

TOWN OF EAST LYME
HYBRID ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2021

Gene Cushman, Town Meeting Moderator led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cushman reviewed the ground rules for the Annual Town Meeting and appointed the Registrars of Voters as tellers and checkers. He advised anyone attending via Zoom to hold up their hand if they want to speak or vote.

- 1. To review and discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 as recommended by the Board of Finance.**
 - a. In accordance with Chapter 7.3 of the Town Charter, the moderator shall adjourn the annual budget meeting to a referendum on the voting machines. The budget resolution will be submitted to the persons qualified to vote in a Town Meeting by Referendum by machine vote, which referendum shall take place on May 19, 2021 at the East Lyme Community Center from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Mr. Cushman noted there will be no vote on this item tonight as the item is automatically going to Referendum. The Referendum will take place on May 19th at the East Lyme Community Center from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Kevin Seery, Deputy First Selectman stated there is more time than usual between the Annual Town Meeting and the Referendum and everyone who wants to get an absentee ballot can do so. He thanked the IT staff from the East Lyme Public Schools that made this hybrid meeting possible.

Tim Hagen, Chair of the East Lyme Board of Education thanks everyone for their tremendous support, this past year has not been easy, we are entering the recovery phase now.

Jeffrey Newton, Superintendent of the East Lyme Public Schools stated it is great to be back in school full time. Mr. Newton discussed the budget process, district achievements, district priorities, and Federal Relief Funding.

Camille Alberti, Chair of the East Lyme Board of Finance discussed the budget process. This budget has an overall increase of 2.37%, they estimated that to raise the Mil Rate by .15%. The Board of Finance will set the Mil Rate on May 26th if the budget passes at Referendum. They project the Mil Rate to be 28.51.

Recorded May 10 2021
9:30 ^{AM} PM Camille Alberti
East Lyme Town Clerk

Joe Mingo of 397 Boston Post Road voiced his concern about the safety of the roads in Town, he also feels the Wetlands Officer needs a full time Assistant because of the Inland Wetlands Agency changing the upland review area.

Paul Dagle of 5 Riverhead Lane thanked the staff, Board of Education, Board of Selectman and Board of Finance. He knows they had to make some tough choices. With regard to the Board of Finance's compromise on hiring only one police officer, when it comes to policy he feels the Board of Finance should let policymakers identify what we need, and the Board of Finance should determine if the Town can afford it.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane thanked the Boards for the work they do for the Town. Seniors are facing huge increases in insurance etc., he feels that this budget is fair, but asked that they please not go crazy in the future.

2. To adopt a Ten Year Capital Plan.

Motion (1) Kevin Seery moved to approve the Item 2.

Seconded by Tim Hagen.

Kevin Seery discussed the Capitol Items in this projected budget.

Motion Passed.

3. Special Appropriation – \$ 44,475.00 – 2021 Nuclear Safety Emergency Preparedness (NSEP) Grant.

Motion (2) Paul Dagle moved to approve Item 3.

Seconded by Kevin Seery.

Motion Passed.

4. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Motion (3) Tim Hagen moved to adjourn the Hybrid Annual Town Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Seconded by Anne Santoro.

Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Karen Miller Galbo
East Lyme Town Clerk**