

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2019

MINUTES

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Feb 25, 2019 AT 1:00 AM/PM
Bryan A. Flynn
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

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

EXCUSED: Marc Salerno

ALSO PRESENT: Anna Johnson, Joe Bragaw and Bill Scheer

Mr. Nickerson called the Special Meeting for the purpose of Budget Reviews to order at 5:35 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#317 Public Works – Highway/Sanitation

Mr. Bragaw, Director of Public Works, was in attendance to speak on this budget. He reported that this budget is only up 1% overall from last year. He reported that the reduction in line item 211 Highway Supervisor is due to a shift in projects so results in a shift in payroll. This account is split with the Utilities budget and is currently 75% Public Works and 25% Utilities; next year's budget shows a shift to 60%/40%. Line 311 includes two years of salary increases. Line 224 shows a reduction due to keeping a tight budget and does not reflect a decrease in workload for the department. Line 239 has an increase due to the unforeseen damage done to many trees by the gypsy moths last year. In line 296 Bulky Waste Transportation & Tipping, he is currently looking into purchasing the truck that will transport the dumpsters up to the facility; currently it costs \$140 per load which are done numerous times a day. Regarding recycling specifically, there was a time in the recent past when we got paid to bring in recyclables, now there is a fee; it was noted that SCRRA is considering picking up this cost for at least the upcoming fiscal year but there is no final decision on that matter. Line 221 Fleet Fuel remains almost flat because he was able to lock in lower rates for fuel. Line item 210 shows an increase but the Town will start to see a savings in this line item in a couple of years. Mrs. Hardy inquired if line 296 included the needed trucks; Mr. Bragaw stated that the vehicles being replaced are in the Vehicle Acquisition Plan and not in this line item.

#105 Public Works – Engineering

Mr. Bragaw reported that overall, the Personnel Services total for salaries is up only 1.96%. Line 246 Transportation Allowance is showing a decrease because employees are using Town owned vehicles more consistently and as such reducing the amount of mileage reimbursement.

#109 Public Works – IT

Mr. Bragaw reported that the reduction in Line 214 Copier Maintenance is due to Bill Scheer and Carmen Ames negotiating a new contract for new equipment and maintenance. Line 215 is an increase in STAR Computer's yearly contract for support. This line item also includes a much needed Town wide upgrade to Office 365, and hopefully this will occur at the beginning of the fiscal year in July 2019.

#113 Public Works – Building Maintenance

Mr. Bragaw reported that this budget covers all Town buildings, excluding Board of Education buildings. There are currently four custodians; and he noted that a fifth custodian had retired but is now working part time over the weekends and this has made a big difference. Mr. Bragaw stated that he will be working with Parks and Recreation, as well as the Library, to see about sharing this expense since their programs bring most of the people into the building on the weekends. Line item 295 Fire Protection – Town is increasing primarily due to the 10% increase in Water and Sewer rates. Mr. Bragaw reported that Line 201 Telephone has decreased due to an audit of the cellular phone lines and equipment, and combining accounts into one main account.

#724 Capital

Mr. Nickerson stated that he worked with the Department Heads last year to keep this budget status quo, but that we cannot do that again this year and will need to spend some money on Capital this year. Ms. Johnson stated that Town is scheduled for a revaluation in 2021, so we will begin putting money into the budget for that, which will be paid out in the year in which it begins.

#101 First Selectman

Ms. Johnson noted that the only increase in this budget is for salaries, and the total actual increase is 2.58%

#114 General Government / Miscellaneous

Ms. Johnson reported that because of the special appropriation made in October of 2018 for both Town Government and the Board of Education, this budget actually has a total 1.9% decrease. For Line 126 Liability Insurance, she reports that they have secured lower rates due to a multi-year agreement. There were no Workers Compensation claims last year, and liability insurance is down 0.05%. For Line 127, the Town anticipates switching over to the State Health Plan as of July 1, 2019, so we will see a slight decrease but the overall plan will bring consistency to our premiums. Line 128 Retirement Liability is based on the number of retirements in a year, which is hard to forecast. This year the town anticipates a number of police officers to retire.

#120 Contingency

Ms. Johnson stated that Line 100-500 Town Payroll Pending PR Change covers Police, Fire and Dispatch; the Unaffiliated group agreement as well as the UPSEU contract have already been approved.

MOTION (1)

Mrs. Hardy Moved to adjourn the February 20, 2019 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectman at 7:12 p.m.
Seconded by Mr. Seery. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary