

TOWN OF EAST LYME  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 19, 2014

Recorded  
FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
MARCH 20 14 AT 10:05 AM  
Vain Gallo, Jr.  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Moderator, Eugene Cushman, called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the East Lyme Town Hall. Paul Formica led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk, Lesley Blais, read the call of the meeting, stating it had been signed by members of the Board of Selectmen, posted on the signpost, published in The Day newspaper and filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Moderator read the rules of the meeting citing CGS Statute 7-6, eligibility to vote at a town meeting, stating that registered voters or taxpayers who are US citizens and whose names appear on the Grand List of October 1, 2013 and have a minimum assessment of \$1000.00 are eligible. He also cited CGS 9-360 dealing with penalties for voting if not franchised.

Item 1 of the Call: Special Appropriation of the sum \$2,320 to the 134 Smith Harris Commission account 01-01-134-100-415 to fund, in part, the museum curator position and to appropriate \$180 to account 01-01-114-100-121 to fund FICA/Medicare related to said position.

Motion was made by Holly Cheeseman and seconded by Allan Taylor to adopt the item.

Paul Formica explained that this appropriation was a donation by the Friends of Smith Harris to fund a curator position which has been successful in the past, assisting with the board members on tours and programs. Because this exceeds 10% of the Smith Harris budget, it requires not only approval from the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance, it also requires the Town Meeting approval.

Ron Rando asked why this was not part of last year's budget.

Paul Formica explained that this was an item that came up after last year's budget. They felt they needed help with managing the programs and tours of the facility.

There being no further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #1 of the call was adopted.

Item #2 of the Call: Special Appropriation of \$15,000 from general fund undesignated fund balance to 725 Capital into account entitled "Playscape – Samuel Peretz Park at Bridebrook".

Motion was made by Allan Taylor and seconded by Mr. Sherwood to adopt the item.

Paul Formica explained that this has already gone through both board approval and a Town Meeting but it went through in the last fiscal year but was not billed. It was

supposed to have a purchase order to encumber these funds. The purchase order fell through the cracks and did not get done by the end of the fiscal year, therefore, we have to do the entire process again. This money has been set aside to replace an old wooden playscape that was removed from service for safety reasons.

Ross Muratore questioned who came up with the idea of replacing this playscape.

Dave Putnam, Park and Recreation Director, stated it was the wish of the Park and Recreation Commission to replace the original playscape.

Joe Mingo asked if this playscape will be made with PVC.

Dave Putnam assured him that it will be made with PVC.

There being no further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #2 of the call was adopted.

Item #3 of the Call: Special Appropriation of \$54,800 from CNRE Fund 32 into an account entitled, "Architect – EL Elementary Schools" to develop education specifications and cost estimates for upgrading the elementary school buildings.

Motion was made by Holly Cheeseman and seconded by Rob Kupis to adopt the item.

Paul Formica stated this is a request coming from the Board of Education. They are proposing hiring an architect to help the Board of Education understand the best way to present to the community the educational needs and the physical needs for the elementary schools. We have three elementary schools now and the Board of Education is reviewing the options whether to renovate all three, close one and renovate two, whether to close all three and build a new one. They felt they need professional help with this process and this architect is proposed to be hired at a cost of \$54,800 plus \$28,000. The money being requested tonight is \$54,800 which is the first phase. That money is coming from the fees that they charge LEARN for the rental at Lillie B. Haynes Elementary School. The second phase of this contract has been included in the Board of Education proposed budget for the next fiscal year which is \$28,000. The first phase will be a recommendation to the Board of Education on their decision on the best way to proceed and the second phase has to do with community outreach in conveying that decision.

James Lombardo stated that 100% of the \$54,800 is already in an account.

Ron Rando asked what type fund is this money in.

Anna Johnson, Finance Director stated that the LEARN funds are placed in a Capital & Non-Recurring Fund designated for the use of the Board of Education. The Board of Education must make a request before the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Special Town Meeting for approval.

After further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #3 of the call was adopted.

Item #4 of the Call: Special Appropriation in the amount of \$43,500 DOT 2014 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program to account 01-25-216-100-519 (Grant Overtime).

Motion was made by Rose Ann Hardy and seconded by Holly Cheeseman to adopt this item.

Paul Formica stated this has been an annual request over the last few years from the Town of East Lyme Police Department. This particular year they have applied for \$43,500 in federal funds for the 2014 Department of Transportation Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program. This grant money is allotted for funding East Lyme police officers and the Resident State Trooper to conduct high visibility DUI enforcement. The grant is funded at 75% by the Department of Transportation with a contribution from the Town of East Lyme of 25% that will allow officers to be on patrol on weekend nights and holidays. The funding will allow for 129 of the DUI enforcement shifts which will be in addition to the minimum staffing levels of the East Lyme Police. Approximately \$8000-\$10,000 in revenue is received back from infractions that are written.

After further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #4 of the call was adopted.

Item #5 of the Call: Special Appropriation of up to \$4,442,779 from proceeds related to legal settlement, insurance settlement and FEMA Funds from Capital Projects Fund 57 into an account entitled "Niantic Bay Boardwalk 2014" to fund betterment and repairs. Remaining funds to be used for maintenance and upkeep.

Motion was made by Milan Keser and seconded by Ron Rando to adopt this item.

Paul Formica with the help of Deputy Director of Public Works, Bill Scheer reviewed the history of the boardwalk and the design of the new boardwalk. Once the boardwalk is complete we will have a 1.1 mile concrete walkway from the Hole In The Wall entrance to the Amtrak Bridge that will be built to withstand a 100 year storm. There were twelve(12) bids on the project. The lowest bid was \$4,442,779 and the high bid was \$8,200,000. Paul Formica met with the building committee to make sure that the low bidder is qualified.

A lawsuit was settled over the faulty original design for \$1.6M. Out of that money, there were some expenses in the amount of \$130,000 that needed to be met. Therefore, the money that was left is \$1,470,000. In addition, there is \$1.7M from storm Irene and \$1.1M from storm Sandy. There was also an additional STEAP grant given to the Town for \$500,000 that will be also be used towards the project.

After further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #5 of the call was adopted.

Item #6 of the Call: Special Appropriation in the amount of \$21,107 Municipal Grant in Aid to account 01-30-317-500-224 Town Aid for Roads.

Motion was made by Holly Cheeseman and seconded by Steve Kelley.

Paul Formica stated the \$21,107 was received from the Governor's Implementor bill. This was unexpected and therefore was not part of the 2013 budget. Therefore, we have to appropriate these monies and they do have the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approval.

The moderator called for a vote. Item #6 of the call was adopted.

Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Kelley and seconded by Holly Cheeseman.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Lesley A Blais  
Town Clerk