

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2021
MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. and called for a moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was done at the Town Meeting.

FILED

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Items

There were none.

1c. Delegations

There were none.

Sept 14, 2021 AT 1:01 AM/PM
Brooke Foreman ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1d. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2021, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Dagle. IN FAVOR; Nickerson, Seery, Hardy, Dagle and Cunningham. ABSTAINED; Salerno. Motion passed 5-0-1.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Hardy. IN FAVOR; Nickerson, Seery, Hardy, Dagle and Cunningham. ABSTAINED; Salerno. Motion passed 5-0-1.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2021, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. IN FAVOR; Nickerson, Seery, Hardy, and Cunningham. ABSTAINED; Salerno and Dagle. Motion passed 4-0-2.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (4)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for the meeting of September 1, 2021, in the amount of \$37,939.10. Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

2a. Special Appropriation – American Rescue Plan Funds

MOTION (5)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nickerson stated that this is the next group of items to consider for use of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, totaling \$212,417. He explained that Ledge Light Health District has supported East Lyme and the other towns in our district and are receiving no Covid funds directly from the government. He stated that this is a voluntary donation and that each of the other towns are contributing their share of one percent of the total ARP and will go through the same or similar process.

Mr. John Holtz spoke as a representative of the Giving Garden and stated that since they began a few months ago they have been able to provide over three thousand meals to local shelters and food banks, and that they are ready to continue their vision of integrating these farming and giving skills into the school system. Ms. Hardy inquired if they had a plan with school administrators, and Mr. Holtz stated that they have not gotten to that point yet and will meet with district leaders when they are more prepared. Ms. Hardy recommended postponing this vote until the partnership with the schools can be further investigated. The other board members supported moving forward with approving a couple of the items tonight, and Mr. Dagle inquired if the board should specify what the funds can be spent on. Mr. Nickerson stated that for this round of discussion, they are approving \$25,000 for the equipment shed and the high tunnel so that they can store equipment properly and then get a jump start on growing next season; if these items end up being less than the money allotted, they will move that leftover money to the next project on the list.

Mr. Nickerson stated that the SECT Council of Governments (COG) is requesting a percentage of the ARP received by each of the towns it represents, and the membership voted unanimously to support this request; the COG has worked very hard for its constituents during this pandemic. He stated that he expects that this request will be an annual one while the ARP funds are available.

Mr. Nickerson stated Save the Rivers Save the Hills has put a request in for \$12,500 towards a new pump out boat for the river, which is East Lyme's portion after the grant is received and Waterford pays their half. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have seen increased activity in the river, making the replacement of the existing boat a matter of public health for the river and our two communities.

Mr. Nickerson stated that there is a request from the Historical Society for \$5,000, but that he is going to withdraw that request and go back to this group to work on this request. The Board will hear back from this group at a later meeting. There is also a request from the Samuel Smith House so they will work on these items and bring them back for a more detailed discussion at a future meeting; Mr. Salerno requested that their requests include specific information on what the funds will be used for.

Ms. Karen Galbo, Town Clerk, stated that her request is for the transfer of paper land records to digital files; currently the files are digitized to 1959, but the requested funds will get another big chunk of documents digitized with the goal being to get everything digitized back to the beginning in 1839. Mr. Seery noted that the Town should work on getting all Town documents digitized from all departments, specifically noted were planning and zoning records. Ms. Galbo stated that for the Town Clerk's land records, she would need to request a quote for the full project. The Board considered tabling this matter until a full quote has been received, but it was decided to move forward with tonight's request to get the project moving. Mr. Cunningham stated that this is a very important project to move forward as access to land records is important to the economy and should be accessible without having to physically look through papers, which was challenging during the height of the pandemic.

Mr. Nickerson stated that Care and Share has requested funds to upgrade their existing space, which is town-owned space on Roxbury Road, the former Public Works building. The building is still being used by the Town for storage of equipment and supplies, but the main functions of the Public Works department are now housed in the new field services building on Capitol Drive. Although not suited for public works, the space on Roxbury is very suited for what Care and Share are using it for, and they are requesting that the town assist them in upgrading the space. It was noted that this is a town building and Care, and Share is a tenant, so the town can make upgrades to the space and oversee the project, or the town can permit Care and Share to manage the work. Ms. Hardy stated that since we did not feel that the space was adequate for Public Works then they should make sure that the space is worth putting money into for Care and Share. It was agreed that this item will be removed from tonight's vote to evaluate the space and work requested. A tour of the facility will be arranged and representatives from Care and Share will be invited to the next meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Nickerson stated that Mr. Seery has been working closely with our Veterans groups in town and has identified some items that would qualify under the American Rescue Plan. During the pandemic the

American Legion stayed closed, kept the bar closed, and were unable to host any fundraisers. Aside from the pandemic, this facility needs a new steam boiler, as well as necessary upgrades in the bar and the kitchen. Not only does this facility accommodate both veterans and active-duty military members, but they also support the community and school system. All board members agreed that supporting both the American Legion and the VFW are an appropriate use of the ARP funds. Mr. Patrick Hughes spoke on behalf of the VFW and stated that during the pandemic they decimated their relief fund, so they are asking for some financial assistance to get back up and running again and able to resume fundraising. He reported that the Veterans Coffeehouse events will resume and will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm at the VFW on Columbus Avenue. Ms. Hardy noted that this VFW has been awarded national recognition, and it was noted that this post is one of the top ten in Connecticut, and was also voted All American, of which there are only two other posts in Connecticut that hold this distinction.

Mr. Nickerson stated that the New London Homeless Shelter is a group that the Town supports yearly as part of our budget, and that this year they have asked for an additional \$2,000 from the ARP funds.

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$133,553 for the following items with the source of funds being America Rescue Funds:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| \$ 54,638 | Ledge Light Health District |
| \$ 25,000 | East Lyme Giving Garden |
| \$ 8,965 | SECT Council of Governments |
| \$ 12,500 | Save the River/Save the Hills (pump out boat) |
| \$ 7,500 | East Lyme Town Clerk |
| \$ 13,950 | American Legion |
| \$ 9,000 | V.F.W. |
| \$ 2,000 | NL Homeless Hospitality Center |

And forward to the Board of Finance for approval. Note: Town Meeting is required.
Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion passed 6-0.

2b. Executive Session

MOTION (6)

Mr. Dagle MOVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, to include Finance Director Anna Johnson.

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

The Board of Selectmen entered into executive session at 8:42 p.m.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Dagle MOVED to exit executive session at 9:23 p.m. and stated that no formal action was taken.

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

2c. Special Appropriation - HR

MOTION (8)

Mr. Seery MOVED to approve a special appropriation and transfer in the amount of \$7,505 from account number 01-01-120-200-500 (Contingency) to account number 01-01-106-100-211 (HR Manager) and forward to the Board of Finance for approval.

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

3a. Ex-Officio Reports

Mr. Dagle reported that the Town Building Committee met and that the roof replacement on the public safety facility is still delayed due to the inability to get materials. The Harbor Management Shellfish Commission met and discussed the ongoing issue of the lease renewal for shell fishing activities in the river. Mr. Dagle reported that the first selectman is working with the town attorney to find resolution to the matter of the abandoned boat that is being stored at Marker 7 Marina.

Mr. Salerno reported that the Planning Commission met and worked on the POCD to determine any items that would fall under the American Rescue Plan funds; they will bring their request to a future meeting for discussion.

3b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Nickerson stated that everything that required discussion has already been addressed at the meeting tonight.

4. Communications

There was none.

5. Public Comment

There was none.

6. Selectman's Response

There was none.

MOTION (9)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the September 1, 2021, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:36 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary