

Recorded May 10 2017

AM

3:50 (PM) Lesly A. Blais

East Lyme Town Clerk

TOWN OF EAST LYME

MAY 8, 2017

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Town Meeting Moderator Gene Cushman called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Nickerson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Karen Galbo, Assistant Town Clerk read the Call of the Meeting

Mr. Cushman reviewed the rules of the Annual Town Meeting per Connecticut General Statute Section 7-6 and Section 9-360.

**1. TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE.**

**A. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 7.3 OF THE TOWN CHARTER, THE MODERATOR SHALL ADJOURN THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING TO A REFERENDUM ON THE VOTING MACHINES. THE BUDGET RESOLUTION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE PERSONS QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN A TOWN MEETING BY REFERENDUM BY MACHINE VOTE, WHICH REFERENDUM SHALL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 18, 2017, AT THE EAST LYME COMMUNITY CENTER FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.**

Mr. Cushman stated the budget will be going to Referendum on May 18, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tonight they will not be voting on the budget, but will adjourn to the Referendum.

Lisa Picarazzi, Vice-Chair of the Board of Finance reviewed and summarized the budget. She discussed the possible implications that could become if the Governor's potential cuts to towns do go through. Overall with the budget as it presently is being presented the Mill Increase would be .66.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane, East Lyme stated he is concerned with what the State will do, and he wanted to know the impact the State's potential cuts would have on the school renovation project. He understands the Town is working as hard as they can to hold costs back. The town is growing and the needs are growing. The biggest area is health insurance. The town is self insured. There are ways to save. We could eliminate the family plan and cover employees only. It would be admirable if employees and spouses would go on Medicare when they turn 65. We are in a very deep hole.

Joe Mingo, 397 Boston Post Road, East Lyme stated the largest employer in the State is the State of Connecticut, but when you call someone at the State you can't talk to a person. He doesn't have the same problem with the Town. The State has too many employees. EB is hiring additional workers, but where are they going to find trades people to work in the yard. Shop Classes are closed at the schools. We don't educate in the basic necessities of life anymore.

Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, East Lyme stated Mr. Nickerson said people and businesses are moving into East Lyme. Connecticut is in bad shape. It is time to start thinking about the taxpayers, he

thinks there should be layoffs of teachers, 1 or 2 administrators, an engineer in Town, and we should privatize the garbage, and sell the Water and Sewer Department.

John Drabik, 18 Drabik Road, East Lyme asked the Chair of the Board of Finance how much money in this budget makes up for the State's proposed cuts.

Camille Alberti, Chair of the Board of Finance stated the increase take into consideration flat funding from last year.

Mike Schulz stated that in 1960 90% of the town's employees lived in town, at this time there are about 11-15%. Money is leaving our town, he has a small business in town and it is hard to stay open.

## **2. TO ADOPT A FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN.**

**Motion (1) Kevin Seery moved Item 1.**

**Seconded by Mary Smith.**

Mr. Nickerson reviewed the 5 year Capital Plan. They will be starting moving things out 10 years. Some items need to be in the Capital Plan or we can't get funding for them. We are not voting to spend the money, we are just voting to put the items in the Plan.

Jeff Newton, Superintendent of Schools reviewed the Board of Education Acquisition Program and Capital Plan.

Joe Mingo asked if there is money in the budget to fund this year's Capital Plan.

Mr. Nickerson stated there is some money in the current budget to pay for some items.

Ron Rando stated Waterford has an Assistant Chief, Captain, 2 Lieutenants, and 1 Detective. Are we planning on hiring those as well?

Mr. Nickerson stated we are not planning on it right now, but if things need to change we may decide to do that.

**Item 2 Passed.**

## **3. TO CONDUCT SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING.**

**The Annual Town Meeting was adjourned to a Referendum on May 18, 2017 at the East Lyme Community Center from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Karen Miller Galbo  
Assistant Town Clerk**