

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 7, 2021
MINUTES

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

EXCUSED: Marc Salerno

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson, Public Works Director Joe Bragaw, BOE Facilities Manager Chris Lund and Parks & Recreation Director Dave Putnam

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Items

Mr. Seery requested that agenda item #2f be heard first under new business; all board members concurred.

MOTION (1)

Ms. Hardy MOVED to add agenda item #3b to further discuss possible uses of the American Rescue Plan funds.

Seconded by Mr. Seery. Motion passed 5-0.

1c. Delegations

There were none.

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2021, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2021, as submitted.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of July 7, 2021, in the amount of \$665.81.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

2a. Special Appropriation --Acquisition Program - \$1,241,500

MOTION (5)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that this is an annual appropriation which includes Town, Board of Education and Water Utility Operations needs and is supported by the approved budget. Mr. Dagle inquired when the revenue from police road jobs will completely cover the purchase cost of future police vehicles, and Mr. Nickerson stated that the town should be at that point within a few years. Ms. Johnson stated that the revenue produced by these road jobs go into CNRE into a special account for the purchase of future vehicles, and that the funds do not go into the General Fund.

FILED

July 15 2021 AT 3:15 AM/PM
Christina Putnam
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

July 7, 2021

1 of 5

Mr. Seery RESOLVED That the resolution entitled “A Resolution of the Town of East Lyme, Connecticut Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement and Schedules Thereto for the Acquisition, Purchase, Financing and Leasing of Certain Equipment”, a copy of which is attached hereto, is hereby adopted and recommended for approval by the Board of Finance and the legal voters of the Town at Town Meeting. We waive reading the resolution in its entirety as it has been on file with the Town Clerk.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

2b. Special Appropriation – CNRE BOE Pool Roof Funds - \$20,000

MOTION (6)

DISCUSSION: Chris Lund, BOE Facilities Manager stated that they are ready to initiate the study for this project, and the actual amount approved by the Board of Education is \$17,010 for the cost of this study. The Board of Selectmen discussed that it would be better to approve the full \$20,000 in case of unforeseen expenses, this way they would only need to get approval from the Board of Education for the remaining \$2,990 should they need it.

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a special appropriation of up to \$20,000 from CNRE account 32-99-094-900-001 (ELHS Pool Roof Reserve) for a roof damage investigation at the East Lyme Schools Aquatic Center. Original Board of Education authorization amount is \$17,010 – additional Board of Education approval would be needed prior to spending the remaining \$2,990. A Town Meeting is required.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

2c. Transfer – FEMA Funds to CNRE - \$175,446

MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a transfer in the amount of \$175,446 to CNRE fund 32 account 32-70-300-500-999 (Town-wide Projects). The source of funds is: general fund account 01-01-120-200-500 (Contingency) the remaining balance of FEMA funds. Note: A Town Meeting is Required.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

2d. Carryover – Retirement Reserve - \$180,449

MOTION (8)

DISCUSSION: Ms. Johnson stated that this is the carryover fund that the Town has been maintaining to stay on top of all the current and anticipated employee retirements.

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the carry-over of the remaining balance of \$180,449 in account 01-01-114-100-128 (Retirement Liability) from the 2020/21 budget to the 2021/22 fiscal year and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

2e. Carryover – Contingency - \$61,803

MOTION (9)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that these funds can be carried over into the new fiscal year as there will need to be some extra spending in the Building Department as they are getting very behind with the overload of work. He also noted that emergency management will be moving into the new public safety facility and there may be unforeseen expenses as part of the move itself.

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the carry-over of the remaining balance of \$61,803 in account 01-01-120-200-500 (Contingency) from the 2020/21 budget to the 2021/22 fiscal year and forward to the Board of Finance for their approval.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

2f. Appointment – Police Commission

MOTION (10)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Regina Hitchery, 27 Saunders Drive, Niantic, to serve as a Member on the Board of Police Commissioners for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 3, 2022.

Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Motion passed 5-0.

2f. Appointment – Inland Wetlands Agency

MOTION (11)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Gregory McIntire, 3 Barrett Drive, Niantic, to serve as an Alternate on the Inland Wetlands Agency for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 3, 2022.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

2f. Appointment – Parks & Recreation Commission

MOTION (12)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Robert Tukey, 111 Sleepy Hollow Road, Niantic to serve as a Member on the Parks & Recreation Commission for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 3, 2022.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

2f. Appointment – Parks & Recreation Commission

MOTION (13)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Kathleen Kovalanka, 8 Morton Street, Niantic, to serve as a Member on the Parks & Recreation Commission for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 8, 2024.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

3a. Discussion and possible action – American Rescue Plan

MOTION (14)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that this Board has already discussed and appropriated funds from the American Rescue Plan, but that the federal government published guidelines since then and some of the appropriations we made are not covered expenses under this Plan. The following list is compiled of already discussed and approved items that are eligible under this plan so we can move on them. Mr. Nickerson stated that the upgrades to the Town Hall WIFI system and virtual meeting package are necessary as the town does not currently have the option of hybrid meetings and we will need to have those capabilities moving forward. Mr. Putnam spoke in favor of using \$20,000 towards hiring a Clinical Therapist/Counselor and \$55,000 for a Wellness/Prevention/Mentoring Coordinator for East Lyme Youth Services. He noted that there is a present and urgent need for increased counseling services to be offered to our youth (school age) and young adults (ages 18-25) and it should be offered outside of school hours. These requested funds will cover the cost of one year for an independent contractor to be brought in to offer these services, then we can decide if this is a position that should be made permanent; the Clinical Therapist/Counselor would be an on-call position. Mr. Nickerson reported that the \$10,000 for the Shoreline Kitchen and Food Pantry is our portion; he noted that after the last meeting we suggested that they ask each town that participates to chip in for the refrigerated truck, and that idea took hold so \$10,000 is East Lyme's portion of the \$110,000 total cost for the truck.

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$280,557 for the following items with the source of funds being America Rescue Funds:

- \$5,129 - WIFI improvements at EL Town Hall
- \$14,428 – Virtual Meeting Package at EL Town Hall
- \$132,000 – Microwave Dishes for Emergency Public Safety Management
- \$44,000 – Security Cameras at various town locations for Public Safety
- \$55,000 – Wellness/Prevention/Mentoring Coordinator for EL Youth Services
- \$20,000 – Clinical Therapist/Counselor for EL Youth Services
- \$10,000 – Shoreline Kitchen and Food Pantry – Regional Refrigerated Truck

Note: Town Meeting is required.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

3b. Ms. Hardy stated that she looks forward to receiving further clarification on how this money can be spent as it is communicated from the State. She inquired if items such as touchless faucets and auto flush toilets can be purchased with these funds, and Mr. Nickerson stated that he thinks that those items would be considered preventative measures so they should be covered, but after further review they found that HVAC equipment does not qualify under this program. Ms. Hardy stated that she would also like to move forward with any updates to the water and sewer infrastructure that qualify, and Mr. Nickerson stated that they are looking into these items and will report back. Mr. Seery suggested that we consider creating an application.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Seery reported that the Fire Safety Subcommittee met with both Chiefs and are reviewing charters and bylaws. He reported that the two fire departments are communicating well and starting to work jointly on more things, and he noted that noted from the recent fires is the outstanding communication between fire departments and personnel. Mr. Cunningham stated that devising this subcommittee has really been a great benefit and offers a much better understanding of how both department's work. Mr. Seery reported that the Flanders FD is in receipt of their new fire truck.

Mr. Dagle reported that the Harbor Management Shellfish Commission continues to work on the boundary issues in the river; the attorneys are now reviewing it. Mr. Dagle reported that the Public Safety Building Committee met and are working on the fire detection and alarm panels. He stated that the funding is in good shape, they are working on completing the remaining change orders, and he hopes to have a completion date to report by the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Mr. Cunningham reported that at the Historic Properties Commission, Benn Bullock was appointed as their new Chairperson; thank you to Barbara Johnson Low for your hard work on this Commission over the past few years. He stated that they are waiting for the grant process to work on the roof at the Samuel Smith property. Saturday, July 17th is the annual Farm Day with lots of activities scheduled. Mr. Cunningham reported that he and Mr. Seery have been meeting with members of the SCORE group on a resolution that they have requested that the Town adopt; he will report back further at the next meeting.

4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that the Town's Engineer of 11 years, Victor Benni, has left the Town and he will advise when a new Engineer is hired. He reported that Brad Kargl, the Town's Municipal Utilities Engineer has retired; Ben North, who has been on staff for a while to train, has taken over and is now the

Town's new Municipal Utility Engineer. As reported by Mr. Seery, the Flanders Fire Department is in receipt of their new pumper fire truck. He reported that the Lions Club held their annual crafts show this past weekend and it was a success; all the money that they collect from this event filters right back into the community through the Lions Club and their support to the community. Mr. Nickerson reported that the beaches have been packed, noting that we have sold more beach passes this year than ever, and he reminds everyone to be kind to each other. He attended a ribbon cutting at William Pitt Sotheby's on Main Street, the Farmer's Market has started is held every Thursday afternoon on Methodist Street, and a new restaurant has opened on Hope Street, La Llorona. Mr. Seery stated that the Niantic Cinemas are open and showing movies again. On Saturday, July 17th at 7:30 PM there will be a memorial service hosted by the Brian Dagle Foundation and will be held on Liberty Green on Main Street, with luminaries being lit at 8:30 PM.

5. Communications – Letter from Mr. Jeffrey Rheame.

6. Public Comment

There was none.

7. Selectman's Response

There was none.

8. Executive Session

MOTION (15)

Mr. Seery MOVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board of Selectmen entered into executive session at 8:43 p.m.

MOTION (16)

Mr. Seery MOVED to exit executive session at 9:02 p.m. and stated that no formal votes were taken.

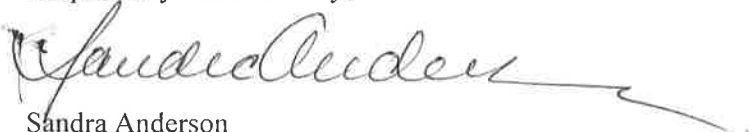
Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION (17)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the July 7, 2021, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:02 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary