

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2014
MINUTES

PRESENT: Paul M. Formica, Mark Nickerson, Holly Cheeseman, Kevin Seery, Rose Ann Hardy, Rob Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson, Director of Public Works Joe Bragaw, Deputy Director Bill Scheer, Town Engineer Victor Benni, Superintendent of Highways Chuck Holyfield, Building Maintenance Supervisor Ron Bence.

Mr. Formica called the Special Meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. and led the Pledge.

Mr. Formica noted that the purpose of this meeting was for budget review.

Public Works #317:

There was some discussion regarding the salaries of the Director and Deputy Director of Public Works. Previously, 50% of the salary of the Public Works Director was in the Water and Sewer budget and now has been moved to line #211 to reflect the entire salary.

Director of Public Works Bragaw noted that his budget is showing an overage in the supplies account for storm materials. He noted that we have not run out of salt this year and staff has done a great job managing this commodity. He said that usually the town would use 1400 tons. He added that he was asking for an increase in the storm overtime line #315.

He noted that previously #412 part time seasonal was at \$12,500 and this year he was requesting \$4500. He noted that #295 SCRRRA Tipping Fee was up by \$1000. He said there is also an increase in line 310- 221 Fleet Fuel of almost \$50,000.

Mr. Formica said that we are looking to lock in fuel prices in March and will have a better idea of cost at that time.

Mr. Bragaw noted that line 300-320 is down \$6000 since we do not purchase uniforms from this line anymore.

Ms. Hardy inquired why the 50% of the Director's salary was removed from Water and Sewer and interjected in this budget.

Mr. Formica responded that they were reviewing the division of duties.

Finance Director Johnson said that in the past 50% of the Director of Public Works salary came from the General Fund and 50% came from Water and Sewer; one civil engineer from and 50% of the Finance Director's salary came from Water and Sewer.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Feb 20 2014 AT 1:10 AM/PM
Caren Yulish
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Ms. Hardy noted that due to all the water and sewer connections and the interconnection work, these salaries should be paid by Water and Sewer. She asked about the machine for sign making.

Mr. Holyfield responded that they were still trying to find the best technology for the best price and that so far, no machine had been purchased.

Ms. Hardy asked if they expected a reduction in line #223 Traffic Signals and Street Signs next year.

Mr. Holyfield responded that the materials still needed to be purchased; the signs would be produced in house.

Ms. Hardy inquired about the use of brine which would enable them to use less salt and was more environmentally friendly.

Mr. Bragaw said that the CT DOT utilizes brine added to the salt but the cost of the equipment for the on board tanks would be a capital increase of approximately \$4000 for each. He said using salt is environmentally friendly, it's when salt and sand are utilized that there is a problem.

Ms. Hardy asked if we are expecting an increase in LOCIP and or Town Aid Roads for this year.

Mr. Formica responded that we will have more information later and they will be changed at that time. He said that they are also loosening the regulations on how towns can utilize TAR and LOCIP funds. He stated that in the past, the Ambulance Association has helped out with the purchase of fuel.

Mr. Wilson suggested changing the name of line #200-224 to Repairs and Upgrade of Roads not reconstruction.

Ms. Cheeseman inquired if the increase in line 100-211 was attributed to the Public Work's Director's total salary being in this line.

Mr. Formica said yes and noted that Bill Scheer was serving as the Director of Public Works and Mr. Benni became the Town Engineer. Mr. Bragaw was hired as our new Director of Public Works and Mr. Scheer became the Deputy Director.

ENGINEERING #105

Mr. Bragaw noted that Mr. Benni's salary, ½ of the Civil Engineer and the Administrative Assistant's salaries are in this budget.

Mr. Formica noted that with the set up of the department as it now is, the Town saves a great deal of money because there is no need to go to consulting firms for the design and or oversight of a project because we have the capability on staff. Some of the projects the

engineering team worked on were FEMA, the streetscape, Cini Park, Vets Park, the Boardwalk, Grand Street boat launch, road drainage improvement projects, 8 Capitol Drive, an access road for Rocky Neck State Park, sidewalks, the police station, redoing the servers to name a few.

IT #215:

Mr. Scheer noted a \$15,000 increase in the total budget. He said that we have 11 servers and in the past, we purchased blocks of time for a consultant to help us with problems. We now need someone on call who knows our system on a regular basis. He said we will basically be getting Star Computers for one day a week.

Ms. Hardy asked where there was money to train employees.

Finance Director Johnson responded that in Dept. 114 there are training funds available.

Mr. Scheer noted that the upgrade for computers is housed in the capital budget.

Building Maintenance #113:

Mr. Bragaw noted the increases in electric and heating oil and salaries. He said the increase in salaries is due to the proposal of assigning one of our custodians who has carpentry skills, "skilled custodian" hours for those times when he is utilized in this higher capacity.

Ms. Hardy inquired who was responsible for cleaning out hydrants.

Mr. Bragaw responded that this is a cooperative effort.

Mr. Formica noted that the Warden from the Prison has offered inmate assistance.

Ms. Hardy inquired how the revenues were from the truck washing?

Mr. Formica noted that the truck washing was being utilized but that so far, no revenues from other towns have been received.

Mr. Bragaw noted that the Public Works Department has 3 new staff members and a new custodian.

Mr. Formica adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:28 p.m.