

**TOWN OF EAST LYME
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15, 2019**

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

Paul Dagle led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Karen Miller Galbo, East Lyme Town Clerk read the Call of the Town Meeting, stating it was posted on the signpost, published in The Day newspaper, and recorded in the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Cushman advised those in attendance of the ground rules for the Special Town Meeting in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 7-6.

Mr. Cushman appointed the Deputy Registrars of Voters as checkers and tellers.

To consider and take action on the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$2,318,492 For The Replacement Of Residential And Commercial Water Meters And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,318,492 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose"

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

Seconded by Paul Dagle.

Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works, 19 Attawan Avenue, stated they have been talking about this project for the last six years. There are approximately 6700 Water Accounts, and the way the meters are read is very antiquated. We would replace all meters at every house that has town water. Now there are three employees that read the meters and it takes them two month. They have to go to every single house. These new meters will be read through the system. It will allow us to set alarms up and notify homeowners if there are any possible issues such as leaks. We also will work toward a portal so people can go on and check their own water usage at all times. This is a necessary project and will be factored into the water rates.

Sharol Stewart, 6 Ramble Avenue asked if there would be layoffs in regard to this.

Mr. Bragaw said there is no plan to reduce staff. There are so many other things they can be doing and an employee retired last year and they didn't fill the position.

Ms. Stewart asked if the water will have to be shut off when the meters are installed.

Mr. Bragaw stated the contractor will schedule appointments, water may be down for an hour or hour and a half. The contractor will have to do night and Saturday installations.

Nancy Kelley, 113 Roxbury Road, asked what each meter costs per household.

Recorded May 21 2019
AM
11:55 PM Karen Miller Galbo
East Lyme Town Clerk

Mr. Bragaw answered around \$300.00 between the meter itself and the installation.

Ms. Kelley asked if they had thought about charging that to each owner instead of borrowing?

Mr. Bragaw stated that extra would be very difficult for people to pay in their bill.

Ms. Kelley asked how we are going to plan on taking care of these at the end of the life of the system?

Mr. Bragaw stated the cost of the project is in the rates, a fixed payment over twenty years, at the end of the life of the meters they would have to do another round.

Mark Nickerson, First Selectman, 15 Jean Drive stated this is not a town project, it will not be in the tax bill, but will be in the water bill. It is being backed by the Town because the Water Department cannot borrow money. Much of the bill in the Water Department goes to infrastructure, things break down and they are constantly rebuilding.

Motion Passed.

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

Motion (2) Kevin Seery moved to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Seconded by Barbara Birmingham.

Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Karen Miller Galbo
East Lyme Town Clerk**