

**EAST LYME BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, MAY 9th, 2012**

Members In Attendance: Raymond Hart, Chairman
Richard Bengtson
Steve Carpenteri
Steve Kelley
Lisa Picarazzi

Also In Attendance: Paul Formica, First Selectman
Anna Johnson, Finance Director
Gary Goeschel, Planning Director

Absent: Steve Harney, Secretary

A. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Hart called this Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance to order at 7:00 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was observed.

C. Delegations

Mr. Hart called for Delegations.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane said that he was under the impression from what he heard at the meeting after the Public Hearing that the mill rate might be just a .5 increase over this year's mill rate. However, he is hearing 22 mills and asked for clarification on that.

Mr. Hart explained that the 22.2 mills are due to the re-valuation that was completed and the decrease in the grand list. It will take the 22.2 mills to equal what they had and will still pay the same in taxes. There is also the potential for the .5 mill increase.

D. Approval of Minutes

▪ **Monday, April 2, 2012 – Special Meeting**

Mr. Hart called for a motion for approval or any changes to the Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2012.

Mr. Bengtson asked that on the top of Page 3 in Motion (4) that 'open' be changed to read: *close*.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. Kelley moved to approve the Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2012 as amended.

Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

▪ **Wednesday, April 11, 2012 – Regular Meeting**

Mr. Hart called for a motion for approval or any changes to the Board of Finance April 11, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Formica noted that while Mr. Drabik had said during Delegations that the Town Bond rating had dropped that he wished to state that the truth is that the Town's Bond rating has not changed at all. He

said that he understands that he cannot change what Mr. Drabik said, but would like to make the statement for the record that the Bond rating has not changed.

Ms. Johnson asked that on Page 9 where she is speaking about FEMA money that the last sentence be changed to read: *They are looking to retain \$130,000.*

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. Carpenteri moved to approve the Board of Finance Regular Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2012 as amended.

Mr. Bengtson seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

▪ **Monday, April 23, 2012 – Public Hearing**

Mr. Hart called for a motion for approval or any changes to the Board of Finance Public Hearing Minutes of April 23, 2012.

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. Bengtson moved to approve the Board of Finance Public Hearing Minutes of April 23, 2012 as presented.

Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Carpenteri

▪ **Monday, April 23, 2012 – Special Meeting**

Mr. Hart called for a motion for approval or any changes to the Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2012.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. Kelley moved to approve the Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2012 as presented.

Mr. Bengtson seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Carpenteri

E. Reports

◆ **First Selectman**

Mr. Formica reported on the following:

- The Water & Sewer Municipal Engineer is extremely happy with all of the recent rainfall that we have had.
- The design for the interconnection project is at the 30-40% completion range.
- The State budget was adopted and they have dealt with the shortfall without impacting the cities and Towns. He said that he would attend a CCM meeting next week and would find out more information there.
- The Annual Town Meeting is Monday – May 14, 2012 at 7 PM in the High School Auditorium. They will adjourn the budget to a referendum to be held on Thursday 5/24/2012 from 6 AM to 8 PM.
- He would be meeting with FEMA again tomorrow.
- The Darrow Pond Open Space Committee meetings have been moving along – they are looking for a Conservation easement on approximately 200 acres with the remainder for the wells, future water tank and municipal use.
- The Giants Neck Road traffic light is now operational.

Mr. Kelley asked if there was the possibility of more than one tank at the Darrow Pond property.

Mr. Formica said that they have designed a smaller tank that will hold 400,000 gallons that will be located at the Lombardi site. The site to be used after that would be for expansion and would be the Darrow Pond site.

Ms. Picarazzi asked about the tanks as she had thought that it was supposed to be at the Darrow Pond site. She also asked about the open space area at Darrow Pond. She said that it seemed to be a departure and that she recalled more of the area to be for the water project.

Mr. Formica explained that there is 100 acres that is to be set aside for municipal use. He said that the water project use has always been subject to what the designers came up with. In this case, it is similar to designing a house where things change because it is found that they work better. This is a very valuable piece of property and the expansion of the project will house the tank.

Mr. Carpenteri asked if the three wells up there could be used.

Mr. Formica said yes and added that they would probably be combined with a well house in the future.

Ms. Picarazzi asked about the Town Meetings when they voted on the budget at them, prior to voting at referendum.

Mr. Formica explained the prior process – it was run by the Moderator and the Town Clerk. The eligible people present voted by hand with the Registrars present for validation purposes if something was questioned.

Mr. Hart asked about the progress of the Athletic Complex and the Amtrak Bridge project.

Mr. Formica said that they had Town and Board of Ed teams working on the Athletic Complex project and it looks like it would be closer to the first week in October that it will be completed. The Town Building Committee is also authorized to work on this and oversee the process. He noted that the Boulevard area would change according to the DOT with a better line of site – possibly closer to the Laundromat. Amtrak is looking to finish their project before May of 2013.

◆ Finance Director

Ms. Johnson said that her monthly report was in their packets and that she had provided them with the Board of Ed summary as well as the regular reports. She said that she would answer any questions that they might have.

Ms. Picarazzi asked about the General Fund expenditures for this April being over a million dollars lower than the previous April – why is there such a big difference.

Ms. Johnson said that they had three Board of Ed payroll payments during April of last year and only two for April of this year. Their payrolls typically average \$1M or more.

Ms. Picarazzi asked about the Pequot Grant listed in the revenue area.

Mr. Formica said that it is money that the Towns get from the casinos.

Ms. Johnson said that it typically comes to them in three payments from the State.

Ms. Johnson noted that this is the fifth year that they have had their Auditor and asked if they wanted to go out to bid and ask for a quote for a three year bid.

Mr. Hart suggested that they address this in December and perhaps go to others with an RFP.

F. New Business

a. Special Appropriation – America the Beautiful Grant Award - \$4000

Mr. Formica explained that this is a reimbursable grant from America the Beautiful – to be used for a tree nursery for Town use. He noted that a few weeks ago that the Leo's and Lions donated 150 trees that were planted at Darrow Pond. This is also the same grant that they had received \$1500 previously for a windbreak at the Colton Road property. He noted that Mr. Goeschel was present if they had questions.

Mr. Hart asked if it is an in-kind grant.

Mr. Goeschel said yes.

Mr. Hart asked who is going to keep the trees trimmed and healthy.

Mr. Goeschel said that they are working on a plan and that other communities have groups that oversee the upkeep.

Mr. Hart asked for an estimate on how much it would cost to maintain them.

Mr. Goeschel said that they are looking into the man hours for trimming, drip-irrigation, etc.

****MOTION (5)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to approve a special appropriation for the America the Beautiful Grant in the amount of \$4000 to account 01-70-725-720-493 (America the Beautiful Projects) as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This grant will be used to establish a municipal tree nursery.

Mr. Bengtson seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

G. Old Business

Mr. Formica noted the Shoreline Soup Kitchen request letter that they had in their packets. It came in after the budget process and he sent them a letter on the process asking that they apply earlier next year. He said that if anyone would like to donate to them that they could send in a donation at any time.

H. Public Discussion

Mr. Hart called for Public Discussion.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane thanked everyone for their budgetary efforts and asked Mr. Hart if he would ask Mr. Formica if the water interconnection on Darrow Pond is going to be limited by the open space as there is a lot of acreage there and also with the interconnection if he had any forecast on development in the area of True Value and I-95.

I. Board Comments

Mr. Hart asked that Mr. Formica answer Mr. Schulz's questions here –

Mr. Formica said that approximately 200 acres would have the conservation easement on it and that use is yet to be determined. The other 100 acres are for municipal use and the water project use. He noted that the three wells are already drilled there. Regarding the Gateway Project – the regional interconnection will provide water needs over the summer and previously they have not been able to provide 12 months of water. The parcel next to Bob's also would like to be developed and would need water. The development is predicated on the regional interconnection being able to provide the necessary water. The State DOT will be holding a Public Hearing in the future regarding replacing the overpass at Exit 73 – which would re-do that highway exit to make it more efficient. The Gateway project should move forward after that.

J. Adjournment

Mr. Hart called for a motion to adjourn.

****MOTION (6)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to adjourn this Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance at 7:53 PM.

Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary