

Public Hearing Minutes March 9, 2009
East Lyme Charter Revision Commission

Present: Leonard Goldberg
Steven McCue
Carole Green
Lawrence White

Also Present: Barbara White
Bob Gadbois
Michael and Karen Rak
John Drabik
Bob Kleinhans

I. **Call to Order.** Chairman Goldberg called the Public Hearing of March 9, 2009 to order at 7 p.m.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

III. **Presentations from the Public.** Mr. Goldberg asked members of the public to address the Commission at the podium if they wished to speak.

John Drabik of 18 Drabik Road, East Lyme, stated he agreed with most of the work of this Commission.

He felt there should be further debate on Bifurcation of the General Government and Education budgets. He stated the Board of Education presents its budget separately from the General Government, and that each budget should be voted separately. This would give the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance a better idea of what residents want.

He agreed with this Commission that the Town Budget should go to an automatic referendum.

Robert Gadbois of 358 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, agreed with Mr. Drabik that the Board of Education and General Government budgets should be split. He stated many other towns split them.

He felt any taxpayer should be allowed to vote in an election.

Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Road, Niantic, would like to see bifurcation of the General Government and Education budgets, because it is a value statement for some individuals, and it gives the Town direction.

John Drabik of 18 Drabik Road, East Lyme felt any individual with even \$1 worth of assessment should have the right to vote on the budget.

There were no other comments from the public. Mr. Goldberg thanked those present for their input. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

The Charter Revision Commission's next regularly schedule meeting will be held on March

23, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi, Recording Secretary