

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2015

MINUTES

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
Feb 26 2015 AT 1:05 AM/PM  
*Brooke D. Lencin*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Holly Cheeseman, Marc Salerno.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Nickerson called the Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen to order at 6:02 p.m. and led the Pledge.

2. Appointments

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery moved to appoint William Jezierski of 175 Whistletown Road, East Lyme, CT to serve as the Town of East Lyme's Tree Warden through February 25, 2016. This appointment will be updated annually.

Seconded by Ms. Cheeseman.

Mr. Nickerson noted that Mr. Jezierski had served the town for a long time and he was proud and honored to have Mr. Jezierski serving and added that he did a great job.

Motion passed 4-0.

MOTION (2)

Ms. Cheeseman moved to appoint Rose Ann Hardy and Kevin Seery to serve as members of the Unaffiliated Subcommittee for Wages and Benefits.

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

Mr. Wilson entered the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

3. Budget Reviews:

Harbor Management:

Chair Steve Dinsmore and Don Landers were present to review their budget. They noted that the largest increase of 32.8% was due to the funding for the stream gauge. Chair Dinsmore said that originally the USGS had funded and monitored the stream gauge but the grant had ended and they would only fund one half. The \$8500 that is being requested is to fund the other half which would fund the maintenance and operation of the gauge. He said that the gauge is located between Exit 74 and 75 and measures the discharge of water coming from Latimer Brook to the Niantic River.

Mr. Nickerson inquired if other towns benefit from this gauge's information.

Chair Dinsmore noted that in the past, Salem had contributed. He added that this would have to be negotiated with the other towns.

Mr. Landers said that four towns benefit however, the gauge is in East Lyme and it monitors the Niantic River.

Mr. Wilson inquired if the funding could be split with the four towns.

Mr. Nickerson suggested paying this and then he would assist the Chair in approaching the other towns to work on a regional cost share for the stream gauge.

#### Planning:

Chair Brian Shuch read a letter into the record, identified as Attachment A., supporting the proposed budget and most importantly, restoring the Planner to full time.

Mr. Nickerson noted that originally there was a request within this budget for a full time GIS Analyst and Assistant Planner. He said that during his review, he had removed these requests, noting that he understood the potential need but could not afford this increase at this time. He added that 25% of the Town Planner's time is dedicated to Inland Wetlands. He stated that we do not have the money to increase staffing levels and he could not support this request.

Mr. Salerno suggested utilizing an intern program with college students to aid in some of the tasks of the office.

Town Planner Goeschel said that he was open to this suggestion.

Finance Director Anna Johnson noted that Mr. Goeschel's time could be dedicated in a different manner if necessary.

#### Building Department:

Mr. Smith noted that he would be approaching the Selectmen for a special appropriation of approximately \$12,000 for part time building official coverage at the next regular meeting, since he was running out of money this year. He said that in next year's budget he had increased line 212 from \$35,000 to \$43,000 for a part time building official and he was hopeful he could find a qualified candidate.

Mr. Nickerson noted that Building's projected revenues were \$345,000 for this year and he had already brought in \$400,000.

Mr. Salerno said that based on the numbers, he fully supported the increase to the part time building official noting he hoped that it could be just one person.

Mr. Nickerson said that he had increased the part time administrative assistant from 20 to 25 hours to help out the departments.

**Parks and Recreation:**

Director Dave Putnam was present to review his budget. He reviewed revenue beach pass totals since 2009 (identified as Attachment B).

Mr. Seery noted that he has received numerous comments on how great the brochure EL Events that is published by the Parks and Recreation department is.

Mr. Putnam noted that the largest increase in his budget was due to the minimum wage being raised for the part time seasonal workers which was a 6.64% increase.

Ms. Cheeseman said that we are spending a lot of money on Cini Beach and she does not see the results.

Mr. Salerno said that with coverage at this beach, there are fewer police problems, adding that some people did not go there because of the lack of bathrooms.

Mr. Putnam said that this a ½ mile of beach and a great asset to the community. He added that 40% of the revenues come from non residents using our beaches.

Ms. Cheeseman said that given the constraints on the budget, she wanted to see the best bang for the buck and she didn't see the usage at Cini Park.

Mr. Wilson said that since Mr. Putnam has been in charge of Parks and Recreation, he has been assigned to do a great deal and he has taken it in stride and gotten it done. He added that we all understood that Cini Park / beach were to be an investment for the long term.

Mr. Nickerson said that the Board also had to remember that the Boardwalk had been a construction scene for almost a year. He also applauded the Parks and Recreation crew who were out plowing in the numerous storms we have had. He stressed what a great job they had done.

**Public Works – Engineering:**

Director Joe Bragaw was present and noted that the only increase in this budget was in the salary line.

Ms. Hardy entered the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Ms. Hardy asked about the gas tanks at the Town Garage.

Director Bragaw responded that the tanks are 27 year old and we are trying to pull them to get above ground storage tanks at 12 Roxbury.

IT

Director Bragaw noted that the maintenance of office equipment agreement with Star Computers is working out very well. He said the IT department consists of Carmen Ames and Bill Scheer oversees. He said that we needed a vendor to be able to step in when necessary.

Ms. Cheeseman asked about the age of the Town's computers and inquired if we own or lease.

Assistant Director of Public Works Bill Scheer responded that presently, we are 5 years or less with the age of all desk top computers in town and he had looked into owning vs. leasing and the town is much better off owning.

Mr. Nickerson said he is looking forward to forging a good business relationship with the new Superintendent of Schools and new Business Manager.

Building Maintenance:

Mr. Bragaw noted that line 295 fire protection had increased and there was also an increase in the telephone line (201).

Public Works / Sanitation:

Mr. Bragaw reviewed the highlights of his budget. He noted that salary line 211 comprised 100% Chuck Holyfield, 80% of the Director's salary and 80% of the Assistant Director Sheer's salary. He said that he brought all the public work phones under the public works budget for more transparency and added that the fuel prices had been locked in already for next year.

Finance Director Johnson noted that Town Aid Roads was budgeted for \$162,169 but the State has said that they will be giving us \$300,000, but we will have to see.

Mr. Wilson asked about part time seasonal workers in the Public Works budget.

Director Bragaw responded that they had an engineering student from Quinnipiac College last year and he was a huge asset to the office.

Mr. Nickerson encouraged him to take advantage of students as interns. He commended Chuck Holyfield for being the "Master of his Universe" and said that he had a great crew working for him and they all had done a tremendous job during the storms.

General Government:

Ms. Johnson noted that FICA/Medicare is directly related to wages. She reviewed the proposal from CIRMA (identified as Attachment C).

Ms. Hardy asked if we were charged per vehicle for coverage. She said that we should take a look at vehicles that we keep registered but are not on the road, noting that there are some at the Board of Education.

Ms. Johnson noted that the Health and Dental line was given a 10% increase from this previous year and said that we may be able to make a reduction there. She said that the Retirement Liability line was new this year. She had put it in since there would be an employee retiring in July and by contract, they could be paid for 30% of sick time plus other time that they had on the books. She said that the department budget where this employee was housed was small and would not be able to absorb this cost so she had put it in this line. She added that line 124 – Pension was funded at approximately 80%.

Revenues:

Ms. Johnson noted the Revenues listed for the upcoming budget year.

Ms. Hardy noted that she would not be attending the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The consensus of the Board was to place the Capital Improvement Plan as a discussion item on the next agenda, along with a general budget discussion and a vote on the budget for 2015/16.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Salerno moved to adjourn the Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:30 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Cheeseman. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darlene C. Stevens". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary

Attachment A

To the East Lyme Board of Selectmen-

I'd like to identify myself as member of East Lyme's Class of 1999. Our graduation party theme was "Under Construction", while the high school addition was being built. In 2009 I was elected to the Planning Commission, and I have served as Chairman for three years. This is my first time before you.

I work closely with Mr. Goeschel, our Town Planner. Tonight I'd like to make a case for restoring the Town Planner to a full time position. Over the past six years, Gary has been a tremendous resource to my commission, and he succeeded in keeping us clear of any appeals, or lawsuits. He manages this with only four days of his workweek, as the fifth is designated for Wetlands issues. I believe the Town would be better served with a full time Planner and a part time position for the Wetlands Agent.

In my time, the Planning Commission has approved 13 subdivisions for about 39 lots, and updated the Plan of Conservation and Development. Each time, we review the application against the Plan of Conservation and Development, and look for consistencies or inconsistencies. Overwhelmingly, my commission cites the objectives which describe protecting "community character".

Although Town population is projected to increase towards 20,000, the demographic growth will be uneven, and merits a closer inspection.

- Our school enrollment is down 13.1% since 2003 (NESDEC Enrollment Projections)
- Citizens over age 62 have increased from 2,738 in 2000 to 4,051 in 2010, a 47% increase (US Census)

Do these numbers indicate a change of community character? Later this year, when we re-open our boardwalk, will our community character change? Yes.

As the Board of Selectmen manages the Town's response to these changes, which will ripple across all departments, let's tell the taxpayers we have a full time Town Planner on our team. I firmly believe this is a fiscally responsible decision to make, right now, in this budget.

Thank you for your time.

Brian Schuch - Planning Commission Chairman

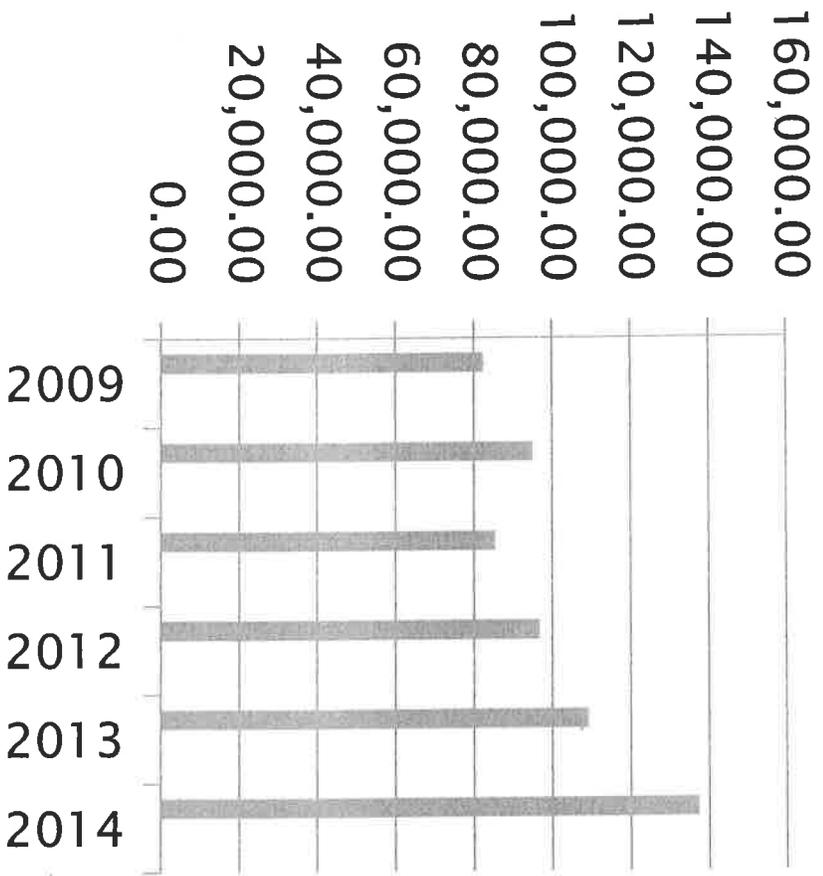
*Attachment B*

# Beach Pass Revenue Totals Since 2009

2009 - \$82,410.00  
2010 - \$95,130.00  
2011 - \$85,365.00  
2012 - \$96,730.00  
2013 - \$109,240.00 (Opening of Cini Park Beach)  
2014 - \$137,415.00

Increase of \$55,005.00 since 2009





■ Beach Pass Revenue

■ 6 year comparison

■ revenue is weather dependent



*Handwritten signature*



**CONNECTICUT  
INTERLOCAL  
RISK  
MANAGEMENT  
AGENCY**

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**East Lyme Town and Board of Education  
3 Year Workers' Compensation and Liability-Auto-Property Proposal  
7/1/2015-7/1/2018**

	Current Premium 2014/2015	WC +20%/LAP +10% 2015/2016	WC +20%/LAP +10% 2016/2017	WC +20%/LAP +10% 2017/2018
WC	\$397,734	\$477,281	\$572,737	\$687,284
LAP	\$431,695	\$474,865	\$522,351	\$574,586
Total	\$829,429	\$952,145	\$1,095,088	\$1,261,870
<b>Total % Increase</b>		<b>14.80%</b>	<b>15.01%</b>	<b>15.23%</b>

- Notes:**
- Premiums shown are for rate increases and are in addition to:
  - Exposure changes
  - Changes in Hartford Steam Boiler (Equipment Breakdown) premium
  - The indicated rate increases for years 2 and 3 are the maximum possible and could be less based on loss performance