

**TOWN OF EAST LYME  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 8, 2020**

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

Holly Cheeseman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Karen Miller Galbo, East Lyme Town Clerk read the Call of the Special Town Meeting and stated that said notice, had been signed by the Board of Selectmen, published in The Day Newspaper, and recorded in the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Cushman discussed the rules of the Town Meeting in accordance with Section 7-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes

1. To receive communications from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance with respect to a resolution entitled "Resolution Amending A Resolution Appropriating \$4,640,000 For The Construction Of Modifications And Upgrades To The East Lyme Well 1A And Well 6 Water Treatment Plant Project And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$4,640,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose".

Karen Miller Galbo confirmed that the communication has been received in her office from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

2. To consider and act upon a resolution entitled "Resolution Amending A Resolution Appropriating \$4,640,000 For The Construction Of Modifications And Upgrades To The East Lyme Well 1A And Well 6 Water Treatment Plant Project And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$4,640,000 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 2.**

**Seconded by Dan Cunningham.**

Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works gave a presentation on this item, attached as Exhibit A.

Marilyn Dunphy of Chapman Woods stated she supports this project. She has lived with this water for 14 years. The manganese at their house is 4 times the rate that it should be. They had to put a water system in their home. She hopes this goes through.

**Item 2 Passed.**

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

**Motion (2) Kevin Seery moved to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:10 p.m.**

**Seconded by Marc Salerno.**

**Motion Passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Miller Galbo  
East Lyme Town Clerk

Recorded Jan 10 2020  
1:40 <sup>AM</sup>  
~~PM~~ (Karen Miller Galbo)  
East Lyme Town Clerk

# TOWN OF EAST LYME

## TOWN MEETING – 1-8-20 - TALKING POINTS

My name is Joe Bragaw. I am an East Lyme resident, an EL Water and Sewer customer, and also the EL Public Works Director. I have also brought with me tonight Ben North, the EL W&S Asst Utility Engineer to help me answer any questions that might come up

- I would like to break this subject down into three topics;
  1. I will first explain what this project is and why is it needed
  2. Then I will explain why we are coming back to the Town Meeting since this was already approved at a Town Meeting in January of 2019
  3. Lastly, I will quickly discuss what impact this additional appropriation would have on East Lyme water ratepayers

### Topic #1 – Discussion of what the project is & why it is needed

1. This project has been discussed by the Water Dept and subsequently at the Water & Sewer Commission meetings all the way back to 2015.
2. The Department utilizes seven wells throughout Town to supply our water system, of which 5 have filtration for iron and manganese. Two of these wells, Well 1A, which is just north of the little league fields by the ELMS and Well 2A on North Bridebrook Rd do not have filtration.
3. Iron and manganese are naturally occurring in the groundwater and are primarily an aesthetic concern because they can cause a staining of fixtures and laundered goods and have led to numerous customer complaints.
4. Over the past year, the CT DPH has new requirements for removal of manganese in drinking water, so it further amplifies the need for moving forward for this project.
5. Because of this problem, we are trying to correct this issue and improve the water quality in the East Lyme drinking water system. The Water Department hired an engineering consultant to study this issue and provide cost estimates for filtering Well 1A and 2A. Based on this study, the Water & Sewer Commission determined that it was too costly at this time to filter both wells, so they decided to prioritize moving forward with the Well 1A project because of the following reasons;
  - a. Well 1A is one of the biggest producing wells in Town
  - b. Well 2A can be managed by lowering the yield and because we have another large well in close proximity to it.
  - c. Well 1A is located in the center of town and therefore impacts a greater percentage of the water customers and businesses

6. This project has nothing to do with Costco and Gateway but is more to do with the area that Well 1A serves.
7. The project involves pumping water from Well 1A to Well 6 (near the youth football field). A big part of the project is expanding the Well 6 filtration building to include an additional large filter to accommodate the larger flow of water, and to upgrade the equipment and controls in both the Well #1A and 6 buildings.
8. By running the transmission line parallel to the middle school access rd., we would also be solving a problem for the Town and the school as there is no drainage on the Middle School lower road and there is a berm that runs along the road, so the water puddles up and is breaking apart the edge of the existing pavement. This project will remove the existing fence and knock down the berm so this area will now be able to drain off the road. Then we would reinstall the fence after we are done.
9. In summing up the project, we really need to move forward with this project

## **Topic #2 – why are we back**

1. The project would be paid for out of the EL Water Department Operating budget which is separate from the Town budget and would then be funded by the water rates as established by the EL Water & Sewer Commission every October.
2. To pay for this project, the Water Dept is looking to take a 2% loan from the State of CT “Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – DWSRF”. The CT DPH is supportive of this project and has approved the additional appropriation request.
3. We have already received approvals from the Water & Sewer Comm, the BOS and BOF and the reason we must go to a Town Meeting is we are looking to have the Town of East Lyme back up the loan with the “full faith and obligations of the Town” and it is the appropriations process as identified in the Town charter.
4. Back in 2018, our consultant gave us the budget figure of \$4,640,000 that they were very comfortable at that time would cover all engineering, construction, inspection and contingencies. Because of the number that they provided us, we went forward with the appropriation process starting last November so that we could get shovels in the ground in the fall of 2019.
5. After approval at the Town Meeting on 1/2/19, we went out to bid in June of 2019 and only got one bid that exceeded our project budget by over a million dollars. After that, we revised the bid documents and went back out to bid in October of 2019 and received 3 competitive bids that were over \$260k less than the first bid but still over our original budget. With the new low bid, we went back thru the process of approving the additional funds which is why we are here tonight.

**Topic #3 – Can the ratepayers afford this additional appropriation?**

1. I did a detailed 10-year analysis of the water department projected budget and I am comfortably to say that the additional appropriation of \$950k should have a minimal impact on the EL water dept ratepayers for the foreseeable future.

DRAFT