

**EAST LYME BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
AFTER PUBLIC HEARING  
Monday, APRIL 30th, 2018**

Members In Attendance: William Weber, Chairman  
Lisa Picarazzi, Vice-Chairperson  
Camille Alberti  
John Birmingham  
Anne Santoro

FILED  
May 3 2018 AT 10:00 AM/PM  
Caen Galm  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also In Attendance: Mark Nickerson, First Selectman  
Anna Johnson, Finance Director  
Jeffrey Newton, Superintendent of Schools  
Tim Hagen, Chairman, Board of Ed

Absent: Jason Pazzaglia

**A. Call Special Meeting to Order**

Chairman Weber called this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance to order at 8:09 PM after the previously scheduled Public Hearing on the Proposed FY18/19 Budget.

**B. Deliberations & Action to Send Proposed FY 18-19 Budget to Town Meeting on May 14, 2018**

Mr. Weber called for any additional comments they might like to make as a result of the public comments they had heard this evening.

Ms. Picarazzi asked her fellow Board members for their input on increasing the BOE reduction to something more than the \$200,000 that they had already made.

Ms. Santoro said that she felt that she would have to find places to make further reductions and that when she had first done that, she came up with the \$200,000 reduction that they made. She said that she could not see cutting teachers or class size and in her mind cannot go beyond the number that they already came up with. It is now something for the referendum to decide.

Mr. Birmingham said that he feels pretty much the same way. He had at first thought that they could probably cut more but at this point in time the \$200,000 is enough and he is not interested in making any further cuts at this time.

Ms. Alberti said that she is concerned that the Costco is no longer coming here. But, part of her says that it is up to the voters and while she also does feel that more could be cut from the BOE; if someone made a proposal she would entertain it.

Ms. Picarazzi said that the \$200,000 for her was the new initiatives as she felt that hiring three (3) new people in one year was too much. She also feels that there could be efficiencies gained from transportation and the administrators. As a side note she said that she found it interesting that when they first deliberated on this that Mr. Birmingham had wanted to go higher in the reduction but she held at \$200,000 and now they have reversed positions.

Mr. Weber said that he thinks that they have looked at it in detail and he does not see where it could be cut be cut more. The health insurance goes up by 14% - 15% each year and they have tried to do what they can with that but it is what it is. He is not seeing other opportunities to further reduce the BOE budget.

Ms. Alberti noted that there was some legislation being proposed to give back some to them but that always seems to be a give and take as the pensions would not be funded – so she has not heard any good ideas coming from that.

Ms. Johnson said that the reporting was a comprehensive approach and not specific as there are budgetary impasses right now. The Session ends May 9, 2018 so they will see what happens.

Ms. Picarazzi said that their job is to see what the taxpayers of the Town can afford. She thinks that there has to be a paradigm shift and that people will have to do more with less.

Ms. Santoro said that when she had looked over the budget again that she had still come up with the same results as she originally presented.

**\*\*MOTION (1)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to increase the reduction to the BOE budget from the original \$200,000 to \$235,000 for a new bottom line total of \$47,541,945.

There was no second.

**\*\*MOTION (2)**

Mr. Birmingham moved to forward the proposed 2018/2019 budget to the Annual Town Meeting as follows:

**General Government - \$18,071,025;**

**Debt Service - \$5,369,986;**

**Capital - \$769,186 and**

**Board of Education - \$47,576,943 - for a TOTAL of \$71,787,140.**

Ms. Santoro seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 – 2 – 0. Motion passed.

For: Mr. Birmingham, Ms. Santoro, Mr. Weber

Against: Ms. Alberti, Ms. Picarazzi

**C. Discussion & Possible Action on the Capital Improvement Plan**

Ms. Picarazzi asked Ms. Johnson if the changes that they had discussed from the last meeting were incorporated.

Ms. Johnson said yes. She noted that she would make the adjustment of the \$26,000 reduction now that they had ratified the total.

**D. Public Discussion**

Mr. Weber called for Public Discussion.

Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road said that the BOE budget is a disgrace along with what they did not do to it. He has followed some of those buses around and many are not even half full. Maybe they could stagger times to use fewer buses. The teachers are getting 3% raises each year which is compounded; look at the people who work for the Town and have mandatory retirement at 65. The State is hiring 30 new judges at great cost and they are also bailing out Hartford. Take a look at this budget – they have Assistant Superintendents and assistants for the assistants. There are a lot of things to cut in the education budget – maybe they will have to work a little harder with a little less. His taxes rise each year beyond what he receives. If you cannot afford it – then you lay people off. The State can balance the budget by laying 5000 people off.

Diane Swan, 7 North Beechwood Road said that with all due respect to Mr. Rando that she and her family have had to suffer financially also. She said that she would be interested in the demographic that has come to Ms. Alberti with their comments as she found it interesting that it was not known that Triumph had closed. She noted that there are other companies that are also going to merge and leave. The different mandates in the State have fallen on the backs of the education system. They need to look at the needs of everyone in our Town and everyone needs to work together and have some honest communication on how they can achieve this. There needs to be better lines of communication.

**E. Board Comments**

Mr. Weber called for comments from the Board.  
There were no comments.

Mr. Weber thanked everyone for their participation.

The Annual Town Meeting on the budget is Monday, May 14, 2018 at 7 PM in the High School Auditorium.

**F. Adjournment**

**\*\*MOTION (3)**

Mr. Birmingham moved to adjourn this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance at 8:45 PM.  
Ms. Santoro seconded the motion.  
Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,  
Recording Secretary