

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2021  
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.

This meeting, in its entirety, is available to view by visiting the East Lyme Town Hall webpage.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson, Planning Director Gary Goeschel, and Fire Marshal John Way

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1b. Additional Agenda Items  
There were none.

1c. Delegations

Mr. Norm Peck, 32 West Main Street, spoke as President of the East Lyme Historical Society and communicated that this commission was not happy with the budget being cut this fiscal year during a pandemic when fundraising is not a viable option. He also stated that all parties involved have discussed the possibility of combining the three different historical commissions into one, and all agree that doing this would be detrimental and do not support such a move. Mr. Peck summarized the many benefits that the Historical Properties Commission brings to the community and asked the Board to consider restoring the budget to its original amount. Mr. Nickerson stated that he would be happy to speak to this later in the meeting under Selectman's Response, but that he did want Mr. Peck to know that they have every intention of restoring the budget, as was discussed during the budget meetings last year.

1d. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION (1)**

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2021, as submitted.  
Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

1e. Consent Calendar

**MOTION (2)**

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of February 3, 2021, in the amount of \$1,839.61.

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

2a. Special Appropriation – Fire Marshal Respirators - \$2,412

**MOTION (3)**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Way addressed the Board and stated that the purchase of these new respirators is needed at this time, and the new equipment is lightweight, much more efficient, and can be easily shared between people by simply changing the mask only. These CleanSpace Respirators cost \$804 each; the other more costly option is the SCBA System at \$9,862 each. Mr. Nickerson stated that should this request

FILED

Feb 12 2021 AT 12:09 AM/PM  
Karin Mullin

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

be approved, the four existing SCBA suits will be donated to the two fire departments. When using the respirator system, with any changes in personnel only a mask will need to be purchased for the new wearer at a current cost of \$108.

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a special appropriation and transfer in the amount of \$2,412 in CNRE Fund 32 from account number 32-70-300-500-999 (Town-wide Projects) to an account to be established titled, "PS-F Marshal-Respiratory Protection Equipment" and forward to the Board of Finance for approval Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Motion passed 6-0.

2b. Special Appropriation – Fire Marshal Salary - \$1,912.50

**MOTION (4)**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that when the Fire Marshal's budget was split from the Emergency Management budget, we neglected to add in the COLA (Cost Of Living Adjustment); this will rectify that previous oversight.

Mr. Seery MOVED to appropriate and transfer \$1,912.50 from account number 01-01-120-200-500 (Contingency) to account number 01-25-224-100-211 (Fire Marshal) for the 2020/2021 cost of living increase and forward to the Board of Finance for approval. Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

2c. Corridor Study - \$25,000 Funding Commitment

**MOTION (5)**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that this Board has previously approved the execution of this grant paperwork, but that the 10% match has now increased to \$25,000 from \$20,000 after the total amount approved ended up being \$250,000 versus \$200,000. Mr. Goeschel stated that the town has committed to that 10% match so the additional \$5,000 is needed. Ms. Hardy inquired if this project will ultimately end up widening the road and/or taking property by eminent domain. Mr. Nickerson stated that this is a possibility and that it is a state road so the Board of Selectmen and the Town will not have a final say in the project. Mr. Goeschel reported that the study is expected to be complete sometime in 2022, and that he will keep the Board apprised of the timeline and progress as we move forward.

Mr. Seery MOVED to support a commitment of funds letter in the amount of \$25,000 and authorize the First Selectman to sign a letter for the Route 161 Corridor Study Grant made available by Federal Program Funds through CTDOT to be administered by SCCOG. The source of funds to be appropriated once the final award is granted are in CNRE Fund 32 account 32-70-300-500-999 (Town-wide Projects) and forward to the Board of Finance for approval.

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

2d. Appointments

Mr. Nickerson noted that the Planning Commission does have an opening, as well as a couple of interested people, but that the Commission itself has 30 days to fill the position before the Board of Selectmen is handed the task. Regarding the open spot on the Police Commission, Mr. Nickerson stated that the Board of Selectmen has received one letter of interest thus far, but that he would encourage the Board to reach out into the community to seek out qualified candidates.

#### 2e. Budget

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson introduced the proposed 2021/2022 annual budget and made note of some items that will come up for review during the budget process. He stated that with the inception of the new Police Accountability Law in 2020, our police department will need to be accredited within three years, so the Police Commission is working with the Chief to make sure that all of the accreditation parameters are met. He reported that the State of Connecticut did a study of staffing levels in our police departments, and East Lyme came in 4<sup>th</sup> from the bottom of the list, indicating that East Lyme is severely understaffed. Inland Wetlands is looking to add a part time staff member from the COG Regional Planning staff to assist with the anticipated increase in workload with the inception of the 300 ft. URA from 100 ft., at a cost of \$25,000. Mr. Nickerson stated that an IT Director has not yet been hired, but that they continue to improve upon the Town's IT services and that STAR Computers will remain on at a slightly higher rate.

The following dates and times were set for budget meetings: Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm; Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm; Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm; and Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The agendas can be found on the Town's webpage, and Mr. Nickerson noted that if a department or commission is not listed for review but would like to meet with the Board of Selectmen, please call his office and request to be added to the agenda.

#### 4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Ms. Hardy reported that the Commission on Aging discussed the many challenges that they have faced while supporting our elderly during the pandemic. She stated that approximately 25-35 meals are being delivered twice daily to the list of recipients. To get ahead of the storm, they will be preparing and delivering pre-packaged meals to each person ahead of the storm so that the volunteers will not have to go out during the storm. They currently have ten volunteers that rotate schedules to allow for 2-3 people delivering meals in their private vehicles. Ms. Hardy reported that at Christmas time, Lillian's Restaurant prepared and delivered 500 meals to people in our community; at a time when restaurants and small businesses are struggling, they went out of their way to make sure members of our community are taken care of. She reported that the Commission on Aging has an ambitious program schedule for the spring and that the ability to hold these programs effectively on ZOOM will need to be determined. She noted that there are a lot of people that would benefit from participating in these programs but don't currently use ZOOM. Ms. Hardy reported that the Zoning Commission meets tomorrow night and she will have a report of that meeting next time.

Mr. Dagle reported that the Town Building Committee met and that the public safety building work is coming along well and is slightly ahead of schedule. Of the ~\$88,000 already expended, ~\$33,000 was spent on the architect. He stated that at the next meeting they will be discussing change orders and builders risk insurance. He reported that they are currently doing the design work to move the Fire Marshal's office to the second floor.

#### 4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that he had attended a ZOOM meeting along with Mayors and First Selectmen from all over the country to hear about a recent national movement called Serve America Movement, or "SAM". Regarding the budget and Mr. Peck's comments from earlier in the meeting, Mr. Nickerson stated that last year numerous budgets were cut because of the uncertainty of the pandemic, but that they are not only restoring all of those budgets as discussed, we have added a new one as well. Regarding the budgets overall, Mr. Nickerson pointed out that our Department Heads have done an

outstanding job of presenting reasonable budgets, and he is very proud to have the opportunity to work with so many dedicated professionals. He noted that the Tax Assessor presented the final grand list for 2020, and that the Town is seeing the highest increase in taxable property in the past two decades. Mr. Nickerson stated that the Tax Assessor, Diane Vitagliano, will be attending the budget meeting next week to give a report on the Grand List.

**MOTION (6)**

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the February 3, 2021, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:34 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson  
Recording Secretary