

TOWN OF EAST LYME
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JUNE 19, 2014

Recorded
-FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
June 19, 2014 AT 8:05 AM/PM
Paul Formica, Clerk
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Moderator, Eugene Cushman, called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the East Lyme Town Hall. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk, Lesley Blais, read the call of the meeting, stating it had been signed by 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 are eligible. He also cited CGS 9-360 dealing with penalties for voting if not franchised.

Item 1 of the Call: To approve an appropriation to the Board of Education in the amount of \$304,060 for the purpose of acquiring by way of lease or purchase or a combination thereof, various new computer and smart board equipment for the High School, Middle School, Niantic Center School, Lillie B Haynes, Flanders School and the Central Office more particularly described in the East Lyme Public Schools Proposed Year One Computer Replacement Plan 2014/15 and the one One Ton Dump Truck for the total amount of \$292,834 plus interest at the rate of 1.49% per annum, payable in annual installments of \$60,812 (\$5068/month) over a period of five (5) years.

Motion was made by Kevin Seery and seconded by Rocco Tricarico to adopt the item.

Paul Formica explained this is an acquisition plan that we have undergone, this being the fourth year. This equipment consists of 253 desktops, 97 LCD monitors, 14 laptops, 19 Mac Minis, projectors and various other items. The pickup truck that needs to be upgraded is a truck that helps out with plowing and general landscaping needs. It's replacing a 2005 Chevrolet pickup truck that will be sent to auction and the money always goes from auction and gets rolled back into our vehicle plan.

Hearing no comments on this item, moderator called for a vote. Item #1 of the call was adopted.

Item 2 of the Call: To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$300,079 for the purpose of acquiring by way of lease or purchase various vehicles and equipment more particularly described in the Town's FY 2014/15 Equipment Acquisition Plan, as evidenced by one or more agreements for the acquisition of said vehicles by lease or purchase or a combination thereof, for a total price of \$289,000 plus interest at the rate of 1.49% per annum, payable in annual installments of \$60,016 (\$5,002/month) over a period of five (5) years. The First Selectman is authorized, in the name and on behalf of

the Town, to execute and deliver any documents that may be required in connection with said transactions.

Motion was made by Kevin Seery and seconded by Steve Kelley to adopt the item.

Paul Formica stated this is year five in our Vehicle Acquisition Program. He stated the items included a \$148,000 dump truck for Public Works, \$32,000 for a pickup truck, two police vehicles totaling \$69,000, \$10,000 for a utility trailer and a utility vehicle for Parks and Recreation with a top dresser for \$30,000.

The moderator called for a vote. Item #2 of the call was adopted.

Item 3 of the Call: To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$189,000 to the Capital Nonrecurring Expense (CNRE) Fund 32 for various projects consistent with the Town's 2014/15 Capital Improvement Plan. Said projects are more particularly set forth in a document on file and open to public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk.

Motion was made by Steve Kelley and seconded by Kevin Seery to adopt the item.

Paul Formica explained this is an item that is placed on an annual basis into the Capital Nonrecurring account for projects that are continuing. In this case, \$189,000 makes up town projects for roofs. This roof is the next big one that we have accumulated money for over time in the previous budgets. Town-wide HVAC replacement gives us money for upgrades or repairs as necessary. Various projects throughout the town include an emergency project fund and money is put away each year for our town-wide revaluations.

There being no further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #3 of the call was adopted.

Item 4 of the Call: To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$94,200 CNRE Fund 32 for various equipment in coordination with the Acquisition Program consistent with the Town's 2014/15 Capital Improvement Plan. Said projects are more particularly set forth in a document on file and open to public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk.

Motion was made by Steve Kelley and seconded by Patricia Holyfield to adopt the item.

Paul Formica stated this item goes into the same fund as the previous CNRE but this is not coming out of our budget. This is a result of the FEMA reimbursements for storms and funds we have been able to accumulate from the sales of old recycling trucks that was put aside in the CNRE to be used for outfitting vehicles that we purchased through this acquisition plan. We are requesting appropriation of the funds for the purpose of purchasing the miscellaneous equipment needed for outfitting some of the vehicles.

Moderator called for a vote. Item #4 of the call was adopted.

Item 5 of the Call: To approve an appropriation in the amount of \$183,247 from the Capital Nonrecurring Expense (CNRE) Fund 32 for the "2013 School Security Grant Program" consistent with the Town's 2014/15 Capital Improvement Plan. Said Projects are on file and open to public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Motion was made by Kevin Seery and seconded by Tim Hagen to adopt the item.

Paul Formica explained that this item is a result of the increased awareness and need for school security around the state. We are instituting a new school security improvement program that the Board of Education applied for and was awarded a grant of \$77,222 and the town match is \$106,025. That money is coming from the rent that the Board of Education charges the LEARN program for use of the school.

Karen Rak asked what specific items this money would include.

Don Meltabarger, business manager at East Lyme Board of Education stated this would be for upgrading camera systems and panic buttons.

There being no further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #5 of the call was adopted.

Item 6 of the Call: To receive communications from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance with respect to a resolution entitled "Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$900,000 For The Rehabilitation Of Various Town Roads and Authorizing The Issuance Of \$900,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation and Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose".

Moderator noted that communications were received for Item #6.

Item 7 of the Call: To consider and act upon a resolution entitled "Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$900,000 For The Rehabilitation Of Various Town Roads and Authorizing The Issuance Of \$900,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation and Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose".

Motion was made by Tracy Collins and seconded by Patricia Holyfield to adopt the item.

Attorney Tracy Collins from the Town's attorneys office stated that upon the advice of bond counsel, she would not be reading the entire resolution into the record this evening but copies would be available for anyone requesting one. Attorney Collins read the resolution and the introduction into the record.

Paul Formica presented a slideshow titled Town of East Lyme Debt and Refunding Information. Fifteen years ago, because we carried a lot of money we were able to have a large amount of interest income in our budget due to high interest rates. During recent

years, we have been able to take advantage of refunding at very low interest rates. The slideshow showed the total refunding that we have been able to do in recent years and the savings that we have accumulated as a result of that refunding. After a lengthy overview of our bonding and projects, the moderator opened the floor for discussion.

There being no further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #7 of the call was adopted.

Item 8 of the Call: To receive communications from the Board Of Selectmen and the Board of Finance with respect to a resolution entitled "Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$100,000 For The Planning, Design And Construction Of Various Capital Improvements To Peretz Park At Bridebrook and Authorizing The Issuance Of \$100,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose".

Moderator noted that communications were received for Item #8.

Item 9 of the Call: To consider and act upon a resolution entitled "Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$100,000 For The Planning, Design And Construction Of Various Capital Improvements To Peretz Park At Bridebrook and Authorizing The Issuance Of \$100,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose".

Attorney Tracy Collins made the motion and Timothy Hagen seconded it to adopt the item.

Once again, Attorney Collins stated that upon advice of bond counsel, she would not be reading the entire resolution into the record but copies would be available if requested. She noted that this resolution needs referral to Planning for CGS 8-24 before construction begins.

Paul Formica explained there are parking barriers that need to be replaced. A new picnic pavilion shelter is proposed for the center of the park as well as six (6) additional picnic tables. There will be tarp roofs put on the dugouts, the basketball courts need to be crack sealed and a chain-link fence needs to be replaced. Mr. Formica noted that as part of our Pavement Management Program, the Town was able to pave the lot at the Niantic Fire Department, Station II. As a result, some of the material (gravel) that was taken out of that lot was used to make an emergency access lane off Giants Neck Road into Rocky Neck State Park.

Ross Muratore questioned why the sign at Peretz Park states that the park closes at dusk and yet sometimes the park is open as late as 10:00 p.m. He feels there needs to be a sound barrier at the park

Dave Putnam, the Parks and Recreation director, stated there are lights at the park and therefore, the park will be used after dusk. Mr. Putnam stated he would look into why the "closed at dusk" sign is posted.

Rocco Tricarico stated he feels that Bridebrook Park is a jewel for this town. He stated that the pavilion shelter is needed so that the children have a place to get out of the hot sun during the day and the extra picnic tables are necessary. He fully supports all the improvements in this bonding.

There being no further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #9 of the call was adopted.

Item 10 of the Call: To receive communications from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance with respect to a resolution entitled "Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount of \$230,000 For The Planning, Design, Construction, Replacement and Installation Of A New Roof At The Board Of Education Central Office And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$230,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose".

Moderator noted that communications were received for Item #10 of the call.

Item 11 of the Call: To consider and act upon a resolution entitled "Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount of \$230,000 For The Planning, Design, Construction, Replacement and Installation Of A New Roof At The Board Of Education Central Office And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$230,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose".

Motion was made by Attorney Tracy Collins and seconded by Ray O'Connor to adopt the item.

Attorney Collins stated a complete copy of the resolution is available and read a section of the resolution.

Paul Formica stated this item is to repair a very old roof that was made of slate. The cost that needs to be appropriated this evening is \$230,000 but the true cost is about \$137,099.

There being no further discussion, moderator called for a vote. Item #11 of the call was adopted.

Item 12 of the Call: To receive communications from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance with respect to a resolution entitled "Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$115,000 For The Planning, Design, Construction and Installation Of District-Wide Network Upgrades And Authorizing The Issuance Of

\$115,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose”.

Moderator noted that the communications have been received.

Item 13 of the Call: To consider and act upon a resolution entitled “Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$115,000 For The Planning, Design, Construction and Installation Of District-Wide Network Upgrades And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$115,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose”.

Motion was made by Attorney Tracy Collins and seconded by Patricia Holyfield to adopt this item.

Attorney Collins stated that a complete copy of this resolution is available on request. She read a summary of this resolution.

Paul Formica explained that this is an upgrade that is necessary considering that more and more testing is being done on computers.

Karen Rak requested more specifics on this upgrade.

Robin McKinney, the schools technology director, explained that the network upgrade is going from a 1 gigabyte network to a 10 gigabyte network. This is important to be able to keep up with all the standardized testing that is done on computers. In addition, there are new curriculum requirements for schools and a lot of that has heavy technological requirements for students. A new switch will put in at the East Lyme Middle School and fiber cabling will be put in place between the Lillie B Haynes Elementary School and the Middle School.

There being no further discussion, Moderator called for a vote. Item #13 of the call was adopted.

Item 14 of the Call: To receive communications from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance with respect to a resolution entitled: “Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$715,000 For The Planning, Design, Rehabilitation And Improvement Of The Tennis Court Facility And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$715,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose”.

Moderator noted that the communications have been received.

Item 15 of the Call: To consider and act upon a resolution entitled: “Resolution Making An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$715,000 For The Planning, Design, Rehabilitation And Improvement Of The Tennis Court Facility And Authorizing The Issuance Of

\$715,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose”.

Motion was made by Attorney Tracy Collins and seconded by Kevin Seery to adopt the item.

Attorney Collins stated copies of this resolution were available to those attending the meeting. She noted that this resolution needs referral to Planning for CGS 8-24 before construction begins and then read the resolution.

Paul Formica stated the courts are in disrepair and he was looking for an opportunity to do things right and not to do patchwork repairs. A tennis court committee was formed for this project and this appears to be the appropriate time to get it done.

Karen Rak thought there was a problem underneath the existing courts and questioned whether it would be addressed so that it would not be a future problem.

Don Meltabarger, business manager, stated they would be using post-tension concrete which has become the industry standard and comes with a 25 year warranty.

Susan Welshock, boys high school tennis coach, talked about the importance of a new tennis court and mentioned how well the players have done playing on a court that was in such need of repair. She is looking forward to even more success on the new courts.

After no further discussion, Moderator called for a vote. Item #15 of the call was adopted.

Item 16 of the Call: To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Being no further business, Moderator then called for a motion to adjourn. Kevin Seery made the motion and Rocco Tricarico seconded it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Lesley A Blais
Town Clerk