

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 2017
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rose Ann Hardy, Dan Cunningham and Paul Dagle

EXCUSED: Marc Salerno

Also Present: Finance Director, Anna Johnson; ELPD Administrative Sergeant, Michael Macek; Public Works Director, Joe Bragaw; Director of Planning, Gary Goeschel; and State Representative Holly Cheeseman

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

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery moved to add Agenda Item #3h to consider the appointment of Maggi Prokop to the Historic Properties Commission as an Alternate Member.

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

1c. Delegations

Mr. Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, apologized to Mr. Joe Smith and stated that his previous comments regarding permitting were directed to the Fire Marshal and not the Building Official. Mr. Rando expressed his displeasure with the traffic issues as a result of the DOT bridge project at the intersection of Upper Pattagansett, stating that it is hurting the businesses in that area. He stated that the budget should be based on the Grant List, and that it's time to tighten our belts; suggesting that the First Selectman's salary should be reduced because he is no longer the Police Chief. Mr. Rando feels that the \$25.00 fee to charge for out of town police support is not enough and should be more.

Ms. Holly Cheeseman, State Representative, 16 Mitchell Drive, Niantic, gave an update on the budget situation. She reported that the Governor vetoed the only budget that was approved by both the House and the Senate, and it's the only budget that protects municipalities. They were called into a special session on October 3rd; however, they did not end up vetoing the Governor's budget. Ms. Cheeseman is hopeful that this budget will be vetoed, and she will continue to do everything in her power to protect the citizens of East Lyme and Salem, as well as all municipalities, and work to get the approved budget back on the table as a starting point.

Mr. David Godbout, 15 Cardinal Road, East Lyme, spoke regarding the Police Commission and the recent hiring of the Police Chief. Mr. Godbout suggested that the Board of Selectmen review the interview and hiring procedure as it relates to the Chief of Police.

1d. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting of September 20, 2017

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery moved to approve the Board of Selectman Regular Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2017, as submitted.

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

FILED

Oct 10 2017 AT 10:40 AM/PM
(Cunningham, Dan)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery moved to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of October 4, 2017, in the amount of \$1,238.28.

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

2. Old Business

There was none.

3a. Discussion and possible action - Special appropriation of \$17,500 for Police Radios

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson reported that Sgt. Mike Macek was charged with disposing of the obsolete State Police radios that we have in our possession from before we went independent and were part of the State Resident Trooper program. Sgt. Macek reported that in speaking with the vendor, they were only going to give the Town approximately \$4,250 for the buyback of the equipment. He reached out to other towns that currently operate under the State Resident Trooper program, and he was able to sell the equipment to these towns directly for \$17,500. This is a significant amount of money, and the Board of Selectmen commend Sgt. Macek for his continued and consistent effort to do the best as he can for the Town and its residents. Ms. Hardy inquired if our inventory of radios will increase and if the new radios will improve communication throughout the entire town; Sgt. Macek responded that there will be no increase in radios, but that the new radios are replacing older, outdated equipment and that the new radios were tested and do well in the town's "dead zones" and should do better once the permanent tower is in place.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery moved to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$17,500 received from the sale of the state police radios and equipment no longer needed to revenue account 01-08-800-817 (Miscellaneous Police) and to establish a budget account titled, "PS- Police Portable Radios" for the purchase of new town portable radios and forward to the Board of Finance for approval. This will require a Town Meeting.

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

3b. Discussion and possible action - Microgrid project proposal

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that the Board of Selectmen had attended a special joint meeting with the Board of Education on September 25th to hear a presentation by the vendor and Eversource. There is already approximately \$26,000,000 bonded for microgrids in the State of Connecticut, and there may be further DEEP grants that will be available to use for this project. Either way, as Mr. Seery pointed out, there will be no expenditure out of the Town budget for this project, and in the long run will be saving money on the monthly electricity bill. Eversource contacted us to ask us to consider this project, and the microgrid itself will be located in the area of the Middle School and power all of the town facilities in that area. It is also noted that with the implementation of the microgrid, in the case of a power outage we would still maintain power and this is important in that the Middle School is used as a community shelter in case of emergency in town.

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery moved to authorize the First Selectman to execute and deliver the Engagement Letter between Michaud Law Group and the Town of East Lyme, subject to the approval of the town Attorney.

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

3c. Discussion and possible action - Special appropriation of \$2,150 for the purchase of a town fleet vehicle

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that the Town's new Tax Assessor is out on the road a lot more than the former Assessor, and it would be less expensive to add this vehicle for a small amount of money than to reimburse the Assessor and her staff for use of their private vehicles. Mr. Bragaw confirmed that although the Engineering department uses two specific vehicles that house the equipment they need on the road, the three town vehicles dedicated to Town Hall that we do currently have are shared by all

departments and another vehicle will be useful. This is a lightly used 2003 Subaru, which will be purchased out of the Asset Forfeiture program through the Police Department. Since the Tax Assessor goes out to residents houses, it would be nice for her to have a labeled town vehicle instead of a private vehicle because it makes the home owners more comfortable as they aren't seeing a private vehicle pulling into their property. Ms. Hardy expressed concern that this will start precedence for the future in replacing this vehicle when it comes to its end of life, or even other departments asking for a vehicle. Mr. Dagle stated that there is nothing saying that this vehicle will have to be replaced should it have to be taken off the road; and we could put it into use and keep track of the usage and see how it goes. Ms. Hardy asked who's budget expenses will come from, and Mr. Bragaw stated that all town vehicles fall under the Public Works budget.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery moved to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$2,150 from CNRE Fund 32 account number 32-60-120-100-002 (Proceeds from the Sale of Vehicles) to purchase a 2003 Subaru Legacy Station Wagon from the Police Department Asset Forfeitures for use by other town departments (primarily Assessment Department) and forward to the Board of Finance for approval.

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

3d. Discussion and possible action – Additional Eversource funding for the ELCC boilers

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bragaw reported that we received additional incentives so he is asking that we put funds back into the CNRE fund as we have been pulling from this account and it would be better to keep it funded. Mr. Nickerson agreed that putting this extra money into the CNRE account is a good idea.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery moved to amend the special appropriation in the amount of \$76,854 approved at Special Town Meeting on August 16, 2017 for the purchase and installation of a boiler replacement at East Lyme Community Center as follows:

- \$38,400 Eversource Incentive to Replace Heating Equipment (Original amount: \$13,800)
- \$3,374 in account 32-70-300-500-005 (HVAC Pump Replacement – Town-wide) (Original amount: \$27,974),

And forward to the Board of Finance for approval. This will require a Town Meeting.

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

3e. Review and approve the Planning Commission's proposal to accept a portion of the roads in The Orchards area of Town.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Goeschel reported that this project is approximately fifty percent complete and that this matter was heard at the Planning Commission meeting on October 3rd and passed. There are a total of 161 lots in the original proposal, with 45-50 lots left to develop. People continue to move into town so this development is having no trouble finding buyers for the property. Mr. Goeschel stated that it is a testament to our Town Leaders that so many people continue to want to move into our community.

MOTION (8)

Mr. Seery moved that the East Lyme Planning Commission has recommended that the Town accept as public highways certain roads and related improvements located in "Phase IV" of The Orchards of East Lyme subdivision, known as Holly Lane and a portion of Arbor Crossing from its southern intersection with Peach Lane to its northern intersection with Peach Lane, more particularly described in a deed and related documents pertaining to the roads; and

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer and Director of Planning have determined that said roads and related improvements have been constructed in accordance with the Town's standards and approved plans; and

WHEREAS, the Town Municipal Utility Engineer has determined that the water and sewer lines located in said road have been constructed in accordance with the Town's standards and as-built plans;

IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby accepts as public highways the roads and related improvements known as Holly Lane and a portion of Arbor Crossing, subject to the developer's execution and delivery of the deed and related documents as approved by the Town Attorney. Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

3f. Discussion of State Budget Municipal Aid cuts

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that he attended both CCM and COG meetings this week and the budget was discussed in both meetings. He noted that everyone is working hard to resolve this budget issue, but just not currently working together. If the Governor's budget is not vetoed, that will mean possible layoffs or a reduced work week, possibly dropping programs, supplemental tax bills, etc. Any of these things may become reality if the governor's budget holds through to January. Mr. Nickerson stated that beginning last week, he and the Finance Director began meeting with Department Heads to ask them to come up with a 5% decrease. He noted that after the Governor vetoed the budget, we all got up the next day, came to work and it was business as usual. We continue to do our jobs and hope for the best and we will get through this. Mr. Nickerson thanked Ms. Cheeseman, Mr. Formica and all of our leaders in Hartford for the tireless work on trying to get a fair budget passed.

3g. Sign Call – Special Town Meeting October 18, 2017

MOTION (9)

Mr. Seery moved the following call:

TOWN OF EAST LYME
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given of a Special Town Meeting of the Town of East Lyme to be held on October 18, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. (E.T.) at the East Lyme Town Hall for the following purposes:

1. Establish a CNRE account for the purpose of acquiring Police vehicles.
2. Approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$17,500 received from the sale of the state police radios and equipment no longer needed to revenue account 01-08-800-817 (Miscellaneous Police), and to establish a budget account titled, "PS- Police Portable Radios" for the purchase of new town portable radios.
3. Amend the special appropriation in the amount of \$76,854 approved at Special Town Meeting on August 16, 2017 for the purchase and installation of a boiler replacement at East Lyme Community Center as follows:
 - \$38,400 Eversource Incentive to Replace Heating Equipment (Original amount: \$13,800);
 - \$3,374 in account 32-70-300-500-005 (HVAC Pump Replacement – Town-wide) (Original amount: \$27,974).
4. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Dated at East Lyme, Connecticut, this 4th day of October, 2017.

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

3h. Consider the appointment of Maggi Prokop to the Historic Properties Commission as an alternate member

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that Ms. Prokop was formerly a member of this commission, but had to step down. Her situation has changed and she would like to get back into doing work for the town on this commission.

MOTION (10)

Mr. Seery moved to appoint Maggi Prokop to the Historic Properties Commission as an Alternate Member, with a term to expire on January 6, 2020.

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

4. Communications

Mr. Nickerson stated that we are in receipt of the resignation of Ann Loder Block from the Youth Services Commission. Thank you, Ms. Block, for your years of dedication and service to the Youth Services Commission and the Town.

5. Information and Reports.

There was none.

6a. Ex-Officio

Ms. Hardy reported that at the BOE meeting they discussed the status of the elementary schools project and the long range plans. They received a re-districting update, but no formal report was submitted. They reviewed the draft 2018/2019 school calendar; no action was taken. At the last Planning Commission meeting, they heard a preliminary review request from KSK Associates for their proposed subdivision of land at Goldfinch Terrace, Egret and Cedarbrook lane. There was a referral from Zoning for the Gateway project; no action was taken.

Mr. Cunningham reported that the Smith Harris Commission has invited the Board of Selectmen to participate in their Strategic Planning meeting on Saturday the 7th from 11:30am – 12:30pm. On October 1st was the annual Bike & BBQ; it was a great event raising approximately \$5,000, and a beautiful day also. Smith Harris House has the Trick or Trunk and the Walk of Horror events coming up this month.

Mr. Seery reported that the Trick or Trunk event is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th, 6-8pm at the Smith Harris House. And he reports that he has heard from many people that the Horror Walk event is very scary.

6b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that the annual Shred It day was held on Saturday for our residents, and it was very busy; it is a well utilized and well like event. He went with the Chief to Lawrence & Memorial and picked up our supply of donated Narcan for our police officers to carry in their vehicles; he noted that we were the first municipality to ask for a donation, and now the program has grown and L&M is offering it to other towns. He reported that he attended and CCM and COG and the main focus at these meetings was the budget. As stated earlier, he and the Finance Director have been meeting with Department Heads in anticipation of budget reductions; he asked them all to come prepared with a 5% reduction in their budgets. Mr. Nickerson stated that on Saturday the 7th will be the annual blessing of the animals performed by Father Tony on St. John's Green.

7. Public Comment

Mr. David Godbout, 15 Cardinal Way, East Lyme spoke on the budget, and suggested that all municipalities should consider filing a FOIA complaint against the legislature for all of the closed door budget meetings that are being held.

Mr. Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, East Lyme spoke regarding the budget and asked if the Town and Board of Ed planned to continue with the elementary schools project in light of the pending budget issues, and asked if we are confident that we will actually receive the State money that has been promised. He suggests privatizing trash collection, and selling the Water & Sewer Department. Mr. Rando does not agree with binding arbitration and thinks that it should be done away with.

Mr. Wes Firmin, 178 Boston Post Road, East Lyme spoke regarding the proposed vehicle for the Tax Assessor's office, and noted that she is already using the vehicle. He stated that he doesn't feel that the Assessor's office needs a vehicle, and suggested that she not work out in the field as much as she does. Mr. Firmin stated that the Town currently has been purchasing based on wants and not on what is needed. He stated that if we started putting needs before wants we may be able to avoid layoffs.

Ms. Holly Cheeseman, State Representative, 16 Mitchell Drive, Niantic stated that the proposed microgrid is a great plan, especially with Eversource funding it, and commended the Public Works Director and the BOS for exploring this opportunity.

8. Selectman's Response

Mr. Nickerson stated that the elementary schools project is moving forward as planned, and reminded everyone that this project was passed with approval by the public at a referendum. He stated that the original project was over \$100 million and that all involved worked hard to trim that down to the project that was approved and is moving forward. He noted that this is a Board of Education project and not in the hands of the Board of Selectman or the Board of Finance at this point. Mr. Nickerson stated that they are looking into privatizing trash collection, but so far they are finding that there will be no savings to the taxpayers by doing this; the research on this subject will continue. Regarding privatizing the Water & Sewer Department, we have looked into this and found that it will cost the taxpayers more money if we privatize.

MOTION (11)

Ms. Hardy moved to adjourn the October 4, 2017, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:05 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Seery. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sandra Anderson".

Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary