

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2018
MINUTES

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

EXCUSED: Paul Dagle

Also present were Finance Director Anna Johnson, and Historic Properties Commission members Maggi Prokop and Bob Seifel

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 #3e to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Connecticut DESPP and the Town of East Lyme.

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

1c. Executive Session

Mr. Nickerson stated that although the agenda states two items will be discussed in this executive session, the matter of Board of Education Benefits is being stricken from the agenda and will not be discussed tonight.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Unaffiliated Employees' Salary/Benefits Package.

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

The Board of Selectman entered into executive session at 7:34 p.m. They returned at 7:50 p.m. and Mr. Seery stated that no formal votes were taken in executive session.

1d. Delegations

Mr. David Godbout, 15 Cardinal Road, East Lyme spoke on a couple of different matters; including his thoughts on a conversation between himself and the First Selectman regarding a spreadsheet, his research into the tuition reimbursement guidelines of our police officers, and also a recent interaction with the Police Chief.

1ei. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting of February 15, 2018

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2018, as submitted.

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

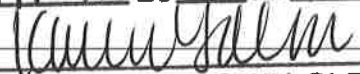
1eii. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting of March 7, 2018

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2018, as submitted.

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

FILED

APRIL 10 2018 AT 11:10 AM/PM

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1eiii. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of March 7, 2018

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2018, as submitted.

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

1f. Consent Calendar

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of April 4, 2018, in the amount of \$19,693.22.

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

2. Old Business

a. Discussion and update on Tax Exemptions / Renters Rebate Program

Mr. Nickerson stated that this is a situation that needs to be looked at closely and he suggested that they put the discussion off until after budget season so that they can really give it the attention that it deserves. The rest of the Board was in agreement.

3a. Approve the Unaffiliated Employees Salary/Benefits Package

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson recused himself from this discussion as it directly affects him. Mr. Seery stated that the unaffiliated group is the small group of employees that are not covered by a union contract and benefits. Mr. Seery reported that he and Mrs. Hardy met with the unaffiliated group's representative and discussed the following: each employee will receive a 2% salary increase. He noted that previously an employee might be eligible for both a GWI and a STEP increase, but this year each of these employees will take one or the other to give everyone an equal 2% increase across the board. Also, currently the Town pays 80% to the employees HSA; this will adjust to a 75% / 20% contribution. There will also be a 1% increase in premiums to the employees in question.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Unaffiliated Employees Salary/Benefits Package, as presented.

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

3b. 2018/19 Board of Education Budget Correction

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson reported that a minor miscalculation was made in preparing the budget. After consulting with the Town Attorney, it was decided that the correction should be made now early on before the budget goes to Town Meeting and Referendum. Mr. Nickerson noted that the Finance Director does an amazing job and thanked her for her consistent dedication and hard work.

MOTION (8)

Mr. Seery MOVED approve a correction to the previous motion of March 7, 2018, due to a clerical error to approve the proposed 2018/2019 Town Budget in the amount of \$72,036,140, consisting of the following, and to forward to the Board of Finance for approval:

General Government	\$18,094,025
Debt Service	\$ 5,369,986
Capital	\$ 795,186
Board of Education	\$47,776,943

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

3c. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

DISCUSSION: Mr. Seery stated that Julie Horner is a long time resident of the Town and a long time teacher at Niantic Center School; she is committed to the betterment of our youth and will be a great addition to the Youth Services Commission.

Mrs. Hardy stated that Harvey Beeman is retired and moved permanently to East Lyme in 2015. Since then he has been regularly attending the Commission's meetings to gain information and experience, and is ready to join the commission officially.

MOTION (9)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Julie Horner, 42 Manwaring Road, Niantic, as a member of the Youth Services Commission with a term to expire on January 3, 2022.

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

MOTION (10)

Mrs. Hardy MOVED to appoint Harvey Beeman, 11 Green Valley Lakes Road, East Lyme, as an alternate member of the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources Commission with a term to expire on January 6, 2020.

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

3d. Discuss Smith Harris House and functions with alcoholic beverages

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that this discussion has come before the Board on a couple of previous occasions, and it is once again time to consider the viability of allowing alcohol at certain events. In today's tight budget times, this may be a very good source of revenue for this historic property and should be looked at again. He stated that the Town and the House itself have received many requests to rent the barn but most have declined due to the no alcohol rule. Mrs. Hardy has been and remains in opposition of allowing alcohol at any town event. Ms. Maggi Prokop, 52 Lovers Lane and commission member of the Smith Harris House, addressed the Board and stated that she understands Mrs. Hardy's concerns, but assured the Board that there is a way to properly hold these kinds of events and secure the proper insurance coverage to protect the Town. Also in attendance to support this was commission member Bob Seifel. The general consensus of the Board of Selectmen was that it is worth looking into further, and it was decided that more research would be done on how other venues such as Rocky Neck State Park deal with such events, and also that we would contact CIRMA to inquire about insurance needs. A more detailed packet of information will be compiled and ready to discuss at the next Board of Selectman meeting. Mr. Nickerson thanked the Smith Harris House members for their continued support and keep up the good work.

3e1. Approve MOA

DISCUSSION: Chris Taylor, Fire Marshal, and Dick Morris, Deputy Fire Marshal, were in attendance to speak on this matter. Mr. Taylor stated that this MOU is a good thing for the town and will assist in allowing the town to be at the forefront of the efforts against drugs in our region. This program is fully funded by the State of Connecticut and only requires the Town's endorsement of the representative. Mr. Morris, the person to be appointed, has no current expectation as to how this is going to progress as it is a new program and they have only met once to date. It was asked if there is any grant money available to the Town for participating in this program; and Mr. Morris stated that not that he has seen so far but he will be watching for opportunities. Mr. Nickerson thanked Mr. Morris for his continued support and desire to serve our

community. It was discussed that Mr. Morris will report back periodically to the Board of Selectmen.

MOTION (11)

Mr. Seery RESOLVED to appoint Richard E. Morris, currently the Town of East Lyme Deputy Fire Marshal, as the Town's Fire Regional Intelligence Liaison Officer (FRILO) for a period of two years from the date that he receives the appropriate level of security clearance to perform the functions of said office.

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

3e2. Approve MOA

MOTION (12)

Mr. Seery RESOLVED that the East Lyme Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes the First Selectman to execute and deliver an agreement entitled "Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Town of East Lyme March, 2018"; and to execute and deliver such other documents and perform such other acts as may be necessary or desirable to effectuate the terms of said agreement.

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

4a. Communications – Mr. Nickerson stated that he would like the Board to review the letter submitted by the Tax Assessor regarding the 2017 Final Grand List Figures.

5. Information and Reports

There was none.

6a. Ex-Officio

Mr. Salerno stated that two new applications have been submitted; a 23 lot subdivision on Spring Rock Road and a three lot subdivision on Walnut Hill Road. The Building Committee is meeting on Thursday; Flanders should be back within the week, and bids received for Center and Lillie B. Haynes are coming in so far under budget.

Mr. Seery reported that he attended the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and the fundraising for the Miracle League has surpassed \$100,000 raised. At the last Board of Education meeting they set the date for graduation and discussed the public forums for the re-districting project.

Mr. Cunningham attended the WELSCO meeting and reported that they are concentrating on re-vamping their policies and procedures. The Smith Harris House and Historic Properties Commission are concentrating on fundraising, and noted that the Bike & BBQ event has been so successful that they are expanding this year to including a hiking event.

6b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that all of the testing is complete for the Main Street Park, and construction is set to begin in the next couple of weeks, and the target completion date is the beginning of June. Because of the weather, both this project and the Cini Park bathrooms project have been delayed slightly. Fundraising for the Miracle League is going well, and they have raised over \$100,000 so far; recently they held a trivia night that sold out and was very successful. The fundraising will continue. Our emergency management team scored very high on a recent Millstone drill; great job to all of our first responders and to the new Fire Marshal, Chris Taylor and the newly appointed Emergency Management Director, Chief Finkelstein. The new Volunteer

Corps was recently launched and is off to a great start with over 100 volunteers already signed up. The Brian T. Dagle held its annual Dancing with the Stars fundraiser, East Lyme vs. Waterford. Mr. Nickerson noted that it was held at Waterford High School, a majority of the judges were Waterford residents, and Waterford won for the second year in a row. He advised the board members to review CCM's latest list of proposed bills, as well as the State's proposed 10 year EDC plan; both pieces of information can be found on the web. On April 3rd he attended a transportation forum with Senator Murphy to discuss the future of public transportation. On April 5th he met with State Representative Joe Courtney at Union Station in New London to support dredging; New York is opposing the project. He hopes that everyone had a nice Easter holiday, and thanked all those who have stepped up to volunteer in our community.

Mrs. Hardy noted that there was a letter handed out to the board members from the Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources regarding 1-95 Exit 74 Spill Mitigation/Containment. Mrs. Hardy stated that there was a piece of information that should have been included; she will gather the information and draft something for the next meeting.

7. Public Comment

David Godbout, 15 Cardinal Road, East Lyme, stated that after a review of the high school grounds, he feels as though security could be improved and has compiled a list of recommendations. He made mention of a situation where he recently requested information from a Town employee and the police were called on him; he stated that he was video recording her and she asked him to stop and he refused because he has the right to record employees in a municipal building.

8. Selectman's Response

Mr. Nickerson stated that the conversation he had with Mr. Godbout was a misunderstanding as when he referred to a spreadsheet he was talking about the list of requests that was provided to Mr. Godbout; there is no spreadsheet, just the list which was already previously provided. Regarding the Police Department and any reimbursements made to officers, Mr. Nickerson stated that Chief Finkelstein is operating the department under the rules and regulations provided, and that he has no reason to believe that any improper reimbursements were made.

MOTION (13)

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the April 4, 2018, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:01 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary