

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 4, 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, General Foreman Justin Porter, Tax Collector John McCulloch and Planning Director Gary Goeschel

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was done at the Town Meeting.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Items

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to add agenda item #2d for a Special Appropriation – Public Works CNRE - \$7,029. Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

1c. Delegations

Mr. John McCulloch, Tax Collector for the Town of East Lyme, stated that this year they have contracted with TaxServ, LLC to assist the town in collecting unpaid taxes and will go back to the year 2006 through the present. He stated that these are legitimate tax bills that are owed the Town, and that the tax office no longer actively pursues these specifically due to the inability to locate the delinquencies or a lack of response from the taxpayer despite repeated attempts to contact them to collect. Mr. McCulloch stated that he will work with TaxServ soon to expand this effort to include taxes owed prior to 2006.

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2021, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION (3)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dagle stated he would like to correct a couple of things under agenda item #3, his comments. Nine lines down the sentence starts with “. . . the Fire Marshal” and should read, “. . . versus a standard oven exhaust hood for a home . . .”. The second correction is in the next sentence beginning “Mr. Dagle reported . . .” and should read, “Mr. Dagle reported that all but one Vision Committee member supported . . .”. The next correction is a couple of sentences down and should read, “Mr. Dagle stated that the equipment room for all the IT equipment is in an area that has leaked, so no further IT work . . .”. The final correction is in the first sentence of the next paragraph and should read, “Mr. Salerno stated that the is confident in the recommendation of the Building Committee . . .”.

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2021, as amended.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. IN FAVOR; Nickerson, Hardy, Dagle and Cunningham. ABSTAINED; Seery. Motion passed 4-0-1.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 29, 2021, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Dagle. IN FAVOR; Seery, Hardy, Dagle and Cunningham. ABSTAINED; Nickerson. Motion passed 4-0-1.

FILED

Aug 16, 20 21 AT 9:45 AM/PM
Brooke J. Brown ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

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1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (5)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of August 4, 2021, in the amount of \$1,016.81.

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

2a. Special Appropriation – NSEF Grant - \$48,846

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein made note of Julie Wilson's hard work on this grant and explained that these funds were awarded to the Town of East Lyme by the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) on July 20, 2021, allocation #2022-38. The items proposed are necessary to maximize efficiency of traffic management, resident notifications, and critical operations during disasters when the EOC has been activated and includes the dispatch replicator so that dispatch can operate remotely in the event of an emergency. Ms. Hardy asked if the signs could be used for showing a driver's speed, and Chief Finkelstein stated that these signs are for informational messages only and are not a speed management tool.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$48,846.00 from the Nuclear Safety Emergency Program (NSEP) to account number 01-70-725-224-006 (NSEP Equipment), to cover the cost of purchasing the equipment noted on the July 29, 2021 request for the new EOC and forward to the Board of Finance and the legal voters of the Town at a Town Meeting for approval.

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

2b. Appointment – William Willetts to Check Indices

DISCUSSION: A very heartfelt thank you to Bill Willetts who continues to provide this service to the Town year after year without raising his fee.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Seery MOVED to appoint Attorney William Willetts, Jr. to examine the indices of the land records for calendar year 2021 in accordance with CGS Section 7-14 for the sum of \$2,000

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

2c. Authorize First Selectman – Grant Application – Affordable Housing Plan

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gary Goeschel stated that this authorization is for the First Selectman to sign the application to apply for the grant and is not an indication that the grant is going to be awarded. If awarded he stated that they would build upon the Town's existing affordable housing plan, not start from scratch. He stated that Town Attorney Zamarka will be attending the next Planning Commission meeting to review this matter.

MOTION (8)

Mr. Seery moved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that we the Board of Selectmen, constituting the legislative body of the Town of East Lyme, hereby authorizes the First Selectman to sign and deliver a certain funding application – Affordable Housing Plan Technical Assistance Planning Grant – for the preparation, updating, and adoption of the East Lyme Affordable Housing Plan to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) of the State of Connecticut.

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

2d. Special Appropriation – Public Works CNRE

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bragaw stated that when they went out to bid for these vehicles the cost estimate was approximately eight percent lower than what it ended up costing; he noted that he had budgeted for only

about a four percent increase, so the vehicles came in at about four percent higher than he had budgeted. He is requesting that the \$7,029 come from the Capital Non-recurring account, which currently has about a \$58,000 balance. Ms. Hardy asked what the ages of the vehicles being replaced are, and Mr. Bragaw stated that they are about fourteen years old and will be traded in. Ms. Hardy stated that she would like to see the money returned to the CNRE fund should the trade in value be higher than estimated.

MOTION (9)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$7,029 from CNRE Fund 32 account 32-30-400-700-999 (PWD Reserve) for the purpose of covering the cost of pricing increases from the original estimates of the Public Works Department 2021/2022 CIP Vehicles and forward to the Board of Finance for approval.

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

3a. Continued Discussion and possible action – American Rescue Plan

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that he recommends waiting until after the election to create a sub-committee, but also understands that there might be items that may need to be addressed before November. Ms. Hardy stated that she would like to continue working on this and does not think the Board should wait. It was decided that this matter would be discussed further at a meeting in September.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Dagle reported that the Harbor Management Shellfish Commission is still working on the lease for shell fishing activities, and he noted that the Board of Selectmen will see this matter on their agenda for approval once the lease is finalized. Mr. Dagle reported that the Harbor Master had to retrieve an abandoned boat from the bay and that they had it towed to Marker 7 Marina where it is accruing fees for storage. He stated that an estimate of \$19,000 was given which includes disposal of the vessel as well. Mr. Dagle suggested that a procedure should be put in place in case something like this happens again and inquired if there is some type of insurance that might cover this type of expense in the future. Mr. Nickerson stated that he had just found out about this and will work with the Harbor Master and the Town Attorney to figure out who is responsible for disposal of the vessel.

Mr. Cunningham reported that they are making plans at Brookside Farm Museum to do some painting and are currently in the processing of testing for existing lead paint. The grant for the roof on the Samuel Smith house has been approved, but also noted that the estimate for the work has more than doubled since it was originally proposed. He reported that WELSCO discussed that the finger docks, which house the Marine Patrol boat, the pump out boat and the Harbor Master's boat, need to be repaired and/or replaced. He stated that Waterford is suggesting that the finger docks be removed and not fixed or replaced, and subsequently leave it as one long, single dock; but that was not agreed upon by everyone. He suggested that the two towns discuss this matter further to come to a mutually agreed upon solution, but that East Lyme will encourage the repair or replacement of the finger docks.

4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that it is summertime in East Lyme, and that the beaches and downtown are busy. Both theatre groups in town are running shows, and he noted that this is the final performance of the season for the Under the Shell group. He stated that it is not too late to purchase a raffle ticket for the car to be raffled off for the benefit of the Miracle League and the Children's Museum of SECT.

5. Communications - Thank you letter from the Board of Selectmen's Government Studies Award recipient, Jacob Tukey.

6. Public Comment

There was none.

7. Selectman's Response

There was none.

8. Executive Session

MOTION (10)

Mr. Seery MOVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, to include Public Works Director Joe Bragaw.

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

The Board of Selectmen entered into executive session at 8:53 p.m.

MOTION (11)

Mr. Seery MOVED to exit executive session at 9:17 p.m. and stated that no formal votes were taken.

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

MOTION (12)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the August 4, 2021, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:18 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary