

**EAST LYME BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AFTER PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, APRIL 24th, 2017**

Members In Attendance: Camille Alberti, Chairperson
Lisa Picarazzi, Vice-Chairperson
Peter DeRosa
Beth Hogan
William Weber

FILED

APR 27 2017 AT 10:05 AM/PM
Camille Alberti, ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also In Attendance: Mark Nickerson, First Selectman
Anna Johnson, Finance Director
Jeffrey Newton, Superintendent of Schools
Tim Hagen, Chairman, Board of Ed
Lisa Timothy, Library Director

Absent: Jason Pazzaglia

A. Call Special Meeting to Order

Chairperson Alberti called this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance to order at 8:22 PM after the previously scheduled Public Hearing on the Proposed FY17/18 Budget.

B. Deliberations & Action to Send Proposed FY 17-18 Budget to Town Meeting on May 8, 2017

Ms. Alberti commented that there was a smaller turnout for the Public Hearing this evening probably due to the proposed .66 mil increase. She said that they did hear some pleas regarding the Library and their funding and they also heard others who indicated that they felt that a .66 mil increase was too high. She called for discussion.

Ms. Picarazzi said that a lot of people came and spoke regarding the Library. Mr. Jacobs spoke on the impact of the latest \$8000 reduction as being miniscule with regard to helping the overall budget while Ms. Timothy wants \$14,000 back.

Mr. Weber said that they are at a 2.5% increase and that the \$8000 reduction which he had proposed was for materials and less new books, fewer periodicals but they would keep the hours that they are open. The reduction in new materials was the basis for his suggestion.

Ms. Hogan said that the previous \$28,000 reduction plus the \$8000 is a big cut.

Ms. Picarazzi said that it is a big budget.

Ms. Hogan said that they were told that it is due to health care.

Ms. Picarazzi said that everyone has the health care costs.

Ms. Timothy asked to speak with regard to the impact. She said that the net increase to the Library would be \$20,000. They have been reduced in the past and the \$14,000 would bring them back as it is around \$16,000 to run Sundays.

Ms. Picarazzi asked if she was saying that the \$8000 would not help.

Ms. Timothy said that she has 11 people working for her so she has substantial health insurance costs and she would need more than the \$8000. The \$8000 would be a start, she does not have a crystal ball to know but \$10,000 could probably help.

****MOTION (1)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to restore \$11,000 to the Library budget for FY 2017/2018.

Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Mr. Weber asked about staffing levels and what the minimum staffing levels are.

Ms. Timothy said that it is 5 people as they have to run the desk and help people and answer phones – everyone is doing everything.

Mr. Weber asked if the 5 person minimum is always that number.

Ms. Timothy said yes.

Ms. Alberti said that she thinks that restoring dollars to the Library even though people have come out to support it; that she has to consider the other departments that have been reduced and this would not be fair to them. She would feel that to restore just the \$8000 would be better.

Mr. Weber said that he could agree with the \$8000.

Ms. Alberti called for a vote,

Vote: 2 – 3 – 0. Motion failed.

For: Ms. Hogan, Ms. Picarazzi

Against: Ms. Alberti, Mr. DeRosa, Mr. Weber.

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. Weber moved to restore \$8,000 to the Library budget for FY 2017/2018.

Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Hogan asked where they would take the \$8000 from.

Mr. Weber said that they would have to take it from contingency.

****MOTION (3)**

Ms. Hogan moved to reduce Contingency by \$8000.

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Weber said that until they have any further information from the State that he would leave the budget as it is.

Ms. Picarazzi said that she would still like to see more cut from the General Government budget.

Ms. Alberti concurred and added that she would like to see the mil rate increase by more.

Ms. Hogan said that they did not set any mil rate – they are just discussing the proposed budget.

****MOTION (4)**

Ms. Alberti moved to forward the FY 2017/2018 budget as proposed here to Town Meeting on May 8, 2017.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Hogan asked about the date to set the mil rate.

Ms. Johnson said that they already have a tentative date of May 31, 2017 as there is work that needs to be done to get the tax bills ready to go out at the end of June. She recapped that May 8 is the Town Meeting with May 18 the Referendum date.

Ms. Alberti said that she would prefer setting the mil rate in the first week of June and pushing the date out to then.

Mr. Weber suggested keeping it at the May 31, 2017 date.

Ms. Alberti said that she would be on vacation so the date would be June 7, 2017.

Ms. Picarazzi agreed with June 7, 2017 for setting the mil rate.

Ms. Johnson suggested that they discuss this at their next Regular Meeting on May 10, 2017 as the Tax Collector will be there with the Suspense List so he can speak to this and they could set the date then.

C. Discussion & Possible Action on the Capital Improvement Plan

Ms. Alberti asked Ms. Johnson to highlight the major changes.

Ms. Johnson said that they are the reductions of \$132,000 that have been made as that is what they cut.

Ms. Alberti said that they cut \$22,000 out of the acquisition program.

Ms. Johnson said that they left it in the capital plan as they will have to re-calibrate the acquisition payments.

Ms. Alberti asked how they plan for debt service.

Ms. Johnson explained that – for instance if a police building is proposed for FY 21/22 then they would look at it in relation to where they are and make a determination at that time. It would only be an estimated placeholder item at this time.

Mr. Nickerson said that they could move everything out to year 10 – this is something that if the opportunity came up then the citizens at that time would vote on it – it is nothing more than a placeholder.

Ms. Alberti said that she would prefer to move it out further.

****MOTION (5)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to push the \$4M for the Niantic Fire Department to FY 2024/2025.

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Mr. Weber said that he does not see the items on the list as anything formal.

Ms. Alberti said that she feels better having it out farther.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Alberti said that she would like to move the Police Station out but not to the same year.

****MOTION (6)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to move the Police Station \$6M to FY 2022/2023.

Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (7)**

Ms. Alberti moved to remove the \$22,896 from acquisition for FY 2017/2018 as it is a real cut identified in the budget.

Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Picarazzi asked if the \$250,000 in Open Space is a placeholder.

Ms. Johnson said that was correct – it is being used as a placeholder.

Ms. Picarazzi asked what they have in that account.

Ms. Johnson said that there is \$550,000 in it.

****MOTION (8)**

Ms. Alberti moved to forward to Town Meeting on May 8, 2017 the FY 2017/2018 CIP as presented here.
Mr. DeRosa seconded the motion.
Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

D. Public Discussion

Ms. Alberti called for Public Discussion.
There was none.

E. Board Comments

Ms. Alberti called for comments from the Board.
There were no comments.

Ms. Alberti thanked everyone for their participation.

The Annual Town Meeting on the budget is Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7 PM in the High School Auditorium.

F. Adjournment

****MOTION (9)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to adjourn this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance at 9:10 PM.
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.
Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary