

**EAST LYME BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, APRIL 22nd, 2021
Via Zoom Meetings**

Members in Attendance: Camille Alberti, Chairperson
Ann Cicchiello, Vice-Chairperson
John Birmingham
Peter DeRosa
Anne Santoro
Richard Steel

Also In Attendance: Mark Nickerson, First Selectman
Jeff Newton, Superintendent of Schools
Maryanna Sevens, BOE Finance Director
Mike Finkelstein Police Chief ELPD
Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director
Anna Johnson, Finance Director

Absent: No One

A. Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Alberti called this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance via Zoom to order at 6:31 PM. She said that this would complete their Budget deliberations in anticipation of the upcoming Public Hearing.

FILED

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was observed.

C. Public Delegations

There were none.

April 26, 2021 AT 10:01 AM PM
Bruce H. Brown ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

D. Old Business

♦ **Any Outstanding Information**

Ms. Alberti asked if there was any outstanding information; noting that she thought that they had received the information that they had requested.

E. Budget Deliberations

♦ **Complete Proposed 2021-2022 Budget Deliberations, action if necessary**

Ms. Alberti mentioned the 10-year CIP saying that they are just place holders and that they would send it to Town Meeting for their approval.

Ms. Johnson noted that she had received some very last minute revenue changes from the State – ECS was showing a \$218,651 reduction; PILOT State owned properties and PILOT hospitals and colleges were eliminated and replaced with a tiered (restructured) PILOT grant – the new tiered amount is \$1,031,375 for a \$500,000 increase from what they had previously received. She noted that it does look like they will have to use some fund balance.

Ms. Alberti said that while they do have some options, her preference would be to leave the budget as approved last evening in tact.

Ms. Cicchiello said that if they get this and have money left she would favor putting it back into the undesignated fund balance.

♦ **Special Appropriation \$21,800 – Building Department – from Contingency**

Ms. Alberti noted that they have already discussed this and that it would now come from Contingency.

****MOTION (1)**

Ms. Cicchiello moved to approve a special appropriation and transfer in the amount of \$21,800 from account #01-01-120-200-500 (contingency) to the following expenditure accounts: \$3,000 to 01-01-104-100-311 (Admin. Clerical) and \$18,800 to 01-01-104-100-212 (Building Official).

Ms. Santoro seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

♦ **Special Appropriation up to \$11,000 Asbestos Remediation Morris Building from Contingency**

Mr. Bragaw explained that it came to his attention that there was asbestos in the floor tiling in the Morris Building garage on Main Street and that they have to remediate it as equipment going in and out of the building could release it. The Niantic Fire Department does keep two boats, a truck and other equipment in that garage so this needs to move forward. (Phone connection broke)

Ms. Cicchiello asked if once this is remediated if there would be any issues if they were to sell the building. Mr. Nickerson said that there is no intention of selling the building; they use the upstairs for records storage.

Ms. Cicchiello asked if there is a certificate that they are provided with from the company that does the abatement saying that it is clear of asbestos.

Mr. Nickerson said yes.

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. DeRosa moved to approve a special appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$11,000 to be expended from account 01-01-120-200-500 (Contingency) for the purpose of abating asbestos in the NFD Morris Building Garage.

Mr. Birmingham seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

♦ **Special Appropriation \$44,475 NSEP Grant EOC for radios and equipment**

Chief Finkelstein explained that this allows them to replace the portable radios including the software and labor. The portable radios are necessary to increase the interoperability among area first responders and State agencies. The requested amount will be reimbursed by the 2021 NSEP Grant Pool Funding. (7 Portable Radios and 1 OptiPlex 7080 Tower, accessories, software & labor)

****MOTION (3)**

Ms. Santoro moved to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$44,475.00 to account #01-70-725-224-001 (NSEP Radios and Related Equipment), to cover the cost of purchasing portable radios and related computer equipment for the EOC. Source of funds: Nuclear Safety Emergency Preparedness Grant.

Mr. Steel seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

(Note – This item requires Town Meeting approval)

F. Board Comments

Ms. Alberti said that when they originally established the budget schedule, they went by the Charter which states that the Annual Town Meeting is the second Monday in May. They later heard that Mr. Nickerson was thinking of changing it to May 3 – the first Monday in May and then the referendum to May 19. She asked Mr. Nickerson for an update on the status of the changes.

Mr. Nickerson said that he had to change the dates to line up with the Governor's Executive Order. The Towns were allowed to change dates so that the 'no change' ballots could be done. They can be mailed in or placed in a lock box at the Town Hall. As the Governor's Order expires on May 20, 2021 – to avoid any conflict the referendum is being held on the day before it expires, which is May 19, 2021.

Ms. Alberti said that the Town Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Monday May 3, 2021 and the Referendum on May 19, 2021. She asked how people would know.

Mr. Nickerson said that he is sure that the newspaper will pick up on it. He said that the Town Meeting would be hybrid.

Ms. Alberti said that the Public Hearing on the budget is still on for Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom. The link can be found on the Town Website with the Meeting Agenda. She said that they would take public input and make any changes if they should so desire at the Special Meeting to be held immediately following the Public Hearing.

Mr. Nickerson said that he was not sure that he would be able to be there – if not he would have a statement prepared for Mr. Seery to read.

Mr. Newton asked Ms. Alberti to contact him if she needs anything or any help with the presentation preparation.

G. Adjournment

Ms. Alberti called for a motion to adjourn.

****MOTION (1)**

Ms. Cicchiello moved to adjourn this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance at 7:12 PM.

Mr. Steel seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary