

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Marc Salerno, Rose Ann Hardy, Dan Cunningham and Paul Dagle

EXCUSED: Kevin Seery

Also present was State Representative Holly Cheeseman

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items

1c. Delegations

Ms. Holly Cheeseman, State Representative, 16 Mitchell Drive, Niantic, gave an update on the budget situation. She reported that this is a bipartisan budget, and that there is equal support from both Republicans and Democrats. She stated that this is not a cure all, and remember that this did not happen overnight and it will take a while to get Connecticut in a better place and moving forward. Ms. Cheeseman briefly touched on a number of items that did and did not pass in this new budget, and stated that anyone who would like more information or further details to please contact her office to set up a time to talk. Her door is always open.

Mr. Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, stated that he has spoken out on many matters regarding the Town over the years, and that he has spoken the truth. He expressed his support for Wes Firmin, his grandson and Independent candidate for First Selectman; and stated that he has not assisted his grandson with his campaign race and that Mr. Firmin has taken on this endeavor on his own based on his desire to see a change. Mr. Rando expressed his concern for the recently passed budget up on Hartford, the Town's Moody Rating review, the way the Town handled the new water meters, the hold up with the Costco project, and tax hike on tobacco products, which increases the tax burden on lower income residents. He expressed concern with the way the jet ski event was handled at McCooks Point, and does not feel the band shell is a legal addition to the park. Regarding the property up on Darrow's Ridge, Mr. Rando noted that the town spent \$4.3 million on the land in order to put up a water tower, and he is not pleased that that project never happened and he does not think spending that kind of money to in turn use two acres out of 300 to build a dog park is not reasonable.

Mr. Joe Mingo, 397 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, read into record an email exchange from November 2016. Mr. Mingo expressed concern with The Day blocking his access to the opinion section of the online site, his previous involvement with the Inland Wetlands Commission, and his former position as the tree warden and said duties of such position.

1di. Approval of Minutes, Special Joint Meeting of September 25, 2017

MOTION (1)

Ms. Hardy moved to approve the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education Special Joint Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2017, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 5-0.

FILED

Nov 3 2017 AT 2:10 AM/PM
(Signature)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Idii. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting of October 4, 2017

MOTION (2)

Mr. Salerno moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2017, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. In Favor; Mr. Nickerson, Ms. Hardy, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Dagle. Abstained; Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 4-0-1.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (3)

Mr. Salerno moved to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of November 1, 2017, in the amount of \$12,533.83.

Seconded by Ms Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Old Business

There was none.

3a. Authorize the First Selectman to sign the EMPG Grant Application for 2017/18

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that this application is a necessary step in receiving Homeland Security grants. He also reported that he is now the Vice Chair for Region 4.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Salerno Resolved that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (formerly the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security) any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and Further Resolved, that Mark C. Nickerson, as First Selectman of the Town of East Lyme, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing the delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. The undersigned further certifies that Mark C. Nickerson now holds the office of First Selectman and that he has held that office since January 7, 2015.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

3b. Review and approve the Board of Selectmen 2018 regular meeting schedule

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that the only date on the 2018 meeting schedule that is questionable is the November 21st meeting which is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. He stated that we decided to leave it on the schedule as is since there is not a good Wednesday before or after the meeting to move it to. We will wait and see what matters are pending and decide at that time to either have the meeting, cancel the meeting, or schedule a special meeting if necessary. Ms. Hardy stated that should would rather that we decided on an alternate date right now as she knows she will not be able to make a meeting on November 21st.

MOTION (5)

Mr. Salerno moved to approve the Board of Selectmen 2018 regular meeting schedule, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. In Favor; Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Salerno, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Dagle. Opposed; Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 4-0-1.

3c. Authorize the First Selectman to sign the UCONN Climate Resiliency (CIRCA) Grant

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that this grant has gone through the proper approval process, ending with approval at a Town Meeting on June 21st. This motion will simply ensure that all bases are covered and that the proper motion is in place for the First Selectman to sign the necessary paperwork. He noted that this grant is important in that it raises our rating enough to allow for maximum discounts for our residents for flood insurance.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Salerno moved that Whereas, the Board of Selectmen on June 7, 2017, unanimously voted to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 in CNRE Fund 32 to revenue and expenditure account titled "CIRCA Grant" (Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation) and forwarded to the Board of Finance for approval; and Whereas, the Board of Finance on June 14, 2017, unanimously voted to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 in CNRE Fund 32 to revenue and expenditure account titled "CIRCA Grant" (Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation); and Whereas, on June 21, 2017, a special appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 in CNRE Fund 32 to revenue and expenditure account titled "CIRCA Grant" (Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation) was approved at a Town Meeting; IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes the Honorable Mark C. Nickerson, First Selectman, to enter into, sign and execute a Cost-Reimbursement Agreement (Grant Agreement) in the amount of \$50,000 between the University of Connecticut and the Town of East Lyme, Connecticut.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

3d. This item will be heard at a future meeting.

4. Communications - Invitation from the Smith-Harris House to attend their November board meeting

DISCUSSION: It was noted that this meeting falls at the same time as the annual Veteran's Day Celebration on the Town Green. The Recording Secretary was instructed to reach out to the representative and respectfully decline and work to set up a future date for the BOS to attend a meeting.

5. Information and Reports.

There was none.

6a. Ex-Officio

Mr. Salerno reported that at the last Zoning Commission meeting, they voted to opt out of the proposed temporary health care structures program. This decision will now be forwarded to the Board of Selectman and an upcoming meeting for their review and decision as to whether or not the Zoning Commission's decision to opt out will be upheld. He attended the Town Building Committee meeting and they discussed the schematic design estimates, asbestos abatement, and that they have run into issues with the alarm systems that need to be addressed. He noted that the project is still under budget, and that a report is being prepared and will be submitted shortly to outline progress.

Mr. Cunningham reported that he attended the WELSCO meeting on October 19th at which they reviewed their appointed duties and powers as a commission. They also discussed the proposed shellfish farm and he noted that there are residents weighing in from both Waterford and East Lyme on this issue. He suggests that anyone interested should please review the previous meetings minutes as well as attend future meetings on this matter as there is a lot of discussion and a lot of information. The Historic Properties Commission held their annual Bike & BBQ event and they brought in approximately \$10,000; what a great event! Holding the event at the Smith Harris House turned out to be a great venue and will be considered for the location next year.

Mr. Dagle reported that the Inland Wetlands Commission reviewed a cease and desist case regarding dock encroachment on the 4 Mile River. After hearing from the property owner, the commission decided to give the owner more time to work on this issue and rectify it; this will be heard again at a future meeting. He reported that at the EL Harbor Management & Shellfish Commission meeting they heard a presentation from Mr. TJ Londregan. Although the general consensus is that we are in support of this project, because it is in Waterford waters and there is discussion with the State over jurisdiction, it was decided that this commission would not send a letter to the State at this time in support of the project.

6b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported on the recent storm that we had, and made note of the progress made over the last couple of days in getting our residents power back on and debris/trees cleaned up. He stated that Eversource was caught off guard by this storm and was slow to respond, put out a lot of misinformation to customers, and provided less than adequate customer service to its customers. He stated that he would be filing a report, as the municipalities do after each such event, and express our concerns and experience during this event. Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th from 6am until 8pm. Residents north of route 95 are District 1 and will vote at the High School; residents south of 95 to the beaches are Districts 2 and 3 and will vote at the Community Center. Should you need to register to vote, you can do so up to the day of election at the Registrar's Office located in the Community Center.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, East Lyme spoke regarding the proposed shellfish farm in the bay, and stated that he supports Mr. Londregan's efforts and feels that we should be in support of bringing scallops back into the bay. Mr. Rando noted beach neighbors that were supposed to get sewers as well as the removal of eel grass in the bay as possible reasons that the scallop population dwindled from years ago when it was abundant. Mr. Rando stated that he supports Mr. Trump and believes that he is making good decisions and doing a good job.

Mr. John Drabik, 18 Drabik Road, East Lyme stated that the next budget season is fast approaching, and he is suggesting that future budgets be either flat or reduced; stating that he believes that the State and the Town are double taxing residents in the water bills, and stated that people are leaving our town and the state so there are less taxpayers to shoulder the burden. Mr. Drabik also expressed his concern with the State work around town that is disrupting traffic and putting a burden on business owners in the North end of town.

8. Selectman's Response

Mr. Nickerson stated that the town of East Lyme has every intention of supporting Mr. Londregan's endeavors in building up a shellfish farm in the bay. There is a conflict in duties between the state and the towns, and WELSCO is working with the State on rectifying this. He reported that up on Darrow's ridge there are 2 acres that have been set aside for the community endeavor to build a dog park; 2 acres out of 300. 100 acres are set aside as open space, and the remaining 200 acres are for town use. Currently we are installing the new communications tower that will service our police and emergency responders; there are proposed plans in the works for a possible water tower. Mr. Nickerson reported that regarding the Moody Rating review is happening to 35 towns in Connecticut; any town whose fund balance is lower than the State fund balance has been put into the review status. Moody would like to see \$12 million and we only have \$5 million set aside in the rainy day fund. Regarding the double billing, we inquired about this matter and the CT Department of Health determined that customers are not being billed twice. He reminded everyone that the decision to purchase the new meters under this plan was agreed to by a 10 person panel, with a vote in favor of 9-1. Regarding the jet ski event, he agreed that things did

not play out as planned and the Park and Recreation department is addressing this and will have clearer rules and regulations in place should this event come back to our bay next year. The band shell is a recreational facility and does not make any money from any of the events.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Salerno moved to adjourn the November 1, 2017, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:41 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandra Anderson", is written over the typed name.

Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary