

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES Monday, APRIL 27th, 2009
EAST LYME BOARD OF FINANCE
AFTER PUBLIC HEARING**

Members In Attendance: Steve Larcen, Chairman
Jeff Langan, Secretary
John Birmingham
Jill Carini
Bob Jones
Allan Taylor

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

Absent: No One

A. Call Special Meeting to Order

Chairman Larcen called this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance to order at 8:35 PM after the previously scheduled Public Hearing on the Proposed FY09-10 Budget.

B. Review & Possible Action of Draft Audit Report for June 30, 2008

Mr. Larcen noted that Scott Bassett of McGladrey & Pullen would go over the draft audit with them at a Special Meeting for that purpose on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 7 PM here in the INTV Room at the East Lyme High School.

Review & Possible Action to transfer from the Building Official (Dept. 104) line item to Building Maintenance (Dept. 113) in the amount of \$1,600 for office modifications.

Mr. Larcen called for a motion for discussion.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. Jones moved to transfer from the Building Official (Dept. 104) line item to the Building Maintenance line item (Dept. 113) the amount of \$1,600 for office modifications.

Mr. Taylor seconded the motion.

Mr. Jones asked about the transfer.

Mr. Formica explained that they would be moving an office and the break room so that the break room would have access to water and the Planner would get a little bigger office area.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Deliberations & Action to Send Proposed FY 09-10 Budget to Town Meeting on May 11, 2009

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. Jones moved to send the proposed FY09-10 budget in the amount of \$60,368,873 to Town Meeting on May 11, 2009 as presented.

Mr. Taylor seconded the motion.

Mr. Taylor said that he did not hear anything at the Public Hearing that would warrant making changes to the budget and that he feels that they worked well together on it and with others and that everyone did a good job.

Ms. Carini said that she appreciated one comment that Mr. Drabik made regarding looking at things from the long-term perspective.

Mr. Larcen thanked the board members again and said that they all worked very hard on this budget.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Discussion & Possible Action on the Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Larcen asked Mr. Formica to go over this.

Mr. Formica said that it is important that all of the figures match in the capital plan and that he would go over them one last time to make sure that they do prior to presentation at Town Meeting. He noted that he also appreciates the comments made by Ms. Carini and Mr. Drabik. He said that he firmly believes that in a few years oil will go back up in price and drive the cost of everything up along with it. He noted some of the items on the capital plan: the Cone Property at \$230,000 is for the expansion of the parking area downtown – Mr. Jutila is putting in a package in Hartford to help with the cost of this. The Turf field and new bleachers could be paid out over 20 years and with the new turf field, they could rent the use of it out and this would bring in additional revenues.

Mr. Larcen asked what other reasons there would be to do a field in turf versus the sod.

Mr. Formica said that it would allow for increased use and that they have been approached by those who would like to use it should they have it. He continued that he also proposed funding for the culinary arts lab in the school as the current economy would dictate that interest in career opportunities would take different paths with the culinary arts being one of them. He said that he also thinks that forming a Vision Committee with a master plan consultant is very important for the future of the Town. They would review all 83 properties that the Town owns. It is a forward looking plan for the next 20 years and there is some money for a number of key items included in it.

Mr. Langan asked if the Parks & Recreation \$1.5M turf field listed on page 3 of the plan was the same as the one listed for 2013-2014 for \$2.25 as a multi-purpose, multi-track field for the High School.

Mr. Formica said that he suspected that it was listed twice in error and that it would not be duplicated. There would only be the one.

Mr. Langan asked how bonding some roadwork would figure into this.

Mr. Formica said that there is no road repair in the budget and that \$1.25M would be proposed for road repair. This would fit in with the bonding that would be expiring.

Mr. Langan asked for a vision of the debt load and how the new debt would lay out over what is dropping off.

Mr. Larcen said that they are proposing bonding of \$1.25M in 2010 and another \$1.25M in 2011 and asked how they proposed doing this.

Mr. Formica said that they would discuss it with bond counsel regarding the best way to do it.

Mr. Larcen noted that most items are for one year except for the road infrastructure which is a multiple year project. He asked for clarification on if it would be one bond or a few and suggested that the figures be revised and the plan brought back to them corrected for their special meeting on May 7, 2009 so that they could vote on moving the plan to Town Meeting.

Public Discussion

Mr. Larcen called for Public Discussion.

Bob Gadbois, 358 Boston Post Road said that he would like to comment regarding the turf field. He asked that they look at the major ball fields that went to AstroTurf and who are now going back to the regular turf fields due to the problems and accidents that they had.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane asked for copies of the presentation that was given at Public Hearing.

Mr. Larcen provided him with three that he had with him.

Mr. Schulz said that with respect to the Board of Ed concessions that he would like to have that information for the Town Meeting and that if they do not have that information by then that he would vote the budget down. He said that the Board of Ed has known about this for months now and has chosen to wait until the

last minute to ask for concessions and he does not want the Town to be the only ones giving something up and he wants to know the amount that the Board of Ed will give up.

Karen Rak, Black Point Road asked if the proposed budget that was available to them this evening would be put on-line on the Town website for everyone to see.

Mr. Formica said that it would be put on-line.

Board Comments

Mr. Taylor said that he has believed all along that they will need to come up with additional monies before this is over as he is suspicious that by the time the State gets its budget and information together that they will find that they have to come up with more money. This process is not over; therefore it is important for concessions to be made as they will need those dollars to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. Jones noted that as Mr. Drabik has said – next year will be even worse. He said that they looked to bring in the budget as low as possible in hopes that it could help them for next year.

Mr. Larcen and Mr. Taylor said that they are concerned about the Federal \$385,000 that is in the budget as in the event that it has strings attached to it; they would have to find that money elsewhere. Also; that money will not be there for them next year which will put a strain on them to find it.

Mr. Larcen said that he would pass along any questions that they had to Mr. Seery and also ask him to have the Board of Ed presentation placed on the website for the public to see.

Mr. Langan noted that he agrees with Mr. Seery on the formulation of a vision committee to look into how to meet the challenges of the future.

Mr. Formica said that under the auspices of a Master Plan Consultant looking at a 20-year plan will make the five-year plan that much easier.

Adjournment

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. Taylor moved to adjourn this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance at 9:05 PM.

Ms. Carini seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary