

East Lyme Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2015

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING OF AUGUST 5, 2015

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Marc Salerno, Holly Cheeseman, Rose Ann Hardy, Rob Wilson.

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. and led the Pledge.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items

There were none.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Aug 6, 2015 AT 1:00 AM/PM
B. M. D. [Signature] ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Mr. Nickerson noted that since the Special Town Meeting went long, he wanted to move up the Presentations.

Sgt. Macek of the East Lyme Police Department introduced retired Detective Don Marr and Officer Levandoski and awarded them the Life Savings Award for responding to a call of an overturned boat on Niantic Bay on April 29, 2015 and which resulted in saving the man's life.

Mr. Nickerson presented Proclamations to Life Guards Evan Opsahl who along with Life Guard Andrew Brown performed CPR on a woman at the beach until medical personnel arrived.

Mr. Nickerson introduced the Babe Ruth Coaches and team members and congratulated them for winning the State Championship. He announced that he would be having a banner made to hang on the field fence in their honor for next season.

Mr. Wilson left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

1c. Delegations

Mike Schulz of Lovers Lane asked about the health insurance and inquired if it was true that employees could remain covered when they turned 65.

1d. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting of July 1, 2015

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen for July 1, 2015 as submitted.

Seconded by Ms. Cheeseman. Motion passed 5-0.

Consent Calendar

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery moved to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of August 5, 2015 in the amount of \$2994.65.

Seconded by Ms. Cheeseman. Motion passed 5-0.

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2a. Authorization to Sign – Resident Trooper agreement 7/2015 – 6/2017

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign an agreement for Resident Trooper Services for the period of July, 2015 through June, 2017.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy.

Ms. Hardy noted that we are fortunate to have this program since it is the best situation for us at the present time. She added that she could not say enough about Sergeant Blanchette and that it is unfortunate that the state has withdrawn its support from this program. She requested that the Board become more proactive to get funding levels restored through the help of our state legislators.

Mr. Seery noted that the town's share for the resident trooper was increased from 70% to 85% of the cost and this was becoming very difficult for the towns to absorb.

Mr. Nickerson stated that Connecticut Conference of Municipalities has had a many emotional and fierce discussions about the state funding less of their share for the resident trooper program. He said this program is the best example the state has of a regional program that works very well and ironically, it is the state that is breaking down the program. He said we would be starting to review the potential of becoming an independent police force in the near future. He agreed with Ms. Hardy's comments about Resident Trooper Blanchette and added that "he is the most decent man he has met".

Motion passed 5-0.

2b. Unaffiliated COLA and Insurance

Mr. Seery noted that he and Ms. Hardy had met with representatives of the unaffiliated group to review their concerns. He said that the health care premium cost would increase and they were suggesting an increase of 2.5% to be implemented retroactive to July 1, 2015.

Mr. Nickerson says that the unaffiliated group has an agreement of the "best of the best" of contracts and he added he would abstain from the vote on this since it affected his position also.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery moved to approve an management and unaffiliated cost of living increase of 2.5% retroactive to July 1, 2015 and an increase in health care premium cost to 12% effective September 1, 2015 or as soon as practical thereafter.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy.

Mr. Salerno inquired about the insurance deductible.

Mr. Nickerson responded that the health savings account would be fully funded this year however, funding will be decreased next year and each year after in increments to keep us with health costs. He stated that premium costs increased 14% this year and the first two months of the new fiscal year showed increasing costs.

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Ms. Hardy stated that Aetna's profits were just announced and they did very well.

Aye: Mr. Seery, Ms. Hardy, Ms. Cheeseman, Mr. Salerno.

Nay: None.

Abstain: Mr. Nickerson. Motion passed 4-0-1.

2c. Carry-over of remaining LOCIP balance 2014/15 Budget

Mr. Nickerson noted that each year we include in the General Fund operating budget an appropriation for our annual LoCIP entitlement. In the 2014/15 budget the current remaining balance is the amount of \$80,325.13. In order to have access to all available funds to complete future planned CIP projects, recommend carry-over of remaining balance at fiscal year end.

Projects completed during the 2014/15 fiscal year include: A new electric folding door at the ELCC and beginning the purchase and installation of a generator at the Town Hall. And, at the end of the fiscal year we were approved to pave parking lots at Bridebrook, Vets Memorial and McCook parks.

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery moved to approve the carry-over of the remaining balance of \$80,325.13 in account 01-30-317-500-100 (LoCIP) and corresponding revenue account 01-03-300-320 from the 2014/15 budget to the 2015/16 fiscal year and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

2d. Budget Transfers

Mr. Nickerson stated that various transfers within departmental budgets have been necessary for various reasons. Attached is the documentation for transfers made for a total amount of \$49,598.62 information presented includes: from account number, description of the budget line item, amount – to account number, description of the budget line item, amount. He added that these requests are forwarded to you in accordance with section 6.3.4 of the Charter.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery moved to ratify departmental transfers in the amount of \$49,598.62 processed for fiscal year end June 30, 2015 and to forward to the Board of Finance for approval.

Seconded by Ms. Cheeseman. Motion passed 5-0.

2e. Appointment – Conservation of Natural Resources – Danila

Mr. Nickerson noted the memorandum in the packet from Chair Art Carlson from the Natural Resource Commission requesting Mr. Danila's appointment.

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MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery moved to appoint Donald Danila of 24 Pattagansett Drive, East Lyme, CT to serve on the Conservation of Natural Resources Commission through January 8, 2018.

Seconded by Ms. Cheeseman.

Ms. Hardy noted that the Board needs resumes for applicants to be appointed to the various town boards and commissions.

Mr. Nickerson agreed and stated that we will insist on a resume in the future before appointing anyone.

Motion passed 5-0.

2f. Appointment – Water and Sewer

Mr. Nickerson noted that we would table this item until the September meeting. He added that per Charter, the Board will not be able to appoint anyone after the September meeting since no appointments can be made 60 days before the Selectmen's election.

5a. Ex-Officio

Mr. Salerno attended a Wetlands meeting where they removed a cease and desist order from a resident on Walnut Hill Road.

Ms. Hardy had no report.

Mr. Seery had no report.

Ms. Cheeseman noted that she had attended two zoning meetings where they approved a text amendment to approve a micro brewery. She noted that Town Council briefed the Commission on legal issues, land use decisions and rationale.

Mr. Nickerson congratulated Ms. Cheeseman on her becoming the new President of the Board of Trustees for the Library.

5b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson congratulated Kevin Seery from retiring after 28.5 years as a Resident State Trooper. He said that Celebrate East Lyme was the best one yet and added that he received numerous comments on how fast all of the trash had been picked up after this event. He attended the Niantic Triathlon which is run by the Hartford Marathon and commented how well organized this event was. He said it was all over by 10:00 a.m. and thanked those residents who were a little inconvenienced by the traffic. He said that Wednesday Night Concerts will start this evening at McCook's and Friday nights there will be music at ProTek. He invited all to attend the Farmers Market on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. on Methodist Street. He said that he is planning a lot of discussions around the beach parking, trespassing issues, overflow and the need for more bathrooms and would be establishing a beach committee to review all of these issues. He added that he had spoken to a group of residents from Cardinal Road where a house fire was experienced and they requested the Water and Sewer Commission to bring water to their neighborhood

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since the interconnection line now went in front of their road. He said that paving will be going on all over town and next week, the Lovers Lane area will be in the midst of a paving project. He noted that the schools are working on their elementary project and would present it sometime this fall. He said that 600 feet of edging and 300 feet of sidewalk had been completed at the Boardwalk. He said that the parking area at the top of McCook's Park would be expanded. There will be an Antique Motorcycle Show at the Smith Harris House this Sunday. He added that Seusical the Musical performed by the East Lyme Regional Theater would be on at the High School from August 7-9. He forwarded his condolences to the Brown family on the loss of Alex.

Ms. Hardy said that the Selectmen had been told several times that there would be no hookups to the regional main.

Mr. Nickerson noted that he would check into this.

Ms. Hardy inquired about the status of the cell tower.

Mr. Nickerson responded that he had requested the tower company to come and offer an informational session to the residents that might be impacted in the potential site areas. He added that they had met last week and that the next step would be for the siting council to hold a public hearing in town.

Ms. Hardy requested a discussion about the lower garage area at Roxbury Road be on the next agenda.

Mr. Nickerson noted that gas pumps will be installed at the lower area and then a rehab of the property was necessary. He agreed that presently, this area does not meet the standard that we require of others and we should be the leaders.

Mr. Salerno noted that Capitol Drive site needed to be cleaned up.

Ms Hardy suggested that all the Board members review these two sites.

Mr. Nickerson stated that there is a plan underway for both of these sites and public works would review it with the Selectmen when it was ready.

Mr. Nickerson noted he had received requests for a snow sidewalk ordinance and a blight ordinance. He added that we have a noise ordinance with no ability to enforce it.

Ms. Hardy noted that perhaps Zoning was the first stop for those complaining about blights in neighborhoods.

Mr. Salerno volunteered to be on the committee studying the beach issues.

6. Public Discussion

Mike Schulz asked if we have an ordinance regarding open space and asked where you lodge complaints about damage to open space. He said that he had brought in pictures in the past and nothing had been done. He requested written information on the self insurance policy that the town has and how do we

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determine what the premium will be for employees. He asked what happens if the use exceeds the premiums received.

Bill Henderson of 49 Laurel Hill Drive said that insurance is an escalating problem and perhaps checking with CCM about a regional bidding process for insurance might be helpful in lowering rates.

Ms. Cheeseman noted that CCM is extremely cognizant of the insurance issues.

Mr. Nickerson noted that we meet with the Board of Education, Selectmen and Board of Finance on a yearly basis on insurance issues. He added that he is not aware of any regional insurance consortium for towns.

MOTION (8)

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the August 5, 2015 meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:37 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Cheeseman. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Darlene C. Stevens', written in dark ink.

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary