

**EAST LYME BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AFTER PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, APRIL 21st, 2014**

Members In Attendance: Steve Kelley, Chairman
Lisa Picarazzi, Secretary
Camille Alberti
Steve Carpenteri
Steve Harney
Beth Hogan

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
May 20 2014 AT 2:00 AM/PM
Lesley Alberti
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also In Attendance: Paul Formica, First Selectman
Tim Hagen, Chairman, Board of Ed
Anna Johnson, Finance Director

Absent: No One

A. Call Special Meeting to Order

Chairman Kelley called this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance to order at 8:43 PM after the previously scheduled Public Hearing on the Proposed FY-14/15 Budget.

B. Special Appropriation – Building Official - \$7500

Mr. Kelley said that they would not be addressing this item as the Board of Selectmen has not acted on it yet.

**C. Deliberations & Action to Send Proposed FY 14-15 Budget to Town Meeting on
May 12, 2014**

Mr. Kelley said that they had completed the Public Hearing process and heard comments. He called for comments noting that he would like them to open discussion on department 114 – General Govt. and start there.

****MOTION (1)**

Ms. Hogan moved to open department 114 – General Govt.
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Kelley asked Mr. Formica for an update on the Health/Dental line item 127.

Mr. Formica said that he had thought that they could take another \$25,000 off however Ms. Johnson said that she is not comfortable with doing that. He said that he could give them a reduction of \$10,000 from line 233 – General Govt. Legal.

****MOTION (2)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to reduce line 233 – Legal by \$10,000 to \$140,000.
Mr. Harney seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (3)**

Ms. Alberti moved to close department 114 – General Govt.
Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Formica noted that they had cut \$2500 from Storm water management in the Engineering budget and that it is a mandated item. He said that it would need to be restored. He added that he would indicate an area in the Public Works department where they could offset the \$2500.

****MOTION (4)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to open department 105 – Town Engineer.
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (5)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to increase line 029 – Storm water management by \$2500 to \$4000.
Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (6)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to close department 105 – Town Engineer
Mr. Harney seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (7)**

Ms. Hogan moved to open department 317 – Public Works
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Kelley asked Mr. Formica for input on where the \$2500 could come from.
Mr. Formica said that they could reduce line 295 – SCRRA by the \$2500.

****MOTION (8)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to reduce line 295 – SCRRA by \$2500.
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Kelley asked Mr. Formica if he had any other suggestions.
Mr. Formica said that with the \$180,000 from the State for Town Aid Roads (TAR) that there may be other opportunities in the budget. Further, the use of these funds has been opened a bit to allow some spending on storm materials and supplies. He noted that he would hope that next winter is not as bad as this one has been. He suggested that they could reduce line 440 – Storm Materials & Supplies by \$45,000 as they would offset it by the increased revenue in TAR funding.

****MOTION (9)**

Ms. Hogan moved to reduce line 440 – Storm Materials & Supplies by \$45,000.
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (10)**

Ms. Hogan moved to close department 317 – Public Works.
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Formica noted that they have discussed the teacher evaluation program and that he has worked on this with Dr. Lombardo where there have been talks regarding giving communities such as ours a break on this mandate. A compromise may come out as there are a number of performing districts such as ours involved and the talks now are about going to the underperforming schools rather than the performing ones. The legislative session closes May 7 – 8 which is a week before our Town Meeting.

Mr. Kelley said that he would agree that this may be helpful.

Ms. Alberti said that she had thought that she heard that if the teacher evaluations were not 100% required that the extra funding would be returned.

Ms. Hogan said that they had discussed that they could perhaps put the money into a contingency account.

Mr. Kelley said that regardless of how they talk about it – even if it is in a contingency account for the BOE – they would still have it as part of their budget and would request the use of it. He said that he was concerned about the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) and if it would affect it.

Mr. Formica said that he specifically requested what happens to this and everyone was very clear on it.

Mr. Kelley asked for other comments.

****MOTION (11)**

Ms. Hogan moved to open department 999 – Education

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Hogan asked about the BOE reduction and how it was reflected.

Mr. Kelley explained that due to the extension of time that the BOE asked for to turn over their budget to the Board of Selectmen who then turned it over to us; the BOE cuts were not immediately reflected from the original request. It came to us with a notation that the BOE had cut it.

Ms. Hogan said that her original cut suggestions were in the \$275,000 - \$400,000 range and that she does agree that the burden of the common core is real.

****MOTION (12)**

Ms. Hogan moved to increase the BOE budget 999 by \$200,000.

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Ms. Alberti said that she had seconded the motion for discussion. She said that she had originally supported the BOE budget in its entirety. They have heard from people who moved here for the school system – she said that she had also moved here originally for the school system – however that is not the reason that she will stay here – she will stay here for the quality of life. She said that because they cannot cut specific areas in the BOE budget that she apologizes if she offended anyone about the suggestion regarding the Niantic Center School community however she feels that there are certain steps that can be done in the interim as they cannot continue to fund at a significantly higher rate the education budget than that of the Town as they have to meet the needs of all of our citizens and not just the school system. She said that they need to be realistic and they need to look at areas where there is waste.

Mr. Kelley said once again that this has been a tough budget season. He noted that the \$550,000 cut was his suggestion and that he had looked at all aspects. This is a nice Town for many reasons and they have to look at what the people can afford which includes a number of things that all the people in the Town expect and deserve and that is how he reached his number. He said that he has to stand by it. He called for further discussion or a vote on the motion.

Vote: 3 – 3 – 0. Motion failed.

For: Ms. Hogan, Ms. Alberti, Mr. Carpenteri

Against: Mr. Harney, Ms. Picarazzi, Mr. Kelley

****MOTION (13)**

Ms. Hogan moved to increase the BOE budget 999 by \$150,000.

Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.

Mr. Carpenteri said that this was more in line with his number.

Vote: 3 – 3 – 0. Motion failed.

For: Ms. Hogan, Ms. Alberti, Mr. Carpenteri

Against: Mr. Harney, Ms. Picarazzi, Mr. Kelley

****MOTION (14)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to close department 999 – Education.
Mr. Harney seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

D. Discussion & Possible Action on the Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Kelley asked Mr. Formica for input on this.
Mr. Formica said that they would have to balance the CIP spending plan to the cuts made.

****MOTION (15)**

Ms. Hogan moved to make the following changes to the 2014/2015 year of the Long Range CIP: **dept 102** – Assessor – Reval to \$52,000; **dept 103** – Tax Collector – folding machine to 0; **dept 105** – Engineering CAD to 0; **dept 109** – IT to \$12,500; **dept 113** – Building Maintenance – paint – ELCC exterior to \$15,871; paint library interior to \$11,000; and sprinkler repairs to \$7500; **dept 216** – Police – vehicle equipment to \$16,389 and vehicles to \$53,500; **dept 218** – Flanders Fire Dept. – turnout gear to \$16,200; **dept 317** – Public Works – vehicles to \$40,109; and sidewalk repair to 0; **dept 421** – Parks & Recreation – Master Plan to \$7500 and vehicles/equipment to \$6300.
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Mr. Kelley noted that the rest of the numbers for the other four years of the plan will remain the same.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

E. Public Discussion

Mr. Kelley called for Public Discussion.

Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Road asked with the changes that have been made this evening what the bottom line of the budget now was.

Ms. Johnson said that it is \$65,113,598.
Ms. Rak asked what the percentage increase is.
Mr. Formica said that it would not go under 3%.
He noted that he has received an email saying that something may be cooking regarding the teacher evaluations at the State level.

F. Board Comments

Mr. Kelley called for comments from the Board.
There were none.

Adjournment

****MOTION (16)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to adjourn this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance at 9:17 PM.
Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary