

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 6, 2020
MINUTES

This meeting was held via Zoom online meeting services and was available for the public to view, listen and participate via videoconference and dial-in options.

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rose Ann Hardy, Marc Salerno, Dan Cunningham and Paul Dagle
ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson and Tax Collector John McCulloch

First Selectman Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

FILED

2. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items

There were none.

3. Delegations

There were none.

May 11 2020 AT 12:00 AM/PM
Kevin Seery
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

4a. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting of March 2, 2020

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting minutes of March 2, 2020, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0-1. IN FAVOR; Nickerson, Seery, Hardy, Salerno and Cunningham.
ABSTAINED; Dagle.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting minutes of March 4, 2020, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 5-0-1. IN FAVOR; Nickerson, Seery, Hardy, Salerno and Cunningham.
ABSTAINED; Dagle.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of March 4, 2020, as submitted.

Seconded by Mrs. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0-1. IN FAVOR; Nickerson, Seery, Hardy, Salerno and Cunningham.
ABSTAINED; Dagle.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting minutes of March 16, 2020, as submitted.

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

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 15, 2020, as submitted.

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

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting minutes of April 21, 2020, as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting minutes of April 27, 2020, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Consent Calendar

MOTION (8)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the consent calendar for May 6, 2020, in the amount of \$2,532.99. Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

6a. Approve Transfer - \$1,000 from Contingency – Tax Programming

MOTION (9)

DISCUSSION: Tax Collector John McCulloch stated that the current tax collection program that the Town uses requires a software update to accommodate the 90-day deferment program that the Board of Selectmen put into effect in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Nickerson stated that this is a necessary expense and reiterated that the 90-day deferment of tax payments is not automatic and that taxpayers need to fill out an application by July 1, 2020. For more information and to download the form, please go to the eltownhall.com. Mr. Seery MOVED to appropriate and transfer \$1,000 from account 01-01-120-200-500 (Contingency) to account 01-01-103-200-216 (Service Contracts) for special programming for implementation of Executive Order 7S – Deferment Program and forward to the Board of Finance for approval. Seconded by Mrs. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

6b. Update on Public Safety Building project

Mr. Nickerson stated that the Vision Committee continues to work hard to move this project forward, and had met tonight, adjourning just as this meeting was starting. The Committee will meet again on Tuesday of next week, and hopefully will be ready to present a plan to the Board of Selectmen soon. Mr. Dagle agreed that the Committee continues to have productive discussions and that they are just about ready to wrap up and finalize a plan to bring to the Board of Selectmen.

6c. Point and Pay Agreement

MOTION (10)

DISCUSSION: Ms. Johnson stated that this application will allow multiple town departments to accept debit and credit card payments online and in person. Currently the Tax office utilizes a basic online only program, and it is time to upgrade this system and will also include the Town Clerk and Building/Planning/Zoning offices. She stated that they are also considering providing this service at the Senior Center. Mr. Seery inquired if the Parks & Recreation department would also be using this new application, and Ms. Johnson stated that currently they will continue to use their existing vendor. She stated that this service is provided at no additional cost to the Town, and that fees are paid by the users to choose to utilize the service. Fees are as

follows: \$3.50 for debit cards; \$2.00 for eCheck; 2.5% charge on credit cards; and there is a \$2.00 minimum fee. Ms. Johnson stated that this agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney. Mr. Seery MOVED to authorize the First Selectman to execute, in the name and on behalf of the Town, a contract and application form with Point and Pay, Inc., and to execute and deliver all other documents and perform all other acts necessary or desirable to implement said contract. Seconded by Mrs. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

7a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Nickerson reported that each commission is making the decision to hold a Zoom meeting or not based on their pressing business. He anticipates most commissions to begin meeting again in June, either by Zoom meeting services, or in-person if that is possible. He stated that all pressing business is being addressed as deemed necessary via Zoom meeting services, and that will continue if it is needed.

Mrs. Hardy inquired as to the status of a former agenda item that was pending, specifically the ordinance modification for SCRRA. Mr. Nickerson stated that a town meeting would be required for this matter, and as such we are going to wait as long as possible to get this done within the time limits as holding a town meeting right now in person is not permissible. He confirmed that the Town has time and that it has not been forgotten. Mrs. Hardy inquired if the Town has looked into taking advantage of the decreased oil prices, and Mr. Nickerson stated that the Director of Public Works is working on this. Mrs. Hardy concluded by thanking the First Selectman for taking a pay cut to his salary to help reduce the budget.

Mr. Salerno stated that the Town Building Committee met and primarily did so to review and pay some outstanding invoices due for the schools' project.

7b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that the Board of Finance is meeting on Thursday night to review the Board of Education budget. They have scheduled meetings with department heads, as noted on filed agendas, on Saturday and Monday and will have a regular meeting on Wednesday to accommodate any carryover items. They anticipate having a final budget and mil rate by end of May. He reported that he has been attending online meetings of COG and CCM and that we have not really been given a lot of clear information from the State on a lot of issues that are important to our community, such as what reopening will look like, how youth services and sports are going to work for the summer, how social distancing will look in the parks once the weather turns. He stated that they have been working with the DEEP on how to continue to maintain social distancing and reminded everyone that this is new to everyone and we are all learning as we go. He reported that in East Lyme, they have made the decision to start selling beach passes to East Lyme residents only for access to the beaches beginning on Memorial Day. He reminded everyone that this is a temporary situation and that we will open it up to the general public as soon as it is possible; but for now, passes will only be sold to town residents.

Mr. Nickerson reported that he has been speaking with members of the Historic Properties Commission regarding the recent situation with the "Flowers House" on Boston Post Road. He stated that it has been discussed that although this house cannot be saved from becoming a Dollar General, maybe the concerned citizens can rally together and support the other Historic Properties in Town. He stated that the Historic Properties Commission are very concerned about the current state of the existing town owned historic properties, and they believe that if these concerned residents would direct their energy toward these properties it would be a win-win for everyone. Mrs. Hardy agreed that this is a great solution and noted that the "Flowers House" is very visible to the community and the Samuel Smith House is not, which could be a reason why it does not get as much attention.

It was noted that the sidewalks are currently being done across from the high school, as well as in front of Ron's Guns.

Mr. Nickerson reported that they are actively considering canceling this year's Celebrate East Lyme, and to be on the lookout for that definitive announcement after the Governor makes his report on May 20th. He stated that he is hopeful that this year's Oysterfest will still happen, but that remains to be seen.

8. Public Comment

There was none.

9. Selectman's Response

There was none.

MOTION (11)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the May 6, 2020, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:13 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sandra Anderson

Recording Secretary