

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2019
MINUTES

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

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m. and stated that the Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the start of the Special Town Meeting.

1b. Additional Agenda and Consent Items
There were none.

1c. Delegations
There were none.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Jan 4 2019 AT 9:43 AM/PM
Bradley Francis ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1d. Approval of Minutes
MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2018, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Committee of the Whole Minutes of December 26, 2018, as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Hardy. Motion passed 3-0-3. Abstained; Messrs. Salerno, Cunningham and Dagle.

1e. Consent Calendar
MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of January 2, 2019, in the amount of \$1,841.88.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Fishing Dock Leases
MOTION (4)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dagle stated that there were eight applications received and currently only two available docks to lease. The third dock is leased to the Blackhawk and has a separate lease and is not currently up for renewal. The fourth dock is not available and cannot be leased until the DOT has finished their project on the bridge, which is anticipated to take up to two years. Mr. Dagle explained that there are a lot of factors to take into consideration before making a decision on this matter, and that the subcommittee has decided that it will need more time to establish solid criteria that they can present to the applicants to assist in making this difficult decision. Based on this discussion, it has been decided to renew the leases of two of the four existing leaseholders for a one year term to give the subcommittee time to develop appropriate criteria, which will be brought to the full Board of Selectmen to be approved then publicized to all applicants well in advance of the December 2019 lease expirations. The Wayne Skinner lease is not being renewed. It was also discussed that the current rate would be raised to \$3,000 per year for these two leases. This rent will be paid in two equal installments due January 2019 and July 1, 2019.

Mr. Dagle MOVED to renew the Cini Park dock leases to Michael Stepski, Tartan II, and Michael Beebe, M&M Fisheries, for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, at the rate of \$3,000 per year. Seconded by Mr. Seery. Motion passed 6-0.

3a. Amend Motions

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery MOVED to amend the expiration dates of Eugene Cushman, Town Meeting Moderator, and Pierce Connair, Deputy Town Meeting Moderator, to January 6, 2020, which is the accurate two-year term. This motion corrects a clerical error on last year's appointments.

Seconded by Mrs. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

3b. Public Safety Complex

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson opened the discussion by sharing dates of some proposed upcoming meetings, as follows: January 10, 2019, the task force has invited some members of board and commission, as well as the Democratic and Republican Committee members, to an open forum for discussion and to share questions and ideas. January 15, 2019, there will be a public forum at 7:00pm at the East Lyme High School. January 16th is the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. January 22nd will be a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen. January 23rd will be a special meeting of the Board of Finance. The public forum on the 15th will have more detailed information on the proposed location, other locations that have been looked at, and a more detailed cost analysis; everyone is encouraged to attend this public forum. Mr. Nickerson reported that the current police station has had significant leaking through the walls after this past rain storm; the bricks and mortar are much degraded and the rain is basically coming right through when it blows in off of the water. He stated that another tour will be scheduled of this building for the public to view the condition of this workplace, and stated that only about 30 people attended the last tour so he is hoping that more will come to the next one. Mr. Nickerson stated that there is a lot of information gathered on the eltownhall.com webpage, including but not limited to photos of the proposed building, questions that have been asked with the answers, the slides from the last public forum, etc. As additional information is gathered it will be put up on the site. All questions will be answered; the public should email their questions to questions@eltownhall.com. He stated that a Town Building Committee will be put together that will be tasked with devising a plan and list of priorities, but it is imperative that our employees and the police department physically be moved as soon as possible. Mr. Cunningham stated that there are some concerns with the site line while pulling out of the proposed building and that should be investigated and discussed further. In the matter of location, Mr. Salerno stated that he drove from his house in Flanders to both the proposed site and to downtown, and he was surprised to find out that he was able to get to the Honeywell site quicker than he was able to get downtown. Mr. Nickerson added to that subject by stating that all members of the Police Department are adamant that this location is not an issue as they do not sit at a desk waiting for a call; they are out on the road around town. This is not the same situation as our fire departments that need to be centrally located. Mr. Salerno noted that our public works facility is right on the Old Lyme line, but that has not ever caused a problem with the roads being plowed in the north end of town. Mrs. Hardy addressed a concern that she has heard from the public, and that is, "why has this come up so fast?" She stated that this opportunity came up and it would be remiss of the Board not to look into it and present it to the taxpayers. On that subject Mr. Nickerson stated that when the opportunity arose a year ago or so that they immediately began negotiations to lock in the purchase price, which was discussed in executive session at Police Commission meetings. This is the proper procedure, and as soon as negotiations were complete, this opportunity was presented to the town residents within a couple of days. Mr. Dagle stated that he agrees that the negotiations were done appropriately and that the process was as transparent as it could be. Regarding the timing of this purchase, he stated that we cannot afford to build a new facility, but we cannot afford to continue to let our employees stay in the current building. Mr. Nickerson reported that it has been suggested that maybe we split this project into two phases and for now purchase the building and move the PD in, then go back to the taxpayers later for the other \$3M and finish the project. Mrs. Hardy adamantly disagreed with this proposal and stated that the public needs to know as a whole what the project is going to cost and what it is going to entail, and it needs to get done at one time and not spread out over years. It was noted that the Town has always discussed the fact that a new police

department will be needed, but we choose the schools projects to be done first, and now it is time to address this project. It was reported that the only upcoming major project that is upcoming will be renovations to the high school, which is anticipated to come up in the next 15 years or so.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Salerno reported that the Building Committee met and discussed the schools project, which is going great and is on schedule. A tour has been set up on Saturday the 12th for the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to see the progress first hand.

4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that it has really been a remarkable year in our Town, and we have great leaders and great staff; we have managed to get more work done this year with less people and a smaller budget. The upcoming year is exciting and anticipated high points are that the schools renovation will be complete, the bathrooms will be installed at Cini Park in the spring, and hopefully we will move our police into a new facility. Mr. Nickerson thanked his fellow board members for their hard work and support throughout the year.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane, addressed the Board and stated that he appreciated the open discussion on the public safety complex, and the only concern he has is the site line when pulling out of the facility. Regarding the deficit in the health insurance fund for Town employees, he feels that the employees should be responsible for making up the shortfall and not the taxpayers. He hopes that the Board does approve a tax relief program for senior citizens.

Mr. Stephen Larcen, 47 Oswegatchie Road, stated that tonight's discussion on the public safety complex was very good and very helpful. His concern is what a negative report from Moody's will do to our debt, and he is hopeful that the town will push for regionalization with Old Lyme. He also wanted confirmation that the Honeywell building does not sit in a flood plain.

6. Selectmen's Response

Mr. Nickerson stated that no, the Honeywell building does not sit in a flood plain. Regarding the senior citizen tax relief program brought up by Mr. Schulz, he stated that it was discussed at a recent meeting and that it was agreed that a subcommittee would be devised, after the current budget process is complete, in order to take a look at what options there might be. Regarding regionalization, it is a good idea and Old Lyme is currently not pursuing discussions on this matter but that it will continue to be looked into.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the January 2, 2019, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:50 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary