

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 2016  
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark C. Nickerson  
Holly Cheeseman  
Marc Salerno  
Rose Ann Hardy  
Dan Cunningham  
Kevin Seery

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
Jan 6 2016 AT 3:55 AM/PM  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney O'Connell  
Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works

Mr. Nickerson called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:10 p.m.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items

There were none.

1c. Delegations

Joe Mingo of 397 Boston Post Road came forward to make some comments.

He asked when the Town became the Banana Republic.

He said that he was not reappointed to serve on the Inland Wetlands Commission due to comments he made to the New London Day. He said that free speech apparently doesn't mean anything.

Mr. Mingo cited the twenty years he has served this Town in various capacities along with his vast experience; he has studied invasive plants at UCONN and considers himself an expert on this topic. He said he is a certified Tree Warden yet he was not reappointed to serve in this capacity either. He has studied Wetland Law and understands how it works.

Mr. Mingo told the Board that they're not hurting him but the Town. He doesn't understand why he is being treated like this.

Mr. Mingo asked about the Town Building Committee and asked the last time they met. He said the Charter requires they have a Committee. He said they should be overseeing the Boardwalk and said we have no way of actually knowing what is being done and spent.

Mr. Mingo said the Town Employees are running the Town and the Committees are out to lunch.

Mr. Drabik of 34 Drabik Road came forward to comment on the Selectman's ability to curb the speaking time of residents during public delegations. He said if someone wants to speak for forty-five minutes they have a right to and it's their job to listen. He said that "delegations" was not put on agendas until people like himself and Mr. Mingo complained and made them do it.

Mr. Drabik questioned the "Rob Wilson Day" and the proclamation he was given stating that he was often in trouble particularly for being under the influence and other questionable activity. He told the Selectmen that they were pretty sad.

Mr. Drabik asked where Mr. Mingo's proclamation is; whether you like him or not, he has served the Town for twenty plus years.

Mr. Drabik mentioned the cell towers and said that Mr. Nickerson is working for AT&T and knocking on peoples doors.

He said that the Board has forgotten what Town government is.

Mr. Drabik asked where the fabric and stone armor is for the Boardwalk that they were told was going to be there.

#### 1d. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of December 16, 2015

Mr. Salerno said there is one correction on page 5, motion 26. It should say "to WELSCO."

#### MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2015 as amended.

Ms. Cheeseman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

#### 1e. Consent Calendar

#### MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery moved to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of January 6, 2016 in the amount of \$884.07.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

#### 2a. Discussion / Action – Public Hearing re: Ordinance Prescribing Fees for Building and Demolition Permits

#### MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery RESOLVED, that the "Ordinance Prescribing Fees for Building and Demolition Permits" be amended as follows:

A. Section 4 of the above-entitled Ordinance is deleted, and the following is substituted in its place and stead:

"4. Permit fees shall be payable for any work to be done by or for the town, including the Board of Education. Provided that any such fees for the first \$2,000,000.00 of construction value for any town project shall be waived."

B. All other provisions of the above-entitled ordinance shall remain in full force and effect. The foregoing amendment shall be effective fifteen (15) days after publication of notice of its adoption.

Mr. Salerno seconded the motion.

Ms. Hardy following up on some of Mr. Mingo's comments said that she had not considered bonding.

Mr. Nickerson explained that it would be part of the project.

Ms. Cheeseman said this allows us to finance over time the funding of a part-time building official as opposed to obtaining the funds from the operating fund for that year.

Mr. Salerno said the financing of labor concerns him but there are advantages to keeping operational and special projects separate; it is more honest in terms of the actual cost of the project.

Mr. Cunningham concurred that it helps with the projecting of a budget.

Motion passed 6-0.

#### 2b. Authorize First Selectman to Sign—ICE Program Grant

Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works came forward to detail this Grant proposal. He explained that everyone is trying to regionalize- communities are joining together to share equipment. Public Works has partnered with the City of New London to obtain a grapple truck through the ICE Program Grant. The application must be turned into the State by February 1, 2016.

The truck would be maintained and housed in New London and we would call them when it was needed. New London intends to use it once a week.

In terms of insurance, it works the exact same way a lease does. If anything goes wrong we are responsible for 20% while New London is responsible for 80%.

Mr. O'Connell said this would be considered an inter-local agreement. The Statutes have streamlined this topic over the years and it requires that the Public have an opportunity to comment.

#### MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery RESOLVED, to authorize the First Selectman, in the name and on behalf of the Town, to execute and deliver an "Inter-Local Agreement for Purchase of Capital Equipment Between the City of New London and the Town of East Lyme", pertaining to the purchase and use of a "grapple truck" to be used by their public works departments in various municipal projects. The First Selectman is also authorized to execute such other documents and take such other action as may be necessary or desirable to effectuate said purchase.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Mr. Nickerson asked if anyone from the Public present had any comments. There were no Public comments.

Ms. Cheeseman asked if this is sufficient Public notice.

Mr. O'Connell said that it was and that this is the exact process the City of New London employs.

Ms. Hardy pointed out the Board had previous discussions about this matter which is referenced in meeting minutes available online or in the Town Clerk's office. It is also part of tonight's agenda.

Mr. Bragaw explained that we sold two used garbage trucks to New London and that \$17,000 of this sale will be used if the grapple truck is purchased. Ms. Hardy said that she liked this.

Mr. Bragaw explained how New London would be the insurance policy holder while we would receive an insurance certificate.

Mr. Salerno asked if we would have to buy them out if they broke the agreement and Mr. Bragaw said no.

Mr. Bragaw detailed how the equipment would be shared equally during a storm. He added that we have a great working relationship with New London and doesn't foresee any problems.

Mr. Cunningham said that he had some concerns namely insurance, but Mr. Bragaw has addressed them.

Mr. Bragaw reminded the Board that this is step one in the Grant process- if approved by the State it would still need to go before them, the Board of Finance and Town meeting.

Mr. Salerno said he is pleased we don't have to house it here given that it is forty feet long.

Mr. Bragaw said the proposal is very favorable to us- we are getting use of equipment that we normally wouldn't get an opportunity to use, for a fraction of the price.

Mr. Nickerson congratulated Mr. Bragaw on the excellent job he has done.

Motion passed 6-0.

#### **2c. Approval for Award Recommendations – Police Dept**

Mr. Nickerson detailed how Officer Cutillo and Officer Priest revived an unresponsive male and saved his life. Officer Blanchette would like to formally recognize these two Officers for their hard work and dedication.

Motion (5)

Mr. Seery moved to approve Officer Blanchette's request for these Police Department Awards.  
Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

## 2d. Appointments

### Motion (6)

Mr. Seery moved to appoint the following:

Peter Harris of 5 South Ridge Road, Niantic, CT to serve on the Niantic River Watershed Board as an Alternate through January 6, 2020;

Richard Morris of 9 Haigh Avenue, Niantic, CT to serve as fire marshal through January 6, 2020;

Nicholas Merola of 15 Goodwin Street, Niantic, CT to serve as Deputy Fire Marshal through January 6, 2020;

Barbara Johnson Low of 3 North Road, Niantic, CT to serve on the Historic Properties Commission through January 6, 2020;

Joshua Chapps of 16 Green Valley Lakes, East Lyme, CT to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate through January 6, 2020;

David Zoller of 3 Spinnaker Drive, Niantic, CT to serve on the Water and Sewer Commission through January 6, 2020.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

## 2e. Fishermen Leases

Mr. Nickerson said the fishermen leases at Cini Park have expired. The Town Attorney has the lease for language review.

There are currently five leases but the space really only accommodates four; one of the fishermen has passed away.

The fishermen are responsible for maintaining the docks.

There will be more to follow regarding this topic at a later meeting.

## 3. Unfinished Business

### a. Ex-Officio Assignments

Given Ms. Hardy's longevity serving on the Board of Selectmen Mr. Nickerson gave her the option to select her assignment and she chose Zoning.

Ms. Cheeseman was assigned Planning.

Mr. Cunningham was assigned the Smith Harris House, WELSCO and Historic Properties.

Mr. Seery was assigned Youth Services and the Board of Education will be rotated between all of them.

Mr. Salerno's assignment remains the same- IWA, Town Building and Harbor Management.

Ms. Hardy reviewed Ex-Officio responsibilities with the Board.

Mr. Nickerson clarified that comments should be limited to "big picture" Town comments rather than serving a personal agenda.

Ms. Hardy requested that a copy of the Ex-Officio schedule be put in the packet for their next meeting.

#### 4. Communications

There was none.

#### 5. Information and Reports

##### a. Ex-Officio

Mr. Seery had nothing to report.

Ms. Hardy had nothing to report.

Mr. Salerno said that he is currently reviewing a draft of a blight ordinance with Mr. Mulholland.

Ms. Cheeseman said the Library had its first meeting of the year and has acquired a people counter; more patrons are frequenting than originally thought. Lisa Timothy presented the Library budget and looks forward to working with the Town.

Mr. Cunningham had nothing to report.

##### b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson said that Mr. Drabik made comments about him driving around with AT&T and he said that was untrue. He gave AT&T a list of twenty properties that might be considered and he would be happy to speak to Mr. Drabik about this.

The limitation of delegation comments is to knock out a filibuster possibility; this was recommended by CCM and many towns actually have it on their agendas that comments be kept to five minutes.

Mr. Nickerson applauded Mr. Mingo for the service he has given the Town. He said there are other people who would like to serve and that he was not removed due to any comments he made to The Day.

The Town Building Committee will be used by the First Selectman when appropriate.

The Boardwalk is being overseen by a top notch engineering firm. Some of the work is being done in stages but the construction of the Boardwalk is exactly as designed.

Budgets are being brought in by Department Heads for review.

Mr. Nickerson met with the National Guard yesterday and the JLUS Study is ongoing.

The male population of the prison is being removed this week; the Warden has had difficulty keeping the male and female prisoners separate.

Bill Blanchette was given a Proclamation for his seven year service to the Town and Police Department. We are sad to see him go.

Mike Poola who has served our Water Department for twenty years is retiring on Friday.

Ledyard is making steps to move out of the SEAT Bus Program. This is concerning. The Board of Directors will be meeting this Wednesday and the fate will be decided then.

The Board discussed looking into the 9 Town Transit Program as an alternative option.

#### 6. Public Comment

Julie Horner of 42 Manwaring Road came forward to thank the Board for all the work they do. She acknowledged that most people tend to only complain and said she hoped more of the community will start attending these meetings.

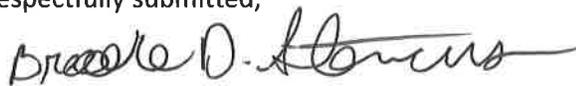
Ms. Cheeseman thanked Mr. Nickerson for his presence at the Countdown to Noon event at the Community Center. She also thanked Marge Broderick, Parks and Recreation, and the Library.

#### MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the January 6, 2016 meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Cheeseman. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Brooke D. Stevens, Recording Secretary