The First Selectman stated that the land swap property is owned by the Connecticut Airport Authority and that the only land owned by the town is the current Walnut Drive roadway itself. The CT Air National Guard (CTANG) is in the process of reconstructing their security gate directly across from the Walnut Drive location. The new gate is located slightly to the west on Route 20 to allow for proper spacing for turning radius for vehicles entering the site. This relocation makes it necessary to also realign Walnut Drive for safety purposes with the new gate to create a safe passable intersection.

The First Selectman also stated that a traffic signal will be installed at the new gate and realigned Walnut Drive. It is expected that this will increase safety and slow down traffic on a section of Route 20 where there have been several accidents including a fatality. The new entrance to CTANG is needed to meet current federal security standards. Failure to have the new entrance would put the viability of the base at risk. In order to accomplish this, it is necessary for the CAA to swap land with the Town to allow the reconstruction of Walnut Drive slightly south of its current location. CTANG is fully funding the construction of a relocated Walnut Drive and it is approximately a \$550,000 project. First Selectman Hayden then opened the floor to questions and comments.

Residents were concerned about traffic noise, especially the use of “jake brakes” by large trucks as they exit the Route 20 connector and they approach the existing light. First

Selectman Hayden said that he would contact the State to see if they could address this issue with signage on Route 20. There were questions about streetlights and the closeness of the relocated road to the rear property lines of Larch Drive residents and the subsequent noise and headlight issues. The First Selectman said that he was not aware of streetlights in the design but did not think they were in the plan. He also said that while he couldn't make any promises at the present time, he was in contact with CTANG to see if they would consider shrub/tree or fencing which would act as a screen for residents. Residents also asked about speeds on Route 20, the use of Larch Drive as a "cut through" and whether Larch Drive was scheduled to be repaved. First Selectman Hayden said that the signal light may reduce "cut through" traffic and that Larch Drive was on the list of town roads to be repaved and that the Town would try to coordinate the repaving of the street with the relocation of Walnut Drive.

Town Attorney Donnelly commented that the property swap was even at 22,688 square feet. A resident said that she thought the new signal would slow things down on the highway and should be a benefit for residents. A resident asked if fire hydrants were going to be installed on Walnut Drive and the First Selectman said that the installation of fire hydrants was not in the plan. First Selectman Hayden also said that a Town Meeting to act upon the property exchange would start at the end of this meeting. Hearing no more comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:32 pm.

3. **ADJOURN** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously** at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
First Selectman, Jim Hayden