

FILED

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Feb 19 2020 AT 9:25 AM/PM

SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2020

(Handwritten Signature)

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Anna Johnson, Joe Bragaw, Bill Scheer, Justin Porter, Lisa Timothy and David Jacobs

Mr. Nickerson called the Special Meeting for the purpose of Budget Reviews to order at 6:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Dagle arrived at 6:06 p.m.

#420 - Library

Ms. Lisa Timothy, Executive Director and Mr. David Jacobs, President of the Board of Trustees for the Library, were in attendance to speak on this budget. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is important to remember that the Library's budget is not the same as the other budgets in Town as the library is a private organization and not an actual function of the town. However, the Library depends on grants received through the Town. He explained that about 50% of municipalities in Connecticut operate similarly, and that there are advantages and disadvantages to doing it either way. Ms. Timothy addressed the Board and stated that she reports to two entities, the Board of Trustees as well as the Foundation, and that she oversees sixty-six employees. She noted that she worked with the Finance Director this year to re-do the budget and make it easier to read and understand. Ms. Timothy reported that this year's budget is being presented with the smallest increase in the past 10 years, only presenting contractual increases in salary and health insurance. Mr. Salerno noted that overall salaries are down \$10,000, and Ms. Timothy confirmed that is because their Accountant passed away unexpectedly during the year and that a current employee, the Assistant Librarian, absorbed those duties; and that they also reduced their staff to only one person on Sunday and on Tuesday. Ms. Timothy reports an overall increase in the number of people visiting the library in person as well as online traffic.

#421 – Parks & Recreation

Mr. Putnam briefly reviewed last year's increase in revenues from beach pass sales and reported that they are working on building the newly created Beach Enterprise Fund. He stated that the increase in minimum wage is still concerning for this department, and in the 22/23 budget year they will be hit with increases twice that year according to the schedule laid out by the State. He stated that these increases in minimum wage will be passed on to the public in the form of increases in fees. They have some great programs and the biggest problem they have in the summertime is lack of parking, but they are working on possible solutions such as a shuttle service from public parking lots and maybe Town Hall to the beaches. Mr. Putnam reported that he has looked into the cost of spraying this year for mosquitos, and the cost is around \$3,000 per application, and it is estimated that it would take 15 applications for the whole season to include all parks and schools. Mr. Nickerson noted that the Town is awaiting direction from the Department of Public Health on how we should proceed this year, and he is also hoping that the State will release funds to assist towns with this expense. Mr. Putnam reported that the State announced that it will be imposing a 6.35% tax on municipal parking fees; this state fee will be passed on to the consumer and increases will be announced as soon as the State makes their official announcement. Mr. Dagle inquired if they will consider offering a discount for Veterans and not just active military, and Mr. Putnam stated that they have discussed the possibility of expanding this discount as noted.

Mr. Dagle suggested that they consider putting a stay on employee training for one year for all employees, except for mandatory training and certifications.

#317 – Public Works

Mr. Joe Bragaw and Mr. Justin Porter were in attendance to speak on this budget, and Mr. Bragaw reported that they are presenting a budget with a 1.46% increase, which is for contractual salary and benefits increases. He noted that a

couple of people have retired and have been replaced with entry level people at entry level salary and benefits, which helped to keep this budget down. Line item 224 for road construction and repair was cut in last year's budget, and he is requesting that the full amount remain in the upcoming budget as there is a lot of road work that needs to be done this season. The line item for the tree warden stipend is new this year, and the increase in the tree maintenance line is conservative; he anticipates a busy year for this service. There is a new line item for traffic calming measures, which he anticipates working in concert with the Police Department in getting these digital signs in key areas around town to try to slow speeders down. Mr. Nickerson noted that he has been meeting with residents in a grass roots effort to try to come up with effective ideas that community members can participate in also. Mr. Bragaw stated that there is an increase in the telephone line item due to purchasing three additional cell phones that the drivers now use to photograph and document garbage cans that are not picked up for whatever reason. When the resident calls to notify public works that their garbage did not get picked up, they can now refer back to the pictures taken by the driver and educate the resident on why it wasn't picked up. Regarding the new streetlights that were installed about five years ago, they have contracted a local company to perform necessary maintenance and anticipate that in three years the Town will begin to realize the \$150,000 annual savings forecasted for this project. Mr. Dagle asked Mr. Bragaw if the \$215k requested for 221 Fleet Maintenance was going to be enough, and Mr. Bragaw stated that it was more likely they will need the ~\$221k spent last year. Mr. Bragaw stated that he is waiting on State funds for Town Aid Roads to plan the paving projects for the year. Mr. Nickerson noted that there are three vehicles in the 20/21 Capital Budget for this department. Mr. Nickerson recognized Bill Scheer and Justin Porter who were in attendance.

#105 – Engineering

Mr. Bragaw stated that this budget has an increase of 2.31%, 2.25% of which is contractual salary increases.

#113 – Building Maintenance

Mr. Bragaw reported that there are a lot of changes upcoming for this budget. With the public safety building coming online this year, he will be moving people and responsibilities around, and is requesting another full-time custodian to support that new building exclusively. The current line item for custodians has gone done for a couple of reasons, including that the Library is now paying for services on Sunday, and Parks & Recreation is paying for support on Saturdays. Also, for special events, the organization is now being charged for custodial services. Mr. Bragaw noted that because of Julie Wilson's hard work and research in combining accounts and getting all covered under a plan specific to First Responders, they have been able to see a savings in the telephone line item.

#101 – First Selectman

Mr. Nickerson stated that aside from the standard 2.25% wage increases, he anticipates a possible decrease in the postage line item but no other adjustments.

#114 – General Government Miscellaneous and Benefits

Ms. Johnson reported that the increase in the Pension line item is based on actuarial reports and recommendations. The legal services line item is down slightly, but that it is a challenging item and difficult to predict.

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the February 10, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectman at 7:56 p.m.
Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary