

TOWN OF EAST LYME

MAY 14, 2018

Recorded May 16 20 18  
2:30 <sup>AM</sup> ~~PM~~ Caren Miller Galbo  
East Lyme Town Clerk

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Town Meeting Moderator Gene Cushman called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attorney Tracy Collins led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Karen Galbo, East Lyme Town Clerk read the Call of the Meeting

Mr. Cushman reviewed the rules of the Annual Town Meeting per Connecticut General Statute Section 7-6 and Section 9-360.

Mr. Cushman appointed the Registrars as tellers and checkers.

The Annual Budget Referendum will take place on May 24, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Cushman opened the floor for discussion.

1. To review and discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Mr. Nickerson reminded everyone we are not voting on the budget tonight. He started the budget process with Department Heads in mid November. The Board of Finance has been meeting and held a Public Hearing two week ago. These are the final numbers that will go to Referendum. He thanked the Department Heads for finding efficiencies

Jeffrey Newton, Superintendent of East Lyme Schools state he is also a resident of East Lyme. He thanked his staff. He thanked Maryanna Stevens for her assistance. This is zero based budgeting. Contracts make up 80% of their budget. They have started new student registration online, they ask parents what brings them to East Lyme, and the usual answer is the schools. We live in a beautiful town, and we are proud of our excellent school system. Enrollment has declined, but is starting to move back up. They now have 2751 students.

Mike Schulz, 38 Lovers Lane asked about the 15% increase in health insurance. If the town is self insured how do we determine what the increase will be.

Mr. Nickerson stated we have a health insurance broker; the numbers are based on trends. Our actual bills are 15% higher than a year ago.

Mr. Schulz thanked the Board of Finance and the Board of Education; two years ago there was an increase of 2 million dollars in spending, last year there was 1.5 million dollars in spending.

This year there is 1 million; we are heading in the right direction. The town should stop insuring spouses who can be insured by their employer, and we are keeping people on the town insurance when they turn 65 even though they can be on Medicare, there should be an agreement upon employment that when people turn 65 they are done, taxpayers should realize that because of binding arbitration that 80% of the school budget is benefits and salaries. He asked if the schools give money back to the town if it isn't used.

Mr. Newton stated year to year at times they give back to the town.

Mr. Schulz said they should keep it and apply it toward the following year's budget.

Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, said that teachers are overpaid for 180 days; He suggested we tie taxes in with the Grand List; he tried to get it passed once. The amount the Grand List goes up is the amount taxes go up. He also said he wasn't impressed by the attendance at this meeting; it is not a representation of the taxpayers.

John Drabik, 18 Drabik Road stated people can't live and operate a business in this town. This is not based on what we can afford anymore, we also have elected official that don't show up to their meetings, they are elected to do a job, and if they can't do it they shouldn't run for office.

Mr. Rando asked how much is the increase from the State with the new budget that just passed.

Mr. Nickerson said it hasn't been signed by the Governor yet, but if it passes it will be about \$300,000.

Karen Bassett, 1 Amberly Lane stated she came from Colorado; they had one superintendent for one huge county. She wondered why New London County doesn't just have one superintendent and share services. Also, in Colorado no one over 65 spends money on schools. Most senior live on a fixed income and expense are going up.

Wes Firmin, 178 Boston Post Road stated teachers should get more; we should stop spending money on stupid stuff and put more money into education.

Catherine Ellal, 9 Marion Drive stated she teaches and lives here, our schools are not lavish and her home is not. She is not overpaid. They work hard in this town to give the best education they can.

Karen Bassett stated education is number one, any comments she made were not against the education system in East Lyme. She congratulated the teachers for the job they do.

Discussion on Item 1 was closed.

- a. In accordance with Chapter 7.3 of the Town Charter, the moderator shall adjourn the annual budget meeting to a referendum on the voting machines. The budget resolution will be submitted to the persons qualified to vote in a Town Meeting by Referendum by machine vote, which referendum shall take place on May 24, 2018 at the East Lyme Community Center from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

2. To adopt a Five Year Capital Plan.

**Motion (1) Mr. Nickerson moved to adopt the 5 year Capital Plan.**

**Seconded by Tim Hagen.**

Mr. Nickerson reviewed the 5 year Capital Plan.

**Motion Passed.**

3. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

**Motion (2) Mary Smith moved to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting to a Referendum on May 24, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the East Lyme Community Center.**

**Seconded by Ron Rando.**

**Motion Passed.**

**Respectfully Submitted**



**Karen Miller Galbo  
East Lyme Town Clerk**

