

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2020
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rose Ann Hardy, Marc Salerno, Paul Dagle and Dan Cunningham
ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson, Public Works Director Joe Bragaw, and Water Department Engineer Ben North

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1b. Additional Agenda and Consent Items

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to add agenda item #3d to authorize SCCOG to apply for a grant.
Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Hardy arrived at 7:25 p.m.

1c. Delegations

Holly Cheeseman, 15 Mitchell Drive, Niantic, and State Representative for East Lyme and Salem, addressed the Board and wished them and the public a happy new year. She reported that the Governor announced that the State released a total \$9.1 million in state grants, of which East Lyme will receive a portion. East Lyme Land Trust was awarded \$179,200 for the Pattagansett River Watershed Reserve in East Lyme. The money will help buy 38.7 acres of open space. The Woodsmen Land Trust received \$560,000 for the Nehantic Nature Preserve, spanning 320 acres. This land resides along the East Lyme/Montville border and is near the Nehantic State Forest. Ms. Cheeseman reported that she had attended the monthly Veteran's Coffeehouse earlier in the evening and noted that they meet on the first Wednesday of every month from 6pm until 8pm at the Niantic VFW. She stated that a representative from the Easterseals Veterans Rally Point program gave a presentation; for more information on this program please visit <https://veteransrallypoint.com>. Ms. Cheeseman reported that the short session in Hartford began on February 2nd and will end on May 5th. She stated that items on the table are tolls, religious exemptions for vaccinations, and the statute of limitations on sex crimes, to name a few. She thanked everyone for their time and hard work.

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2019, as submitted.
Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of January 8, 2020, in the amount of \$3,612.19.
Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 6-0.

2a. Fishing Dock Leases

MOTION (4)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dagle spoke on behalf of the subcommittee and stated that it has been discussed to add the expansion of these docks to the POCD (Plan of Conservation & Development). He reported they also discussed that in 2021 and going forward they recommended a longer lease versus a year, which is what

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they are proposing currently. Over the next year, the subcommittee will work to develop clearer criteria for the application process. Mr. Nickerson suggested a two or three year lease this time around, and Mr. Dagle stated that they recommend only going a year this time in order to get the process firmly in place, then going forward they will recommend a multi-year lease. Mr. Nickerson mentioned that a group of fishermen, including Michael Stepski of the Tartan II, have organized an association and are beginning to look for grant money to assist in expanding the docks, noting that parking is a big concern and should be considered when discussing the expansion of this area. Mr. Cunningham stated that fishing is a part of East Lyme's culture and so it is important that the Board develop solid criteria in order to get the best use of this waterfront for both the fisherman and the Town. Mrs. Hardy inquired if the fourth dock will be returned to the Town after completion of the DOT bridge project. Mr. Nickerson responded yes and noted that the bridge project is scheduled to take a couple of years, but that the dock will be returned. It is then the intention is to go back to the list of applicants at that time. Mrs. Hardy inquired if the Town is losing the money from not leasing the dock, and Mr. Nickerson responded by stating that the State has already reimbursed us for lost revenue of the dock and parking spaces and that the money went into the special revenue fund for Parks & Recreation. Mrs. Hardy stated that she feels that money should go to the Town and not Parks & Recreation, and that she would like to discuss this matter further during the upcoming budget meetings. Mr. Nickerson also noted that he has given verbal permission to the fisherman to use that fourth dock as a transient dock for the time being until the DOT takes it as part of the bridge project. Mr. Salerno MOVED to continue the current leases to the Tartan II and to Michael Beebe for the period of one year with the current terms and lease payment amount, through December 31, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Motion passed 6-0.

3a. Increase HR Hours

MOTION (5)

DISCUSSION: Ms. Johnson spoke on this matter and explained that the Town has an aging workforce and that we have had and will continue to have an influx of retirements, which includes the Board of Education. In addition, there has been an increase in the amount of OSHA and CIRMA required training that needs to be coordinated. Increasing this position by 10 hours per week will allow the HR coordinator to work five days per week which will provide consistent coverage to our employees. Mr. Seery stated that current this position reports to the Finance Director, and that going forward he recommends that the HR coordinator should report directly to the First Selectman. Mrs. Hardy agreed that the HR department should be more available to the employees, and that the coordinator should be classified as a department head and report directly to the First Selectman. Mr. Salerno inquired if the increase in hours would make this position eligible for benefits which needs to be considered; and Mr. Nickerson stated that yes that would indeed make the position eligible for benefits, but that the person currently in the position is not interested in taking the benefits at this time. Ms. Johnson stated that the budget in the Health Insurance account would be able to absorb the cost of the benefits.

Mr. Seery MOVED to appropriate and transfer \$5,422 from account 01-01-120-200-500 (Contingency) to account 01-01-118-100-212 (HR Coordinator/Manager) and forward to the Board of Finance for approval. In addition, establish the HR Coordinator/Manager position as a Department Head; and as such, report directly to the First Selectman.

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

3b. Department Transfers

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appropriate and transfer \$67,753 from account 01-01-120-100-500 (Contingency Pending PR Change) to the following accounts: \$64,800 to account 01-25-216-100-511 (Salaries Police) and \$2,953 to account 01-25-216-100-514 (Overtime) due to the timing with the budget process and negotiating a successor agreement and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval; and to

appropriate and transfer \$6,070 from account 01-01-120-100-500 (Town Payroll Pending PR Change) to account 01-25-217-100-611 (Salaries NFD Firefighters) to fund the Firefighters Contract increases for the 2019/20 fiscal year and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval; and to appropriate and transfer \$7,177 from account 01-01-120-100-500 (Contingency Pending PR Change) to account 01-25-224-100-212 (Dispatchers) to fund Local 1303-436, Council 4 AFSCME (Dispatchers) agreement and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval.

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

3c. Appointments to Boards/Commissions

MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint John Way to serve as Fire Marshal for the Town of East Lyme effective January 6, 2020 through January 8, 2024.

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

MOTION (8)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Donald Marr to serve as Deputy Fire Marshal for the Town of East Lyme effective January 6, 2020 through January 8, 2024.

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

MOTION (9)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint George McPherson, 419 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Commission with a term to expire on December 6, 2021.

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

3d. Grant Applications by SCCOG

MOTION (10)

Mr. Seery RESOLVED, that the Town of East Lyme hereby endorses and authorizes the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) to make application to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) funding for three projects: a Regional Code Enforcement Official (\$100,000); a Regional Grant Writer (\$80,000); and a Regional Human Resources Staff/Consultant (\$80,000); all of which could benefit the municipalities of the SCCOG region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of East Lyme authorizes the Council's Executive Director, James S. Butler, to make these applications and to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments and to do all things necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement.

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

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Salerno reported that the Library will be replacing their carpeting soon and are waiting for the quotes to come in pursuant to the Town's Purchasing Policy. The library has resume Sunday hours, and they are working on an East Lyme Room that they plan to fill with local historical items. The Planning Commission is working on a referral from Zoning regarding an architectural design text amendment related to the downtown zone. They received an application for modifying the entrance to Memorial Park Drive, and a report will be forwarded to the Board of Selectman in the near future. They are wrapping up the POCD online survey, which they will discuss at the next meeting on January 15th; and they are also having an open forum on January 29th.

Mr. Cunningham reported that the Historic Properties Commission is working on their response to the POCD survey and anticipate submitting that to the POCD committee soon. They are also working on developing plaques to be sold to historic property owners as a fundraising tool.

Mr. Dagle reported on the Public Safety Building Vision Committee and stated that the drawings are 85% complete, and that they expect to be ready to go out to bid in the near future. He reported that they a waiver was received from the State Building Official to bypass state requirements dictating that Category 4 buildings, which includes police stations, must be reinforced to withstand 145 mile-per-hour winds; and confirmed that the Town Building Official endorsed this waiver. This waiver will save the Town approximately \$240,000. Mr. Dagle reported that a grant application is being submitted for \$175,000 to purchase an emergency generator. He stated that there was discussion regarding the possible need to hire an independent construction manager to interact directly with the general contractor, and they will add that if necessary. Mr. Nickerson added that the Town received confirmation that the building does not require a sprinkler system based on the number of holding cells. He stated that the code is very clear, and that the new Fire Marshal will be brought up to speed on the project. Mrs. Hardy stated that she is not comfortable with that waiver, and Mr. Dagle assured her that the fire/smoke detection system that is being installed is state of the art. Also, we are working on a grant application for new audio equipment that will allow electronic interaction between dispatch and Town Hall.

4b. Selectmen's Report

Mr. Nickerson wished everyone a Happy New Year. He reported that budget season is upon us and that the Board of Selectmen will begin reviewing the budget in February, but that he and the Finance Director are meeting with Department Heads to begin the process. He attended an evening with Mrs. Hardy's Contemporary Issues class; they recently participated in the Princeton Model Congress and did a great job. Mrs. Hardy reported that they were in Washington D.C. for four days and spent a total of 32 hours in debates. Mr. Nickerson stated that the students did an exemplary job and are impressive leaders of tomorrow. He reported that a new officer, Philip Carrier, was sworn in due to a last-minute spot that became available for Friday's Police Academy; it is anticipated that after the Academy he will training for about a year and then he will be ready to go out on patrol on his own. Mr. Nickerson stated that our new Fire Marshal, John Way, as started and will be at the next meeting to be introduced.

5. Public Comment

There was none.

MOTION (11)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the January 8, 2020, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:33 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary