

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2017  
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Marc Salerno and Dan Cunningham

EXCUSED: Rose Ann Hardy and Paul Dagle

Also present was Town Attorney Ed O'Connell

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items  
There were none.

1c. Delegations

Mr. Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, spoke on numerous items a couple of which included the Costco project; he requested an estimate of lost revenue and taxes based on the project falling through. He is unhappy with recent rate hike for water and sewer, and reported that he read that the State is now going to add a fee to the bills. He also feels the Town's bond debt is high. He asked that the retirement policy be reviewed. Regarding the State budget that was passed, he feels it is not a good budget and that our Town will suffer from it.

1d. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting of November 1, 2017

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2017, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. In Favor; Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Salerno. Abstained; Mr. Seery. Motion passed 3-0-1.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery moved to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of November 15, 2017, in the amount of \$1,423.37.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Old Business

There was none.

3a. Review and approve updated Workplace Harassment and Workplace Violence policies, and designate an EEO Grievance Officer

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that the Human Resources department is continually reviewing policies and making updates as needed, and it was time that these policies were reviewed and updated to get a good working policy in place. He stated that these policies were broadened to include all employees as well as members of Town of East Lyme boards and commissions.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery Moved to approve the updated Workplace Harassment and Workplace Violence policies, as submitted; and designate the Human Resources Specialist as the EEO Grievance Officer.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 4-0.

FILED

Nov 20 2017 AT 10:05 AM/PM  
Caren Walker, ATC  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

3b. Review and approve the Zoning Commission's recommendation to opt out of temporary health care structures

DISCUSSION: Attorney O'Connell addressed the Board of Selectmen and gave a brief review of Public Act 17-155 and the applicable statutes relating to his recommendation to opt out of this public act, specifically Section 1, subsections a3 and j. Based on his review of this public act, and the Zoning Commission's decision at a Public Hearing held on October 5, 2017, these are the reasons he recommends opting out of Public Act 17-155. The Board of Selectmen agreed that they understood the reason for such a Public Act; however, the act does not allow for the Town to easily keep track and police these structures. It was discussed that the Town would look into a similar way to institute a Town policy that would put the Town Zoning department in control.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery moved that WHEREAS, the East Lyme Board of Selectmen ("Board") has received and reviewed a resolution from the East Lyme Zoning Commission ("Commission") titled "Resolution to Opt Out of the Requirements of Public Act 17-155;" and,

WHEREAS, the Commission's resolution recommends to the Board that the Town "opt out" of the requirements of Public Act 17-155 in accordance with the Act's opt out provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's resolution sets forth the reasons for its recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Board, having reviewed the Commission's reasons and recommendations, agrees with the Commission's conclusion that opting out of the requirements of Public Act 17-155 is in the best interests of the Town at the present time;

IT IS RESOLVED, that the East Lyme Board of Selectmen hereby affirmatively opts out of the provisions of Public Act 17-155.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 4-0.

3c. Appoint a BOE representative to the Cable TV Advisory Council

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery moved to appoint Mr. John Kleinhans to the Cable TV Advisory Council as the Board of Education representative, with a term to expire on June 30, 2019.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Communications

There was none.

5. Information and Reports,

There was none.

6a. Ex-Officio

Mr. Salerno reported that he attended the Library Board of Trustees meeting and that the budget line item for books has been cut, and this past year donations have been lower than normal. He reported that the Library is again participating with other area libraries in the Lion Delivery club which shares books; and stated that initial reporting shows that we lend books to other libraries more than our patrons borrow books from the other libraries.

Mr. Seery reported that he attended the Park & Recreation Commission's meeting, and it was reported that the summer ended positively all around; good revenue and the parks are in good shape. They began discussing possible changes in the rates for next season, and expect to set the rates for next year at the December meeting.

Mr. Cunningham stated that he attended a meeting of the Smith Harris House tonight, but had to leave early to get to the BOS meeting. Upcoming events; on 12/29 from 9am -12pm they will be selling wreaths at the Smith Harris House. On December 9<sup>th</sup> from 11am-4pm, they will host an open house, and expect that Bellsnickel will be making an appearance at 2pm.

6b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson stated that December 9<sup>th</sup> is going to be a very busy day in our Town. The annual Jingle Bell 5K hosted by the Brian T. Dagle Foundation will be happening in the morning; Smith Harris House will have an open house from 11am-4pm with Bellsnickel arriving at 2pm; and the annual Light Parade will be held in the evening. Costco held a press conference and announced that they are pulling out of the deal to come to East Lyme, but the project itself is not dead and it is still a viable location for number of different purposes; if not a big box store then possible office space. It does not necessarily have to be 100 percent retail; the developer continues to pursue other projects. Mr. Nickerson also noted that Costco also pulled out of two other locations, not just the East Lyme project. The Miracle League unveiled its proposal to bring a field to East Lyme, and is considering the small field behind Flanders School. There is one other Miracle Field in Connecticut, located in West Hartford, so this is an honor to have East Lyme chosen for the second location in our state. This project is a big deal and will bring people and business from all over the region. The field itself will provide a safe and productive environment for children with disability to play a wide array of sports, including baseball and soccer. It was noted that the plan will be for our varsity sports teams to participate in teaching and helping the children at the sports events at this field. Please watch for the video for more information and to learn about this amazing project.

On Veterans Day there were numerous events around town that Mr. Nickerson attended, including events at the Town Green, the Middle School, the High School, and the Rotary Club. On Monday, the Senior Center hosted a breakfast for Veterans and it was very well attended and a very nice honor to our community's veterans and their families. He attended a small business forum, and it was reported that local businesses are doing well and working together as a community to continue to make this town great and getting better every day. On Saturday night the Niantic Main Street group held their annual Beers for Beauty fundraiser, which is how they fund the beautiful flowers and plants along Main Street. Mr. Nickerson noted that the planting of flowers and the upkeep from spring until fall is completely done by volunteers with funds raised at this annual event. He also reported that Sue Kumro of Mermaid Liquors was honored for all of her time and hard work spent volunteering and organizing fundraisers to make our Main Street and town as a whole beautiful. The Board of Education has begun working on the Long Range Plan and is working to get everyone on the same page. At an event at Secor Subaru, they donated a vehicle to our TVCCA program to use to deliver meals to those homebound. Prior to tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting, Mr. Nickerson presented information to a group of Girl Scouts to assist them in finding and participating in community service. Mr. Nickerson reported that the band shell had been vandalized late Saturday night into Sunday morning, but that between the members of the East Lyme Police Department, the juvenile vandals were caught within a couple of hours of the start of the investigation. Also, the Parks & Recreation Department, together with volunteers, cleaned up the graffiti and all was as it should be by Monday morning. The cost of cleaning and repairing the damage done was approximately \$6,100.00, and it is Mr. Nickerson's hope that the culprits responsible be made to pay that money back to the town.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, stated that he is very happy that the DOT has completed the work on the bridge at Boston Post Road and Upper Pattagansett. He reports that both lanes are open again and running smooth, and that the DOT did a good job.

8. Selectman's Response

Mr. Nickerson stated that the original concept for the "Costco" site was much bigger than it has now evolved to, based on the extreme changes in the economy. It is still a viable location for retail and possibly office space. The developer continues to seek out alternative projects for this site. Regarding the insinuations that Mr. Nickerson will collect a lifetime pension and health benefits, he reported that he did not even sign on for the pension, so there is no chance on him collecting anything. As far as the lifetime health insurance comment, that is simply not true and he is not eligible for any benefits when he leaves this position.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the November 15, 2017, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:11 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson  
Recording Secretary