

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2018
MINUTES

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

EXCUSED: Paul Dagle

Also present were Finance Director Anna Johnson, Superintendent of Schools Jeff Newton and Board of Finance Members Anne Santoro, Camille Alberti and Bill Weber.

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. and stated that the Pledge of Allegiance was performed at the start of the special town meeting.

1b. Additional Agenda Item

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to add agenda item number 6a. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate matters.

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

1c. Delegations

Camille Alberti, 7 Darrow's Court and member of the Board of Finance, spoke regarding the purchasing plan and stated that she is concerned with the amount of time that it has taken to get to this point in the process of adopting this policy, which she estimated at around two years. She noted that there are several policies in the pipeline and hopes that it won't take as long to work on those. Regarding the proposed purchasing policy in relation to State Statute; no bids required for up to \$2,500, and up to \$10,000 whenever possible we should secure at least three bids. She feels that \$50,000 is too high and the threshold should be at \$25,000; and she would like to see this policy passed tonight.

Bill Weber, 19 Plants Dam Road and Chairman of the Board of Finance, spoke regarding the purchasing plan and stated that he participated in the committee that worked on this policy and that he suggested the threshold be \$15,000. He stated that because this is a policy and not an ordinance, the Town should move forward with the \$25,000 threshold and if changes need to be made in the future that can be done.

Anne Santoro, member of the Board of Finance and a member of the subcommittee that worked on this policy spoke in favor of the Board of Selectmen adopting this policy with the \$25,000 threshold. She stated that through her research she found that most towns have a lower threshold than \$25k. Her recommendation is to adopt the policy as written and use the provisions that have been put in place.

Joseph Bragaw, Director of Public Works, stated that his is not the only department that would be affected by the \$25,000 threshold, and that he anticipates that it will become very costly for the Town if we adopt the \$25k. He contends that the current procedure that is in place and being used by all employees is working well and that he recommends the \$50,000 threshold.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane, expressed concern with the special appropriation made for health insurance benefits, and suggested that the non-municipal employees of the library and the water & sewer department should be removed from the town health insurance policy to save money. He also expressed concern with the appropriation of funds to prepare for the outcome of the SPED lawsuit. Mr. Schulz asked for explanation as to why the town employs numerous Deputy Fire Marshals, and he inquired as to how they are paid. He also requested that the town consider holding a public forum to share information on the Town's health insurance.

FILED

OCT 24 20 18 AT 3:15 AM/PM
[Signature]

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

October 17, 2018

Page 1 of 3

Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, stated asked if the former Fire Marshal, who is now a Deputy Fire Marshal, is still a paid employee of the Town of East Lyme. He stated that he is concerned with the healthcare appropriations. Regarding the Board of Education, he does not feel that they need to be hiring any additional therapists, and he also suggested that the sports program move to a “pay-to-play” system and have the parents pay for the kids to play sports.

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2018, as submitted.
Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 5-0.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of October 17, 2018, in the amount of \$3,836.43.
Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 5-0.

2a. Purchasing Plan

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson gave a brief overview of the changes that were made by the Town Attorneys, and stated that the Attorneys recommend that the waivers provision not be used unless absolutely necessary. They changed the threshold to \$50,000 in all instances throughout the document; amended section 7b. to read “opportunity shall be given for competitive bidding from at least 3, and preferably more, qualified bidders”; and amend section 10 fourth line down, “. . if he/she determines. . “. At a previous meeting the question was asked as to how many projects there were last year between \$25,000 and \$50,000, and the answer to that, provided by Public Works Director Joe Bragaw, is nine projects. It is noted that the manpower required to comply with the \$25,000 threshold would require the Town to hire additional staff, and definitely an additional Engineer will be needed. Mr. Cunningham stated that a lot of time and hard work has gone into this document up to this point, and every attempt was made to satisfy all concerns. He feels that the \$25,000 threshold would work and he encourages that amount, but he understands the concerns brought forth with that threshold. He would like to see the policy approved at \$25,000 and see how it goes and adjust it if necessary, but he will support the change to \$50,000. He stated that the Board should plan to review this policy in one year to see how it is going. Mr. Salerno stated that in response to a comment made earlier, the process has not taken 2-1/2 years to get to this point; and Mr. Nickerson agreed and added that there is an existing purchasing plan, and we are now building and improving on that policy already in place. Mr. Salerno stated that the ultimate goal is to create a policy that meets the needs of our Town employees; these employees have made a compelling argument for the \$50,000 threshold and he trusts them so will support that amount. Mr. Seery will support the \$50,000 threshold with the understanding that the Board can bring it back and make changes should that be necessary. Mr. Nickerson stated that this policy will not cover the Board of Education or the Water & Sewer operations, but that both departments are planning to use the policy we adopt as a template to devise their policies.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Town of East Lyme Purchasing Policy, as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 5-0.

4a. Mr. Seery reported that it was announced that the Kevin Ollie Foundation will be building a basketball court to work in conjunction with the Miracle League Field; they will also be donating \$50,000 to get that project started. The teachers unanimously ratified their contract. Park and Recreation recapped the events of the summer and overall it was a great season.

Mr. Salerno reported that the Planning Commission closed the public hearing regarding Green Valley Lakes; they will now have 65 days to deliberate.

4b. Mr. Nickerson reported that the first annual Oysterfest was an overall success, with approximately \$17,000 raised for the Miracle League; a lot of good experience that will benefit the volunteers when planning next year's event. The next Miracle League fundraising event will be the gala held at Mohegan Sun and featuring some famous, retired ball players; and event not to be missed. The last Board of Finance meeting involved a lot of discussion on the items that were voted on at tonight's Town Meeting. Ms. Hardy also noted that there was a good deal of discussion surrounding the unaffiliated employees wage structure, and she suggested that the Board of Selectmen should also be involved in these discussions. She feels it is important to take into consideration how many positions have been eliminated and how much more of a workload each employee carries.

5. Public Comment

There was none.

6. Selectman's Response

Mr. Nickerson stated that yes the Town is putting funds aside now in anticipation of the Board of Education pending lawsuit as we do not have the funds to cover this on hand and it is in everyone's best interest to start preparing for it. The water, sewer and library workers are not employees of the Town but they are covered under the Town's health insurance plan; they in turn pay 100% of their premium costs back to the Town. We have six Deputy Fire Marshals in town, and they act as Fire Marshal when he is not available; they are only paid when they are on duty. Regarding the former Fire Marshal; no he is not on the Town's payroll and as a matter of fact, he has since resigned from his duties as Harbor Master. Mr. Ronald L. Johnson of Town Road, Niantic has been appointed by Governor Malloy to serve as Harbor Master through 2021. Costco is coming and construction is scheduled to begin in early 2019; they came in and paid all of their permit fees last week. Mr. Nickerson invited Mr. Schulz to make an appointment and sit down with him in person to discuss any issues that might be on his mind.

6a. Executive Session

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery MOVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing real estate matters.

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

The Board members entered into executive session, with no invited guests, at 9:08 p.m. They returned at 9:29 p.m. and Mr. Seery reported that no formal votes were taken.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the October 17, 2018, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary