

**EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, JANUARY 9th, 2012
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Acting Chairman, Holly Cheeseman, Rose Ann Hardy,
Kevin Seery

ALSO PRESENT: Baker Salisbury, Ledge Light Health District
Cathy Wilson, Senior Services Director

EXCUSED: Paul Formica, Rob Wilson

Acting Chairman Nickerson called this Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen to order at 7:32 PM.

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. Nickerson called for Delegations.

There were none.

1d. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of December 21, 2011

Mr. Nickerson called for any corrections, changes or a motion on the December 21, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. Seery moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 21, 2011 as submitted.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

1e. Consent Calendar

****MOTION (2)**

Ms. Hardy moved to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of January 9, 2012 in the amount of \$2698.32.

Ms. Cheeseman seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2a. Ratification –EL Police Contract

This item was removed from the agenda.

2b. Presentation – Ledge Light Health District

Mr. Nickerson introduced Baker Salisbury, Director of the Ledge Light Health District.

Mr. Salisbury said that he likes to come before them at least two times a year to update them and provide information on what they have been doing. He noted that the last time that they met that they had decided to keep the District intact and subsequently Ledyard has also decided to do the same and

remain in the District. He added that they have been in several meetings with Stonington and that they may also join the District. If they do this would bring a reduction in the per capita fee. At this time he said that he could not give them that fee as it is based upon the numbers and the addition of Stonington would add roughly another 18,000 to those numbers.

He said that their aim is to prevent disease, illness and injury. He said that this evening he would give a brief outline on a food borne salmonella outbreak. He said that they had such an event this past year on the shoreline. It was the first time in Connecticut history that a local public health department found and identified the food service outbreak. It was also something that the public did not hear about. He passed out a chart of the timeline from the initial exposure to confirmed exposure to the time that the food service workers were cleared and released back to work (Day1 to Day 51). He noted the various stages where people were ill, and some were hospitalized and interviews taken to narrow down the origin. Samples were sent to the State laboratory for testing and analysis and confirmation. He said that it was important and unique in that it was handled by a local public health department.

Ms. Hardy asked how many people were affected by this outbreak.

Mr. Salisbury said that they will never know.

While they do know of 14 people and the food handlers – the number of people impacted over 42 days will never be known as some had very mild cases and would not have reported it.

Ms. Hardy asked if it was the food that was contaminated or the food workers who contaminated the food that caused it.

Mr. Salisbury said that it was probably a combination of both although that is also something that they will probably never know. It appears more likely that it was poor hygiene and a person who was ill who handled the food as it was all in fresh food and not the cooked food.

Ms. Hardy asked where the lab is that the samples are sent to for testing.

Mr. Salisbury said that it is the State laboratory in Hartford.

Ms. Hardy asked if the delay in getting a response from the lab was due to the time it takes for the cultures to age.

Mr. Salisbury said yes and added that there is also travel time and the time that it takes to check and re-check the findings.

Ms. Cheeseman asked how many food establishments are in the Ledge Light Health District area.

Mr. Salisbury said that there are 1500 which includes the convenience stores. There are 568 that had to be inspected prior to re-opening after the storms that took the power out for many days.

Mr. Seery asked what to do about the fresh vegetables as you would usually just wash and eat them whereas with food you would cook it and it would normally kill any bacteria.

Mr. Salisbury said that you would soak them in cold water and then rinse. He added that most of the problems come with chicken and that it needs to be thoroughly cooked.

Mr. Nickerson thanked Mr. Salisbury for the informative presentation.

2c. Nicholas Parahus Expenditure – COA - \$1000 – Fans

Mr. Nickerson explained that this is from an anonymous donation that the Senior Center received which stated that it was to be used for East Lyme residents who are receiving Meals on Wheels to receive fans to help cool them during the summer months. They are asking that the balance rolls over to the next fiscal year until the funds are exhausted as they are for multiple purchases under \$50 each. Ms. Wilson, Senior Services Director would present a monthly report on fans purchased.

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. Seery moved to approve expenditures up to \$1,000 for the purchase of fans for seniors in need of them as noted in the anonymous donation received from the Nicholas Parahus Account. This approval will remain in effect until the total amount is expended in the Nicholas Parahus Account.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Ms. Wilson explained that the Parahus account is set up so that the Commission on Aging first approves expenditures and then it goes to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. The reasoning here was that this needed to be expedited so that they could get the fans to the people.

Ms. Hardy said that it seems to be a housekeeping issue as the money has been donated specifically for this purpose.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2d. Discussion – Energy Assistance Program

Mr. Nickerson said that Ms. Wilson would present this.

Ms. Wilson explained that the energy assistance monies have been cut coming from the federal level and that the households last year received around \$800 of assistance. This year the number of people applying has increased and the basic benefit has decreased to around \$225 per household which is probably only one delivery or payment (electric heat). They have been somewhat fortunate in that the weather so far has been mild so they have dodged a bullet although they cannot count on that to continue. She said that she is looking for some discussion on how to handle this.

Mr. Nickerson asked where the source of the money was.

Ms. Wilson said that it was the federal money funding that was cut.

Mr. Seery asked if there was any discussion at the State level of adding to help with some of the federal cut.

Ms. Wilson said that there has been talk but with the mild winter, they have not done anything yet.

Ms. Hardy asked if Ms. Wilson had any idea of how much money has been expended so far this year so that they would have an idea of how the program is doing.

Ms. Wilson said that it is difficult now as the program is in process and the way in which it is handled does not make it easy to determine where they are in the program. People have to call for a delivery to TVCCA and it is at that time that they find out if they have exhausted their individual allotment. She said that she would try to get some information on where they stand.

Ms. Cheeseman said that she understands that the electric companies cannot shut people off during the winter protection period.

Ms. Wilson said that was true and added that they have to apply for that winter protection program.

Ms. Cheeseman asked if there is any history to refer to so that they could have an idea of how this would have been taken care of.

Ms. Wilson said that she is not aware of any and that generally private organizations have helped and kicked in when benefits have been exhausted in certain instances. She said that this year she is concerned as the funding has been cut so drastically that as there are more people seeking assistance that there will be more whose benefit will be exhausted during the crucial winter months.

The Board asked that Ms. Wilson please bring them further information and thanked her for being proactive in bringing this forward to them.

2e. Appointments – Boards and Commissions:

Mr. Nickerson noted that they have appointments to complete.

****MOTION (4)**

Ms. Cheeseman moved to appoint Ilene Harris of 27 Stoneywood Drive, Niantic, CT to serve on the Commission on Aging through January 4, 2016.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Nickerson moved to appoint Fred Sullivan of 7 Parker Drive, Niantic, CT to serve on the Building Code of Appeals through January 4, 2016.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (6)**

Ms. Hardy moved to appoint Penelope Howell-Heller of 61 E. Pattagansett Road, Niantic, CT to serve on the Conservation of Natural Resources through January 4, 2016 and Susan T. Hermanson of 209 Old Black Point Road, Niantic, CT, and Ron Nichols of 32 Bush Hill Road, Niantic CT as Alternates of the Conservation of Natural Resources Commission through January 4, 2016.

Mr. Seery seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (7)**

Mr. Seery moved to appoint Stephen Dinsmore of 57 Chesterfield Road, East Lyme, Ct and Erik Kanter of 27 Wells Street, Niantic, CT to serve on the Harbor Management Commission through January 4, 2016.

Ms. Cheeseman seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (8)**

Ms. Cheeseman moved to appoint Carol Hallas of 191 Whistletown Road, East Lyme, CT and Mark Christensen of 66 Grassy Hill Road, East Lyme, CT to the Historic Properties Commission through January 4, 2016.

Mr. Nickerson seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (9)**

Mr. Nickerson moved to appoint Phyllis Berger of 32 W. Pattagansett Road, East Lyme, CT and Harold Clarke of 76 Giants Neck Road as Alternates on the Inland Wetlands Commission through January 4, 2016; and Candace Bodenhofer of 13 Dean Road, East Lyme, CT to serve on the Inland Wetlands Commission through January 4, 2016.

Mr. Seery seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (10)**

Ms. Hardy moved to appoint Donn Dobson of PO Box 1361, Madison, CT to serve as Deputy Fire Marshal through January 4, 2016.

Ms. Cheeseman seconded the motion.

Ms. Hardy noted that this position does not require the person to be a Town resident as the other positions do.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (11)**

Mr. Seery moved to appoint William J. Willetts of 13 Sunset Avenue, Niantic, CT to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission through January 4, 2016.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (12)**

Ms. Cheeseman moved to appoint David Murphy of 490 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, Ct and Paul M. Formica of 20A Bush Hill Drive, Niantic, CT to serve on the SE CT Water Authority until September 1, 2013.

Mr. Nickerson seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (13)**

Mr. Nickerson moved to appoint Pamela R. Stevens of 31 Manwaring Road, Niantic, CT, James Littlefield of 84 Smith Street, Niantic, CT and Geogia Lee Littlefield of 84 Smith Street, Niantic, CT to serve on the Smith Harris House Commission through January 2, 2016.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (14)**

Ms. Hardy moved to appoint David B. Bond of 50 Smith Street, Niantic, CT, Roger L. Spencer of 31 South Pine Street, Niantic, CT and John Jasper of 8 Old Oak Lane, Niantic, CT and Carol Russell of 4 Bramble Bush Drive, Niantic CT to serve on the Water and Sewer Commission through January 4, 2016.

Mr. Seery seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (15)**

Mr. Seery moved to appoint Michael T. Manifold of 11 Saltaire Avenue, Niantic, CT, Paul W. Lussier of 35 N. Edgewood Road, Niantic, CT and Patrick J. Larkin of 14 Oak Hill Drive, Niantic, CT to serve on the Youth Services Commission through January 4, 2016.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (16)**

Ms. Cheeseman moved to appoint Craig Mason of 9 Acorn Drive, Niantic, CT and Charles Ambulos of 1 Blueberry Lane, Niantic, CT to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals through January 4, 2016.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (17)**

Mr. Nickerson moved to appoint Phyllis Wienski of Bittersweet Lane, Niantic, CT to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Ledge Light Health District through January 6, 2014.

Ms. Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2f. Budget Review Schedule

Mr. Nickerson asked that they think about which budgets they might want to see and have that ready for discussion at the next meeting.

3. Unfinished Business

There was none.

4. Communications

There was none.

5. Information and Reports

5a. Ex-Officio

Mr. Nickerson asked if there were any reports.

Ms. Cheeseman reported that she had attended the Planning meeting on January 3, 2012 and that they had closed the two public hearings that they had. They also acted favorably on the Chesterfield Road application and postponed decision on the other application.

Ms. Hardy asked the status of the Fairhaven Road application as it had been in Zoning. Ms. Cheeseman said that they had postponed that decision to give the new members more time to review the information presented.

Ms. Hardy reported that there was a Zoning meeting last week and that Mr. Salerno was re-elected to the position of Chairman. She also reported that the Commission on Aging met and that they still have very low attendance at the meal site and will re-evaluate that in the near future. Also, Mr. Mountain was re-elected to Chairman of that Commission.

5b. Committee Reports

There were none.

5c. Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson said that he did not have anything further to report.

6. Public Comment

There was none.

7. Selectman's Response

Ms. Hardy said that she is hearing some very good things about the Boardwalk and the new bridge construction and suggested that they set up a tour for the Board of Selectmen to go and look at it. She noted that other groups have already been out to tour it and she thought that they should see it.

Mr. Nickerson said that sounded like a great suggestion.

****MOTION (18)**

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting of January 9, 2012 at 8:25 PM.

Ms. Cheeseman seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Zmitruk
Recording Secretary, Pro-tem