

**EAST LYME  
TOWN BUILDING COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, FEBRUARY 25th, 2014**

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
Feb 27, 2014 AT 10:00 AM/PM  
*[Signature]*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**Present:** Ray O'Connor, Chairman, Abe Fisher, John Rhodes

**Also Present:** William Scheer, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Kevin Seery, Ex-Officio - Board of Selectmen

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman O'Connor called the February 25, 2014 Special Meeting of the East Lyme Town Building Committee to order at 5:05 PM.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

▪ **Review Boardwalk Restoration Bids/Information**

Mr. O'Connor said that Mr. Scheer was present this evening to go over the project and to answer any questions that they might have. There is also a 'comparison of bids' sheet for their general information.

Mr. Scheer said that he had copies of the plans for them to see as well as the project specs. He explained the concrete sheet piles; said that the elevation would be the same as the Amtrak portion of the boardwalk and that the sidewalk walking area would be 10 feet and a few odd inches in width which would match that of the Amtrak portion. He explained the Amtrak slope revetment process, size of the stones to be used (4-8 tons) and said that they are working with Amtrak on covering the costs as well as those of a flagman who is mandated to be on the project when the work is being done and who must be an Amtrak employee. He noted that there is 150 feet of revetment.

Mr. Rhodes asked what the total available dollar amount was for this project.  
Mr. Scheer said that it is \$4.9M.

Mr. Rhodes noted that from what he has heard from members of the community that they are in support of this project. He noted that he has also had people approach him and express their concern that it be done correctly this time and that it not be undermined by storms as the previous one was. He asked the timeline for the project.

Mr. Scheer said that tomorrow evening the Board of Selectmen would take this item up and that they would also have a special presentation on it before the regular meeting which everyone is invited to attend. If they decide to appropriate the use of the \$4.9M for the project it would have to go before the Board of Finance for action at their March 12, 2014 meeting and then if approved there; it would be scheduled for a Town Meeting on March 19, 2014 – which if approved would allow for the contract award to be done on March 20, 2014. The completion timeline is December 30, 2014 however they have to be mindful that the concrete cannot be done during the cold weather so they would want to have that completed well before then.

Mr. O'Connor said that he had called the meeting this evening so that they would be briefed as he anticipated that their Committee would be assigned this project.

Mr. Rhodes asked why the large variance in the bids.

Mr. Scheer and Mr. O'Connor said that some of the bidders have more overhead than others with respect to people and equipment. The lower bidders tend to have more hands-on management who are routinely out in the field working on and with the project, wearing multiple hats. Different companies look at different dynamics and that also drives costs.

Mr. Scheer noted for instance that Cianbro who had done the Amtrak bridge project did not bid on this project as it was too small of a project for them to consider.

Mr. Rhodes asked about the road that would be needed to get the concrete and other trucks into the area.

Mr. Scheer explained that the road (reinforced) would be created from behind the McCook's restroom pavilion for the trucks to travel down to the site. They would also reinforce the revetment in that area and when the project was completed; it would be left there for the Town to use.

The members noted that this would be a great asset with respect to having another access point in case of emergencies or any number of potential events.

Mr. Rhodes said that he was concerned that the \$4.9M might not be enough to complete the project with the soft costs and contingency and that Amtrak should be shouldering the revetment work and associated costs. He said that he felt that they should express this concern to the Board of Selectmen so that they are aware that it is incumbent upon Amtrak to provide funding in order for this project to be completed. He said that he would venture that the project would cost more in the neighborhood of \$5.5M and that they should get this settled as soon as possible in order to move forward.

Mr. O'Connor said that he would be attending the meeting the following evening and would convey their concerns. He invited them to also attend the meeting.

The members thanked Mr. Scheer for the information.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. O'Connor called for a motion to adjourn.

#### **\*\*MOTION (1)**

Mr. Rhodes moved to adjourn this February 25, 2014 Special Meeting of the Town Building Committee at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Fisher seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,  
Recording Secretary, Pro-Tem