

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2010
MINUTES

PRESENT: Paul Formica, Mark Nickerson, John Birmingham, John Hogan by phone.

EXCUSED: Rose Ann Hardy, Rob Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Attorney Ed O'Connell, Finance Director Anna Johnson, Business Manager Don Meltabarger, Municipal Agent for the Elderly Cathy Wilson, Library Director Bill Deakyne, Bob Tobin, Youth Services Director Missy O'Brien.

Mr. Formica called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. and led the Pledge. He noted that Mr. Hogan would be participating in the meeting by phone and ascertained that Mr. Hogan had received and reviewed all items on the February 17th agenda.

1b. Additional Agenda and Consent Calendar Items

There were none.

1c. Delegations

There were none.

1d1. Approval of Minutes, Special Meeting of February 3, 2010

MOTION (1)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minute of the Special Meeting of February 3, 2010 as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Birmingham.

Aye: Mr. Formica, Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Birmingham.

Nay: None.

Abstain: Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 3-0-1.

1d2. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting of February 3, 2010

MOTION (2)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 3, 2010 as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Birmingham.

Aye: Mr. Formica, Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Birmingham.

Nay: None.

Abstain: Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 3-0-1.

1d3. Approval of Minutes, Special Meeting of February 9, 2010

MOTION (3)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 9, 2010 as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Birmingham.

Aye: Mr. Formica, Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Birmingham.

Nay: None.

Abstain: Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 3-0-1.

1d4. Approval of Minutes, Special Meeting of February 11, 2010

Town Attorney Ed O'Connell noted that since there was no quorum at the February 11, 2010 meeting and the Selectmen present merely listened to the Department Heads that presented their individual budgets and no action was taken, action on the minutes was not necessary.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (4)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of February 17, 2010 in the amount of \$922.16.

Seconded by Mr. Birmingham. Motion passed 4-0.

2a. Special Appropriation - \$41,702.40 –EL Public Schools-Niantic Center

School Business Manager Don Meltabarger was present and reviewed the request for a new phone system for Niantic Center School. He noted that the existing system was over 35 years old and is failing. He said that the proposed system will reduce the number of phone lines from 45 to 9 lines and the cost savings from this will be \$299.76 yearly. He said the phone system would be financed with a 5-year lease and at the end, the town will own the equipment.

MOTION (5)

Mr. Nickerson moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, to approve an appropriation to the Board of Education for the purpose of acquiring by way of lease or purchase or a combination thereof, a new telephone system and related equipment for Niantic Center School for the total amount of \$41,702.40, payable in monthly installments of \$695.04 over a period of five (5) years.

Seconded by Mr. Birmingham.

Mr. Birmingham inquired if there was any warranty after five (5) years?

Mr. Meltabarger said that there was no warranty after five years. He said that the initial warranty was for 18 months and they had negotiated and gotten 6 months additional, totaling 2 years of warranty.

Mr. Nickerson inquired if there was any possibility of getting a longer warranty?

Mr. Hogan commented that he was concerned that \$10,000 in interest had to be paid over the five years and said he thought this was high.

Attorney O'Connell commented that the resolution states that they may acquire the system by lease or purchase or a combination thereof, which gives them the possibility of purchasing rather than leasing.

Mr. Meltabarger said that the system would cost \$31,252.02 if purchased and if leased, \$41,702.40. He said they have a tight budget and cannot afford to pay the entire amount at once, but they could afford to pay the increments over the five year period of the lease.

Motion passed 4-0.

2b. Request for Disbursement of \$770,000 from Parahus Account

Mr. Formica said that since the Board of Selectmen is the trustee's of this account, any request for disbursement from this account must come before the Board.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the request of the Commission on Aging for \$770.00 from the Parahus Account for the following: \$250 support to the Volunteer Recognition Party for supplies; \$25 to purchase supplies to repair wooden step for Community Center Kitchen – used by the Senior Nutrition Program and \$495 for the purchase of 3 toilets for the Senior Center bathrooms.

Seconded by Mr. Birmingham. Motion passed 4-0.

2c. Budget Reviews

1. Commission on Aging

Cathy Wilson noted that she had been director for 15 years and in that time has seen several senior housing complexes built. When she started there were two, we now have eleven and she said that this change has impacted the Senior Center as far as the programming and the need for assistance with social services increasing. She noted the budget lines that had increases explaining that one was due to contractual increases and her professional conferences line had increased since she needed funding for CPR certifications for her instructors. She explained that subsidized bus trips were part town sponsored and that residents pay all for enrichment trips. She said that now she is sharing trips with Waterford. She added that she had received a 5310 grant from the DOT which will pay for 80% of a vehicle and the Town will have to fund the remaining \$15,000. She noted that with the grant vehicle, only seniors and disabled adults will be able to be transported. She said the second vehicle will be similar in specifications and she will be sharing that with Youth Services and the Town will totally fund this vehicle.

Mr. Formica thanked Ms. Wilson for all the good work that she does.

2. Library

Director Bill Deakyne and Bob Tobin were present to review the Library's budget.

Mr. Tobin noted that the total request for the Library was \$958,179 which included a 1.6% increase for salaries and an 8.1% increase for fringe benefits with a large part of this being an increase for health benefits.

Mr. Formica noted that he had informed department heads to utilize a 12% increase for health insurance, but that he had a meeting next week with our insurance carriers and he was hoping to get the number down to 10%.

Mr. Deakyne noted that the Library is valued at \$3.1 million dollars.

3. Youth Services

Director Missy O'Brien noted that she has experienced an increase in participants and they now have 580 enrolled. She added that the only increase in her budget besides personnel services was \$500 for travel and transportation. She noted that beach dances had to be canceled this year due to lack of attendance and she was working with some students on additional events.

5a. Ex-Officio

Mr. Birmingham had no report.

Mr. Nickerson said he had attended the Board of Education meeting where they approved their budget with a 1.97% increase.

Mr. Hogan had no report.

5b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Formica noted that the Planning Commission meeting had been canceled. He added that budget hearings are continuing and the Board would be sending the budget to the Board of Finance at their first meeting in March.

He said that the environmental study had come back positive on the land purchase for the public works garage on Capital Drive and they were moving forward on the purchase. He added that they hoped to have it occupied by the end of the year.

He said there will be an all day event for the proposed Cell Tower on Brainerd Road on February 23rd; a site walk in the morning, they will be flying a balloon at the proposed height of the tower for a visual, and at 3:00 p.m. at Nett Hall at Camp Rell, testimony will be offered by the developer and interveners. He added that a public information session will convene at 7:00 p.m. – also at Nett Hall.

He will be attending a hearing at the LOB tomorrow regarding the Resident Trooper program.

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He is still working on the Animal Control issue and he is hoping to regionalize this task.

He attended a Council of Governments meeting and a Regional water meeting following.

6. Public Discussion

Bob Gadbois of 358 Boston Post Road said he was very surprised that the Board of Finance met last week with the weather so bad. He also commented about the increase in the Board of Education's budget adding. "They just don't get it".

MOTION (7)

Mr. Nickerson moved to adjourn the February 17, 2010 meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:37 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Birmingham. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary