

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2012  
MINUTES

PRESENT: Paul Formica, Mark Nickerson, Holly Cheeseman, Rose Ann Hardy, Kevin Seery.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson.

Mr. Formica called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and led the Pledge.

Commission on Aging:

Municipal Agent Cathy Wilson reviewed her budget. She noted that the population has remained stable however, the age related housing has increased. She said that her staffing levels have not changed in many years and she was requesting the half time person that she shares with Parks and Recreation be increased to a full time position for her department.

Mr. Wilson arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Formica said that he supported this full time position.

Ms. Hardy inquired about the revenues from residents attending classes and trips.

Ms. Wilson responded that the trips revenue is put into the Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund. She added that some of her programs run at a deficit.

Ms. Hardy noted that Ms. Wilson comes in on Saturdays to run a program and said that with the increase of the part time position to full time, Ms. Wilson could be afforded the chance to take some comp time during the day.

Mr. Wilson added that increasing the part time position to full time might offer the Director more time to perform even more tasks.

The consensus of the Board was that they supported the additional staffing levels for this department.

Parks and Recreation:

Director Dave Putnam noted that this year, his budget was combined with Youth Services. He said that Youth Services will be working on a regional initiative with Lyme and Old Lyme which would start a regional Juvenile Review Board intended to divert children from Juvenile Court who have committed minor delinquent acts or whose behavior indicates they are at risk of delinquency.

Mr. Putnam noted that the Commission had increased the fees paid by non residents for McCook's Park from \$80.00 to \$90.00 and day passes were increased from \$15.00 to

\$20.00. He added that they also created a charge of \$20.00 for each additional car after a family had purchased the initial \$30.00 sticker.

Mr. Wilson said that the Board of Education had utilized Ed Ball's assistance on the baseball field and asked if Parks and Recreation will be taking over the maintenance of that field.

Mr. Formica said that with the new beach coming, we need to talk about increasing parking.

Ms. Hardy asked how the interns were utilized.

Mr. Putnam said he uses them at special events and Celebrate East Lyme.

Mr. Nickerson said that the town is gaining a great deal with the combined budgets of Parks and Recreation and Youth Services and at the same time, realizing savings.

Mr. Wilson said that there might be a chance for an increased use of the beach groomer with other towns and this would be a great source of revenue.

#### Library:

Director Bill Deakyne said that the Library serves 13,955 regular customers. He reviewed the many programs available at the library and the amount of books borrowed over the year.

The Board's consensus was that they supported this budget and they extended their thanks to Director Bill Deakyne and wished his well in his retirement.

#### Public Works

Town Engineer Bill Scheer reviewed his budget noting that the only increase was in the salary line.

Ms. Hardy inquired if there was any money in this budget to perform a tree survey since the one that had been done was before we experienced the hurricane.

Mr. Scheer noted that there was not.

#### Information Technology

Mr. Scheer noted that he oversees this department and that he was requesting an increase in the maintenance of office equipment line of \$10,000. He said that the last few years, this line item has run out of money by November.

Mr. Wilson asked how much money the Ambulance Fund puts in to cover computer maintenance.

Mr. Scheer responded that this budget has nothing to do with the Ambulance Fund.

Mr. Formica noted that he was meeting with the Ambulance Fund and they were working on an itemized accounting of what they contribute.

Ms. Cheeseman inquired if the town had looked at an all encompassing town wide contract for maintenance with all departments including Board of Education.

Mr. Formica said this will be the first year that we plan to purchase blocks of time and in the future, he will look into increasing the blocks with other departments such as the Library, etc.

Mr. Holyfield (Ambulance Fund President) noted that the Ambulance Association has purchased the IMC Program used by the fire departments, police and dispatch but that they do not pay for the Police Department maintenance.

#### Building Maintenance:

Director of Public Works Mike Giannattasio noted that the salary line is down due to a person retiring and the new person being hired at a lower rate of pay.

Mr. Wilson suggested combining contract services for sprinklers, pest control, custodial services, etc., with the Board of Education to save money.

Ms. Cheeseman suggested making our town buildings accessible to gas.

Mr. Giannattasio said that we are working on getting the ELLCC on gas.

#### Public Works

Mr. Giannattasio said that he is doubling the Tree Warden line in response to the tropical storm that we encountered. He said that the lion's share of this money will be used for tree trimming along the roads.

Ms. Hardy inquired if there was any chance of purchasing a regional overhead tree trimmer.

Mr. Wilson asked if the Fire Departments could be included in the bulk rate purchasing plan for fuel that the Town has.

Mr. Giannattasio responded in the negative noting that the town gets the lower price because the supplier is dumping all of the fuel at one site. If he had to deliver to several smaller sites, the price would go up.

Ms. Hardy noted that in previous years, Revenue Form C was included with each budget and asked if this could be done again in the future. She added that the emergency management and part time dispatcher's figures had been combined and she would like to see them in separate budget lines.

East Lyme Board of Selectmen Special Meeting of February 27, 2012

The Board decided to review Revenues, Capital, General Government / Miscellaneous and Probate at the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting which would start at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Formica noted that at the March 7<sup>th</sup> regular meeting the Board could have a budget discussion on Inland Wetlands and Commission of Natural Resources who had requested increases and he was still waiting for information.

MOTION (1)

Mr. Nickerson moved to adjourn the February 27, 2012 Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary