

**EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, FEBRUARY 2nd, 2011
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Paul Formica, First Selectman, Mark Nickerson, Deputy First Selectman,
John Birmingham, Rose Ann Hardy, Jack Hogan, Rob Wilson

ALSO PRESENT: Dave Putnam, Parks & Recreation Director
Mike Giannattasio, Public Works Director
Anna Johnson, Finance Director

EXCUSED: No One

Chairman Formica called this Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen to order at 8:20 PM after the previously scheduled Special Town Meeting and led the assembly in the Pledge. He noted that it was his daughter's 21st birthday today and that the groundhog had not seen his shadow so we should be in for an early spring.

1.a. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge was observed.

1.b. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items

There were none.

1.c. Delegations

Mr. Formica called for Delegations.

John Drabik, 18 Drabik Road said that he recalled that he had voted in favor of an appropriation back in September for a backhoe and that at that time they said that they were sending the old equipment to auction. He asked how much they got for the old equipment at auction and where that money goes. He said that while he does not mind the Town knocking down the corners of the snow banks to make things safer, that he has watched the Town employees moving snow on commercial properties to the sidewalks and then that has to be cleaned again at our expense.

Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Road said Happy Birthday to Hannah and also to the author Ayn Rand today.

Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road said that it is getting to budget time again. The Board of Ed in their meeting last night showed a 4.7% increase. He thinks that they need to be woken up. The State has no money, they are \$3.5B in the red and they have a bonding problem. So, where will this money come from. There should be no raises allowed this year as nobody cares about the taxpayers at all. They always want – give them nothing this year. When Bush left the White House the education budget was \$40B and now with Obama in it has doubled to \$80B and with all that money going to education he said that he has kids that come into his shop who can't even spell Connecticut. Also, the Salem kids coming to our school pay \$10,300 per student when we pay \$15,000+ for our kids. They should be paying the same. There is mercury in Dodge Pond, that is the Navy's problem and they should be cleaning it up.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane said to answer Ron that all the money is coming from China. He congratulated the Board for putting a calendar up with the date of the meeting on it. The problems with the storm drains on Lovers Lane were quickly taken care of and he thanked the Town for cleaning the

sidewalks in front of his shop. He asked that an update on the Mobil Station please be given this evening.

1.d. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting of January 19, 2011

Mr. Formica called for any discussion on the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2011.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen on January 19, 2011 as submitted.

Mr. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Wilson

Approval of Minutes, Special Meeting of January 19, 2011

Mr. Formica called for any discussion on the Special Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2011.

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen on January 19, 2011 as submitted.

Mr. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Wilson

1.e. Consent Calendar

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of February 2, 2011 in the amount of \$4,935.16.

Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.a. Parks & Recreation Special Revenue Fund Report

Mr. Formica said that Mr. Putnam was present to give this update.

Dave Putnam, Parks & Recreation Director passed out the report through 1/31/2011. He noted that while they currently show a deficit of \$36,083.02 that it is attributed to two major programs that occur during May and June and that they are projecting that the revenues for these two programs will exceed \$73,000. He said that this fund also pays for the FICA and Medicare for their employees and that it has allowed them to implement special event programs for the Town.

Mr. Wilson asked if this has given them the flexibility that they envisioned.

Mr. Putnam said absolutely.

Mr. Hogan thanked Mr. Putnam for all of the programs that he puts on for the Town.

2.b. Discussion/Action – Transfer of Funds – Purchase of Police Cruisers

Mr. Formica explained that they have the vehicle acquisition program but that some of them did not come in at that time so they are proposing to take some of the money to purchase two police cruisers this year and eliminate the need for the capital expense next year. This will work well as the Crown Victoria is in its last year of production and the new vehicle model that will replace it will need to have the bugs worked out during its first year in use. This will also allow for some money for the storm overtime account.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$66,578 to account 1-01-70-724-700-463 (PS –Police Cruisers) from the following accounts: \$50,777 from 1-01-70-724-700-708 (PWD-PU Truck), \$6,836 from 1-01-70-724-700-421 (Twn-P&R Equip) and \$8,965 from 1-01-70-724-700-421 (Twn-COA Equip) and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval.

Mr. Hogan seconded the motion.

Mr. Wilson asked about the price of the cruisers as he had thought they were \$26,000 – what is the cost now.

Mr. Formica said that they were \$33,000 without being outfitted. Completely outfitted these will be just under \$40,000 each.

Mr. Wilson said that he was concerned with what they would be losing for equipment for Parks & Rec with this transfer.

Mr. Putnam, Mr. Giannattasio and Mr. Formica said that they were not losing anything as it was all timing with regard to the lease payment.

Ms. Hardy asked if she was correct in saying that the two police vehicles for this current cycle were purchased but they were delayed.

Mr. Formica said yes.

Ms. Hardy said that the payments would still have to be made.

Mr. Formica said yes, and explained that in being delayed that the months that they were delayed by, did not require payment. These two that they are paying cash for will be outside of the lease program.

Ms. Hardy said that she thinks that it is a smart move to have two more vehicles in the fleet.

Mr. Formica called for a vote on the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2.c. Discussion/Action – Transfer of Funds – Storm/Overtime Accounts

Mr. Formica said that they anticipate that they will need \$100,000 to cover this. Also, the State has asked for their share for storm expenses to send for Federal Aid. He said that he sent in \$51,000 and they hope to get 75% of that reimbursed.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Wilson moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$28,000 from account 1-01-70-700-724-708 (PWD PU Truck) to the following accounts \$8,400 to 1-01-30-317-100-315 (Storm Overtime) and \$19,600 to 1-01-30-317-300-440 (Storm Materials) and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval.

Mr. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0.

Mr. Formica said that they are hoping for the same type of declaration for the other storms in hopes of recovering some of the expense. He asked for a motion on the other part of the transfer.

****MOTION (6)**

Mr. Wilson moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$80,000 from account 1-01-70-700-724-403 (CNRE Municipal Project) to the following accounts: \$24,000 to 1-01-30-317-100-315 (Storm Overtime) and \$56,000 to 1-01-30-317-300-440 (Storm Materials) and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval.

Mr. Hogan seconded the motion.

Ms. Hardy asked what the existing supply on materials on hand is for further storms.

Mr. Giannattasio said that they have 200 tons left of salt and that they use 300-350 tons per storm. They have ordered more and it is just a matter of timing when they get it.

Mr. Formica called for a vote on the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2.d. Discussion/Action – Resolution on Refunding of General Obligation Bonds

Mr. Formica said that they need the authorization to act on this refunding and that they anticipate a considerable savings.

****MOTION (7)**

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the Resolution entitled, “Resolution with respect to the authorization, issuance and sale of not exceeding \$22,000,000 Town of East Lyme General Obligation Refunding Bonds.” (Attached at end of Minutes)

Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2.e. Introduction / Overview – FY 2011/2012 Budget

Mr. Formica gave a brief overview of the FY2011-2012 Budget noting that he is obligated to present a budget that makes sense. He said that he has presented the Board of Ed budget as it is. Human Resources will be reduced to finance an Office Manager at the Field Services Building. The Engineering department has requested a Civil Engineer II whose cost would be shared with the Water & Sewer department. Some housekeeping has been done with respect to fees collection. The new Probate Office is up and running. They have consolidated some items such as the Planning Commission with the Planning Department. There is an additional \$300,000 in revenue from the growth of the grand list.

It was anticipated that the Health Premiums would increase by 12% however they are hearing that it would be in the 8% - 10% range. They are looking at different methods of funding this. There is \$145,000 in contingency to alleviate having to dip into fund balance.

With regard to the Health District they are looking at creating another through the Southeastern Council of Governments. Ledge Light proposed to lower their fee from \$7.60 per person to \$7.41 and have since noted that if we could stay with them that they could go to \$6.85 per person which is \$13,000 less. They will be able to discuss this further at their next meeting.

They have consolidated the buying of Building Maintenance items. There is a \$209,000 decrease in debt service and with the refunding that would further reduce the amount of interest that would be paid. The State has a \$3.5B deficit and he said that he believes that when Mr. Malloy presents his budget that it will be close to what they can expect to get as he is working with his political party.

The budget presented reflects the maintenance of basic services.

He congratulated the department managers for their hard work and conservation.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.a. Discussion – Set Budget Review Schedule

Mr. Formica said that as they had just received their budget books that they could set up other departments that they would like to see at their budget review meeting on February 9, 2011.

3.b. Discussion – Amend Board of Selectmen Regulations – Phone Participation for Meetings

Mr. Formica said that they would discuss this at their next regular meeting of the Board and that he expected to have more information by then.

3.b. Discussion – Withdrawal from Ledge Light

Mr. Formica noted that he had provided them with background materials in their packets. He said that there would be a meeting on Monday with the Council of Governments and that Mr. Nickerson would be attending it for him. They could then make a decision at their next regular meeting on February 16, 2011. He noted that Steve Mansfield of Ledge Light and Kent Sistare were present this evening if they had any questions for them.

Ms. Hardy said that the information was new and that in light of that, they have not had the time to review it.

Mr. Formica said that they would also have additional new information.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Formica passed out to the Board members information from the Board of Ed on the athletic complex. He said that they would discuss it at their next meeting.

5. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

5. a. Ex-Officio

Mr. Hogan reported that not much came out of the Board of Ed meeting on Monday evening and that they would have to wait and see. He also reported that Planning had approved their subdivision regulation changes.

He additionally said that he wanted to note how well the Public Works department had done with the storm clean-up during the difficult storms.

Mr. Nickerson echoed how well Public Works had done during the storms and how much it was appreciated.

There were no other reports.

5. b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Formica reported:

- That he has been working on budget reviews with the department heads for the past month.
- He has been working on the rules and regulations for the Police.
- He was elected to the Board of Directors of MIRMA.
- The water connection referendum hours were set at the Special Town Meeting for 8 AM to 8 PM on 2/9/2011.
- He presented a customer service seminar to 95 members of the Town staff in two sessions on Friday January 28, 2011.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Formica called for Public Comment.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane noted that every time he cleans out his driveway that the snow plow comes by and fills it back in again. He also asked why they were not purchasing more four wheel drive vehicles for the Police. He lastly asked for an update on the Mobil Station.

7. SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE

Mr. Formica said that he would give a status report on the Mobil Station at the next meeting of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

****MOTION (8)**

Mr. Wilson moved to adjourn the February 2, 2011 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:30 PM.

Mr. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary, Pro-tem