

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2011  
MINUTES

FILED IN EAST LYME TOWN

CLERK'S OFFICE

26 18 20 11 at 11:45 AM PM

*Esther B. Williams*

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Paul Formica, Mark Nickerson

Mr. Formica called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. He said that Mr. Hogan and Mr. Birmingham were not available for this meeting. He added that Ms. Hardy should be here any minute and that Mr. Wilson was having a "home emergency" and would be present as soon as he was able. He said that he started the meeting because there would only be discussion and no votes would be taken.

#420 Library

Director Bill Deakyne said that attendance at the programs has more than doubled this past year along with internet usage. He said as expected, library use increases when the economic climate is poor.

Mr. Formica noted that the insurance number could be reduced by \$17,000 which would bring it to a 0 increase.

Director Deakyne said that the increase for unemployment coverage was due to the decision to put money in this line item which had always been a 0 before. He reviewed the hours of operation as follows:

Mon, Tues, Wed	9-9
Thurs	9-6
Friday	9-5
Sat.	10-4
Sun	1-4

Mr. Formica said that with the change from insurance, the bottom line of this budget is \$999,449.

#218 Flanders Fire Department

Jim Levandoski attended in lieu of Chief McCue who was working.

Mr. Formica noted that the town was trying to utilize one vendor for fuel to save a few dollars.

Mr. Levandoski said that FFD budgets for fuel through the town. He added that if by chance they use more than what is budgeted; the Ambulance Association picks up the extra.

Mr. Formica agreed that the Ambulance Association has been very generous over the years. He said that the budget's 3.4% increase was due to salary, fringe benefits, longevity, etc.

Mr. Levandoski said there is an increase under small equipment for a Paratech Master Control Package. He said that they have worked without a back up for quite a few years and decided to request it this year. He added that in the past few years they have not utilized the training budget completely, but the funding this year is needed.

Mr. Formica said that he had polled the Selectmen and they had said they had no questions for the Fire Departments.

#### #217 Niantic Fire Department

Chief Jim McDonald was present and he thanked the town agencies who had helped shovel out the water hydrants. He said the increase in his budget is due to the increase of a number of hour coverage's of part time fire fighters at Station 2. He said the training line was increased because they need to train for Officer 1 certification. He said that the Ambulance Association was treating each fire department the same and therefore, the fuel line was up.

Mr. Nickerson said that the overall increase to this budget was 8.8% which in tough times was a lot, although a lot of the increases made sense.

#### #224 Public Safety / Fire Marshal

Mr. Formica noted that the second full time dispatch position was not included in this budget. He asked Finance Director Anna Johnson if the overtime was backed out for that full time dispatcher.

Ms. Johnson said that she would check the figures.

Mr. Formica inquired about line 348 – Radio Maintenance.

Mr. Morris said that the contract for radio maintenance was \$31,503 yearly and it warranties and maintains the new radio system. He said he was requesting \$41,838 for the next five years to pay for a new antenna at the north end of town and some funding to add space to the tower at 171 Boston Post Road which will enable better radio coverage.

Mr. Formica said if we end up regionalizing our dispatch, that action would not negate the need for this radio project.

Mr. Morris responded that we would still need it.

Mr. Formica said that \$41,000 for five years was a \$200,000 item and perhaps this should be moved to the Capital Budget.

Mr. Morris said that the increase in Miscellaneous Supplies was due to the camera expense on the Boardwalk and for two Dispatch chairs.

Mr. Nickerson said that he had the privilege to visit the EOC and was very impressed.

#115 Community Services

Mr. Formica said he took out \$1500 for Celebrate East Lyme and moved it to Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund.

Family Services: he said we were budgeting \$6301 this year and that they had requested significantly higher (\$11,951).

TVCCA – \$300 increase requested.

Mr. Formica said that he would like to host one event in the year to raise the money for these services to the community and remove them from the budget.

Mr. Nickerson agreed saying that perhaps it could be tied into Celebrate East Lyme.

Ms. Hardy arrived at 6:01 p.m.

#114 General Government

Mr. Formica said that the increase in FICA goes along with wages and pension and that a \$37,000 increase keeps us within our current allocation rate. He said there was a \$70,000 reduction in the insurance line so it was now \$1,415,982. He noted that line 140 legal services was flat with the exception of one continuing litigation which was driving the cost.

Ms. Hardy said that she thought the State had passed legislation removing the need for towns to perform evictions.

Mr. Formica responded that the Town still has costs for evictions and the budget line was still needed.

Ms. Hardy inquired about tax refunds.

Finance Director Anna Johnson said that the number had been reduced by the Board of Finance during their deliberations. She said if we need to make refunds, we take them out of the taxes that have been collected.

#724 Capital

Mr. Formica said that there will be a CIP meeting before the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and he will bring the Five year plan then. He said the Revenue sheet would be available at the next meeting and Ms. Johnson passed out the Probate budget which would be reviewed at the next meeting. He said that based on the Governor's speech, East Lyme looked fairly good and we might not have to use fund balance as a revenue source for the second year in a row.

MOTION (1)

Mr. Nickerson moved to adjourn the February 16, 2011 Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 6:26 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary