

TOWN OF EAST LYME
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2018

Recorded Oct 19 2018
11:10 ^{AM} PM Karen Miller Galbo
East Lyme Town Clerk

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

Mr. Cushman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Karen Galbo, Town Clerk, read the Call of the Meeting and stated that said Notice had been recorded in the Town Clerk's Office, advertised in The Day Newspaper, and posted on the signpost.

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

Mr. Cushman appointed the Registrar of Voters as tellers and checkers, if the need be.

1. To approve a special appropriation to CNRE Fund 32 with remaining funds available from the Board of Education 2017/18 general fund budget in the amount of \$25,000 and establish an account titled, "ELHS Turf Field Replacement".

Motion (1) Kevin Seery moved to approve Item 1.

Seconded by Marc Salerno.

Jeff Newton, Superintendent of Schools, 53 Arbor Crossing, stated the field has 8-10 years left. The goal is to begin saving for that replacement.

Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road, asked what the cost will be to replace it.

Mr. Newton stated he doesn't have an exact number, but as an estimate he would say \$700,000 to \$800,000.

Mr. Rando stated when it was originally talked about the turf was to be paid for with donations. The taxpayers are now being asked to pay to replace it. We should let the sports people pay for it.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane stated he has gathered information relative to the turf. A fundraising plan was put together. Now Mr. Newton feels that turf should be paid by the Town. Where is the \$25,000 coming from?

Mr. Newton stated last year the State did a hold back; they had a freeze all year long. They ended up with \$25,000 extra.

Mr. Schulz asked if this is money that would normally be returned to the Town at the end of the year.

Anna Johnson, Director of Finance, 12 High Street stated it would have gone to the General Fund if it was not designated to the CNRE.

Item 1 Passed.

2. To approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$597,544 from the final ECS grant as follows: \$597,544 to revenue account 01-02-200-201 (ECS) and budget accounts \$203,503 to account 01-01-114-100-127 (Health Insurance) and \$394,544 to 01-94-999-000-001 (Board of Education).

Motion (2) Kevin Seery moved to approve Item 1.

Seconded by Marc Salerno.

Mark Nickerson, First Selectman stated the Board of Finance has asked that a caveat be placed on this that we can't transfer this money until we actually receive the first installment of the ECS money. It is just an added assurance and we will adhere to that.

Anna Johnson stated that subsequent to the end of the budget process we did an additional analysis of our health insurance. We ended up with a 28% increase. That is shared by the Town, Board of Education, and the employees. Because of this we didn't have enough money. At the time the Board of Finance was setting the Mill Rate we knew this increase was coming forward but we left the budget as is knowing that we would be getting the ECS money and would do an appropriation.

Mr. Rando asked what accounts this is coming from.

Mr. Nickerson stated it is an Education Cost Saving Grant from the State. The increase in health insurance is an increase in cost to the Town, the employees pay a portion of the increase, and we need to provide health insurance to our employees.

Mr. Rando stated when people reach 65 they should go on Medicare. All new employees should have to retire at 65, we should re-negotiate the contracts.

Mike Schulz stated the health insurance issue is significant. When we exceed the amount that is budgeted that difference should be passed on to the insured. Our employees are paid well and do a good job, but this should be passed on to the employees. We need to go back to the contracts.

Item 2 Passed.

3. To approve a special appropriation for the purchase of a 2019 Ford Escape from Columbia Ford in the amount of \$22,806 from a budget account to be established titled, "Vehicle – Building Official" and revenue account 01-05-500-501 (Building Permits). Vehicle is for the Building Official and purchase is

contingent on the Town receiving the COSTCO building permit fees in October of 2018.

Motion (3) Kevin Seery moved to approve Item 3.

Mr. Nickerson stated we have received the Costco money that was over \$200,000. We would like to pay cash for this vehicle. We don't want to spend all of the Costco money, but the building official needs a reliable vehicle with the school projects and the Costco project. We did try to go with a local dealer through the State bid process. The local dealer could not match it. We got the best price for the taxpayers.

Mr. Rando asked what the price was from the Ford dealer in Town.

Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works stated we asked for a price for a 2019. The local dealer came back with a price for a 2018 and it was \$300.00 more. They said they couldn't give us a 2019 price.

Mr. Rando stated we could get a good used vehicle for a lot less money.

Mr. Schulz stated he is against buying the vehicle from Columbia Ford. He is not opposed to buying the vehicle. Is there a reason why Crest couldn't give us a 2019 price? Are we still required to buy from Columbia or can we go back to Crest?

Rose Ann Hardy stated she agrees that when at all possible we should buy local. However, the local dealer was non-responsive to the bid. They could have matched the State bid price. They had the opportunity to match that bid and were unresponsive by giving a price for a 2018.

Mr. Bragaw stated the Crest Ford price for the 2018 vehicle was \$23,048.00. We had told Crest a few months ago that we want to give them our business.

Item 3 Passed.

4. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting

Motion (4) Kevin Seery moved to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:47p.m.

Seconded by Marc Salerno.

Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



**Karen Miller Galbo
East Lyme Town Clerk**

