

EAST LYME TOWN HALL
EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2010
MINUTES

PRESENT: Paul Formica, Mark Nickerson, Jack Hogan, Rose Ann Hardy, Rob Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney O'Connell.

Mr. Formica called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. and led the Pledge.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items

There were none.

1c. Delegations

Mike Schulz of Lovers Lane said he has been aware for the last year of significant drug activity in East Lyme and noted that he had reported this suspected activity to the State Police. He said that an entire year passed with no action taken. He said in June someone died and this was directly related to the suspected activity he had reported. He said he has been talking with Sgt. San Juan now and he has done a great job. He said that there appears to be a communication gap between the State Police and the local police department.

Joe Mingo of 397 Boston Post Road said the East Lyme Post Office area is becoming treacherous and suggested that a letter be sent and this office be closed. He commented on the regional water interconnection and noted that we have no emergency supply of water if we have a well break down and this situation has to be fixed. He said this will be an expensive project, but we must do it. He said that in 10 years, we will have a 10 million gallon a day shortage of water and he urged the Selectmen to support this project.

Mike Schulz asked about the stream flow regs and if they were a positive or negative for the Town of East Lyme.

1d1. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of December 1, 2010

MOTION (1)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2010 as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 5-0.

1d2. Approval of Minutes, Special Meeting of December 1, 2010

MOTION (2)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 1, 2010 as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of December 9, 2010 as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan.

Aye: Mr. Formica, Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Hogan.

Nay: None.

Abstain: Ms. Hardy, Mr. Wilson. Motion passed 3-0-3

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (4)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the Consent Calendar for the special meeting of December 20, 2010 in the amount of \$37,104.51.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 5-0.

2a. \$8154 Transfer Request – Assessors – for Personal Property Software Program
Assessor Donna Bekech of 84 Hope Street said this software is a personal property module which will automatically transfer information into the billing file and eliminate the need for dual entry.

Ms. Hardy inquired if Vision Appraisals could provide this software.

Ms. Bekech responded in the negative.

MOTION (5)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve a transfer of funds in the amount of \$8,154 from account 1-01-01-102-200-216 (Service Contracts) to new account to be established, entitled “Assessment Software” and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 5-0.

2b. Resolution – Authorize First Selectman to apply for and sign necessary paperwork for a US Environmental Protection Grant \$300,000

Mr. Formica noted that this grant was to complete the drinking water engineering component and was awarded in January of 2010 from the Federal government. He added that the State took 10% of the amount and the grant comes to us due to the hard work of Joe Courtney. He added that we had applied again this year, but had not received any funding.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Wilson moved to authorize the First Selectman to apply for and sign the necessary paperwork for a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency for \$300,000 to complete the drinking water engineering component for the Town of East Lyme.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 5-0.

2c. Discussion / Action \$10,971,000 – Bonding Resolution for the Acquisition / Design / Construction of the East Lyme / New London Regional Interconnection Project

Mr. Formica said if this is passed, we have an opportunity to provide twelve months of water for East Lyme. He said that any well next to a stream must be turned off (per DEP) when the stream flow slows down, which creates a shortage of water. He said we have spent a great deal of money making our wells more efficient, but we still have problems two months of the year. He added that this solution will provide for a regional interconnection from Route 161, up Route 85 and connect with Lake Konomoc. He said that when the connections are finished, we will start a water banking program sending 125,000 gallons of water a day to New London. He said when we need water in the summer months, we will reverse the flow and purchase water from New London. He said that we will purchase because this is the most accurate way to measure what we are using and offers a monetary benefit to New London. He said if approved, this will provide the opportunity to expand the economic base for the future. He said we have the \$300,000 grant and we will bond \$10,971,000 for the overall construction of the project. He noted that the Drinking Water Revolving Fund money for the Department of Public Health is a 2% loan for 80% of the funding and the other 20% is subsidized by EPA which is approximately \$2,400,000. He added that the Water Department will pay for operational costs which will work out to \$8.00 to \$15.00 per water customer for the year. He stressed that it was his belief that this was the best option to solve this problem and the costs should be offset by future development. He added that it was his hope that the Board of Finance would approve this and then the Town Meeting would adjourn to a referendum vote.

Ms. Hardy said that some things are unfair, but are beyond our control. She said that we cannot get water by drawing from an open water supply of our own since it is too hard to get approved. She added that knowing this, this option was the best remedy. She added that we will be giving a considerable amount of water and New London is not paying and then we have to buy our own water back. She said she has no choice but to approve.

Mr. Wilson said we would need to find a way to bank water instead of sending it to New London and that trying to hold water which can only be sustained for a period of time and the cost of constructing tanks and or holding areas was extremely high. He said he agrees that this is the best route to take.

Mr. Nickerson said that this is a great step in the right direction toward regionalizing. He said the connection across the Thames River offers more opportunity in the future. He said he supported this project.

Mr. Formica said he understood that it doesn't seem to make sense to send water and then buy it back later however, this was the best way to measure and it will be done in units of 1000 gallons and we will be locked in perpetuity with East Lyme deciding the cost and the measurements.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Wilson moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$10,971,000 For The Acquisition, Design And Construction Of The East Lyme-New London Regional Interconnection Project And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$10,971,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose”, a copy of which is attached hereto is hereby adopted and recommended for approval by the Board of Finance and the legal voters of the Town at Town Meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Nickerson. Motion passed 5-0.

2d. Discussion / Action – East Lyme / New London Water Agreement

MOTION (8)

Mr. Nickerson moved the following:

RESOLVED, to authorize the First Selectman to execute, in name and on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, a municipal water supply agreement by and between the TOWN OF EAST LYME, acting by its Water and Sewer Commission and the Board of Selectmen, and the CITY OF NEW LONDON, acting by its Water and Water Pollution Control Authority and its City Council, and to execute such other documents as may be necessary or desirable to implement the agreement, and to deliver such agreement and documents to the appropriate officials and agencies of the City of New London.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 5-0.

2e. Discussion / Action / Action – COLA for Management and Unaffiliated

Mr. Formica noted he would recuse himself and Deputy First Selectman Mark Nickerson would chair this item.

MOTION (9)

Ms. Hardy moved to approve a 2.5% raise for Department Heads, the First Selectman and Registrars effective July 1, 2010. It is further recommended that the First Selectman create a pension subcommittee to examine alternate or improved plans which in particular allow enrollees to contribute extra pre tax dollars with a co-pay. It is further recommended that a comparative wage study be conducted to insure wage and benefit parity with neighboring and comparable towns.

Seconded by Mr. Wilson Motion passed 4-0.

2f. Discussion / Action – Potential Purchase of Real Estate

Mr. Formica offered a brief update regarding the Mobil Station noting that the extension to the option had expired on December 15th. He added that he was still in active negotiations and he was waiting to hear from the seller and the process was moving forward.

2g. Discussion / Action – Contract Negotiations

There was no discussion.

2h. Accept Resignation – Stephen Rebelowski – Waterford / East Lyme Shellfish Commission

Attorney O’Connell stated that a motion was not necessary. Mr. Rebelowski had notified the Board of his resignation effective January 1, 2010.

Ms. Hardy inquired if there was anyone to fill this position.

Mr. Formica said that we had not heard from the Commission but that he did have someone inquire about appointment in the past.

Ms. Hardy asked that a letter be sent to Mr. Rebelowski thanking him for his service.

4. Communications

5a. Information and Reports

Mr. Wilson had no report.

Mr. Hogan had no report.

Mr. Birmingham had no report.

Ms. Hardy said that Zoning had been cancelled last week and the Commission on Aging was meeting right now.

Mr. Nickerson said he attended the Town Building Committee and they discussed the field services for the new public works building. He added that they had chosen Carlin Construction. He said he attended the previous Zoning meeting in lieu of Ms. Hardy and Mark Salerno was again elected Chair and Steve Carpenteri was elected Secretary. He also chaired the Water and Sewer Commission meeting where they unanimously voted to approve the regional water interconnection. He attended a Council of Governments meeting and he participated in the East Lyme Light Parade.

5b. First Selectman’s Report

Mr. Formica said that he attended a Council of Government meeting and a regional water meeting of the same group.

He attended two meeting for MIRMA.

He held a Department Head meeting that was hosted by the Library and thanked Director Deakyne for his generosity.

He attended a Board of Finance meeting.

He spoke at a Mohegan Sun leadership conference.

He held a public informational meeting at Nett Hall at Camp Rell regarding the regional water interconnection project. He thanked the National Guard for their generosity in letting us utilize their meeting room and making us so welcome.

He attended the Light parade and noted that due to rain, it had been held on Monday this year. He congratulated the Wilson family for being successful again this year with their float.

Mr. Wilson suggested that we think about holding the parade on a Saturday night next year since this would be the best for all, especially if a rain date were needed. He added they were looking into a winter carnival weekend for next year.

Mr. Formica attended a CCM meeting where they listened to the legislators as to what might happen at the State level and noted that the State would be experiencing a large budget deficit.

He attended an Eagle Scout ceremony for 3 Eagle Scouts.

He attended the volleyball banquet and presented them with a proclamation and assisted in shaving Coach Biggs' head.

He said that he would be having a meeting with the Auditor tomorrow on the draft audit and there would be a special meeting of the Board of Finance to present the budget on December 22nd. He added that this is the first time in a number of years when the audit has been done and filed on time. He commended Finance Director Anna Johnson for her hard work.

He thanked the community for another year of support both personally and professionally. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

6. Public Comment

Bob Gadbois of 358 Boston Post Road said it was good to hear someone say Merry Christmas. He said it was a slap in the face to all the seniors who are not getting a raise that this raise was voted on tonight. He said that everyone has made up their minds on the water project and why should the town spend \$8000 on a referendum when it was all done.

Karen Rak of 27 Black Point Road said that all money is tax payer money and not "free" money. She thought the winter carnival idea was a good one and asked how much money is spent on staff time now for the parade. She added that the Mobil station option has expired and the public should now be made aware of the environmental impact study. She said she was glad the audit was finally on time. She asked the Board to look at the Youth Services Department since no agendas or minutes had been filed for two years. She asked that the Board review the cost effectiveness of this department and said that perhaps it should be placed within another department. She asked what the hours of the Director were since she was very seldom in office.

Mike Schulz asked if East Lyme would use more water in the summer than we send the rest of the year. He said that we are the only ones paying. He said it was time to put the environmental reports out to the public. He also inquired about what was going on with the school walls.

Joe Mingo said that he was against the regional water interconnection program in the beginning, but his mind was now changed. He said that eventually, we will have the option to sell our surplus water.

7. Selectmen's Response

Mr. Formica said that we have a need to increase our water supply in the summer months and we will be sending our excess water in the other 10 months to store and we will take the water back when we need it. Mr. Formica responded this is a net neutral action, what we send, we take. He said he had not yet seen a copy of the school assessment program. He said that he is in active negotiations for the Mobil station and the reports will not be released until the negotiations are finished.

Mr. Formica said with this water project, we will own the infrastructure. He said that this was the best way to protect our town.

Mr. Wilson said without New London's participation, we would have to build fields and tanks to hold the water and water can only be held for a certain amount of time while it is potable.

Ms. Hardy said that two letters have been sent regarding the closure of the East Lyme post office. She said the conditions are even more dangerous since the employees started parking on the side of the road. She said it is time to try to remedy this situation. She inquired how there were enough police officers to fulfill our minimum manning shifts and still perform this enormous job of cataloging and filing all the stolen items from the robberies.

Mr. Formica said that we were utilizing an evidence officer from the State Police and the officers on light duty were working on cataloging.

MOTION (10)

Mr. Nickerson moved to adjourn the December 20, 2010 special meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:40 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary

East Lyme Board of Selectmen Special Meeting of 12/20/10
minutes