

**Board of Education (BOE)/Board of Selectmen (BOS)
Special Meeting
PUBLIC HEARING NOTES**

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Room B101 (INTV Room), ELHS

BOE Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Melissa Ford, Pam Rowe

BOE Members Absent: Jaime Barr, Jill Carini, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield,
Marlene Nickerson, Chris Sandford, Rich Steel

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Mike Susi (HS Principal),
Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director)

BOS Members Present: First Selectman Paul Formica, Holly Cheeseman, Mark Nickerson,
Kevin Seery

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:08 p.m. by First Selectman Paul Formica

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentation of the Proposed EL Athletic Complex, Parking Lot, Traffic Light Capital Project
First Selectman Paul Formica, BOE Chair Tim Hagen and ELPS Superintendent James Lombardo provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation of the \$3.45 million proposed East Lyme Athletic Complex, parking lot, and traffic light capital project. Eric Roise presented the Gale Associates slides. Paul Formica followed up with details regarding refunding and existing and proposed debt service in the 5-year capital plan. The audience was invited to ask questions and comment throughout the presentation.

Steve Harney – What is the life expectancy of the track?

A – At least 20 years

Denise Dinsmore – What is the annual maintenance cost for the new athletic field?

A - \$2,000

Denise Dinsmore - Explain the water drainage of the field.

A – Designed to capture and store significant water under the field and released slowly. Rinsing as needed.

Denise Dinsmore - Is there a danger of static electricity on the field?

A – Not an issue with the rubber and sand

Jack Hogan – The facility usage will increase approximately 300%; therefore, restrooms must be a consideration.

Lisa Picarazzi – 1) What is the cost of the traffic light?

A - \$150,000, possibly reimbursable by the State of CT

Lisa Picarazzi - Is there a plan to renovate the HS softball field?

A – Not at this time.

Lisa Picarazzi - Will the maintenance savings over 10 years pay for the replacement turf?

A – Yes, without taking into consideration revenue streams during non school/town use.

Lisa Picarazzi - Is there a plan to renovate the HS baseball field?

A – The HS baseball field is presently being repaired and is expected to be completed in April. The cost of the project is on target at \$80,000.

Art Carlson – This is a well designed project. Safety is an enormous factor. The facility may provide revenue opportunities to the town.

Allison Woods - What is the timeline for the project?

A – Construction will begin immediately following graduation is expected to be completed in September 2012.

Allison Woods - The project makes good sense for many reasons; the number of usage hours, cost effective, plan reflective of community, marketability of town, and investment in community. I encourage the Board of Finance to move the project along and I encourage residents to vote for the project.

Steve Harney – How comfortable is Gale Associates with the numbers given?

A – Very comfortable based on recent project completion.

Citizen – In favor of community fundraising effort

Kevin Seery – Fundraising framework will be established and actual fundraising will begin once the project is approved.

Citizen – The investment is two-fold. First, bleachers are unsafe and the track has safety issues. Provides town with incredible revenue opportunities.

Mark Nickerson – This is a great opportunity for our children and for our town, especially with the amount of youth involvement within the town and the great programs at the high school.

Julie Regan - We need to work to better our community, invest in the community, and bring families to town.

Jack Hogan - Let's go forward with project to include restroom facilities. Thank you to all involved.

The PowerPoint presentation is available on the East Lyme Public Schools website at eastlymeschools.org. First Selectman Paul Formica, Tim Hagen and Dr. Lombardo thanked all those involved. The project will be presented to the Board of Finance for consideration on Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. The meeting will be televised live.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Bodnar

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Recording Secretary