

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2022  
MINUTES

PRESENT: Kevin Seery, Rose Ann Hardy, Dan Cunningham, Bill Weber, Ann Cicchiello and Anne Santoro

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson

Mr. Seery called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. and Mr. Seery stated that the Pledge of Allegiance was done at the previous meeting.

Prior to the public hearing this evening, Mr. Seery introduced the High School boys basketball team as well as the cheerleaders, who have each won their respective ECC title this year. Congratulations to all the kids that worked so hard; the Town is immensely proud.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Items

There were none.

1c. Delegations

There were none.

1d. Approval of Minutes

FILED

March 8 2022 AT 8:30 AM/PM  
Caeren Yulkin  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**MOTION (1)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve the Special Budget Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2022, as submitted.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

**MOTION (2)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve the Special Budget Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2022, as submitted.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

1e. Consent Calendar

**MOTION (3)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve the consent calendar for the regular meeting of March 2, 2022, in the amount of \$441.53.

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

2a. Waterford Police Department Lockup

DISCUSSION: Mr. Seery noted that this will be the last payment to Waterford for use of their facilities as our Police, Dispatch, Fire Marshal and Emergency Operations have moved into our new facility.

**MOTION (4)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve a special appropriation and transfer in the amount of \$27,534 from account # 01-01-120-200-500 (Contingency) to account # 01-25-216-200-201 (Facility Rental) and forward to the Board of Finance for approval.

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

2b. Niantic FD Overtime

**MOTION (5)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve a special appropriation and transfer in the amount of \$38,000 from account # 01-01-120-200-500 (Contingency) to account # 01-25-217-100-614 (Overtime – Niantic Fire Department) and forward to the Board of Finance for approval.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

2c. Lions Club Annual Art Show

DISCUSSION: Ms. Santoro noted that for future leases we should include more detail, such as insurance limits.

**MOTION (6)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve and to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a lease agreement with the Niantic Lions Club for the purposes of selling food in connection with the art show on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022; the Town grants to the LIONS, for the period of 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> through 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the right to use the land at the Town Hall on Pennsylvania Avenue, which is to be set aside for that purpose by the Town.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

2d. Appointment

**MOTION (7)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to appoint Michael Strube, 13 Bayview Avenue, Niantic, as an alternate member on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 8, 2024.

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

3a. Pension Ordinance

DISCUSSION: Mr. Seery reported that the public hearing was held on this ordinance earlier in the night with no discussion. He noted that they will be looking for a member of the union to join the Board per this ordinance. He stated that the legal ad notifying the public that this ordinance has passed will be published in *The Day* on March 4<sup>th</sup>, and that the ordinance will go into effect on March 14, 2022.

**MOTION (8)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to adopt an ordinance entitled "Ordinance Establishing A Pension Board" in the form presented at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen on February 2,

2022. The effective date of the ordinance will be ten (10) days after publication of the notice of its adoption.

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

### 3b. Budget Discussion / Deliberations

#### 217 Niantic Fire Department

Mr. Seery stated that they are asking for one additional full-time fire fighter to bring the total full-time staff to six. Chief Barone that they really need two additional full-time fire fighters, but they will immensely benefit from the one additional person at this time. A brief discussion took place regarding recruiting efforts, and it was discussed that a line item should be put in for advertising in future budgets.

#### 218 Flanders Fire Department

It was noted that the increase in this budget is for contractual salary increases only. Mr. Weber stated that he would like to suggest adding a budget line for recruitment advertising in future budgets. Chief Barone noted that cooperation between the two fire departments has improved and that they support each other.

#### 224 Fire Marshal

Mr. Seery stated that because of the increase in inspections, the part-time fire marshals line item has increased to accommodate the anticipated workload in the coming year. The telephones line item needs to be reduced by \$2,110 as this number was doubled by accident in the budget book.

### **MOTION (9)**

Mr. Weber MOVED that in the Fire Marshal budget, decrease line item 224-300-201 to \$2,110.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

#### 226 Animal Control Officer

Mr. Seery stated that they have just received a request from the ACO to increase the part-time ACO to full-time. Mr. Seery stated that he will take this matter up with the Waterford First Selectman as this falls in with the agreement that we have with them for shared services; he will report back at a future meeting.

#### 317 Public Works / Highway & Sanitation

Mr. Seery explained that the tree warden line item has been moved into the Director/Deputy Director line item as these two gentlemen are the tree wardens and this function is a part of their job description. He noted that the Deputy Director's salary now appears in this budget as he moved from a union position into a salaried position. There will be some savings in next year's budget as a long-time employee will be retiring and his replacement will be making a starting salary, and the Town will see the savings from the streetlights project.

418 Commission on Aging

The major increase in this budget comes in the Bus Driver line item due to the increase in members requiring transportation.

419 Health & Welfare

No discussion on this budget.

420 Library

**MOTION (10)**

Mr. Cunningham MOVED that in the Library budget, decrease line item 420-150-295 to \$1,151,695.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

421/422 Parks & Recreation

Mr. Seery explained that there is a reduction in the salary line item as the current director will be retiring later this year. He noted that by Charter, the Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for hiring the Director, and the Town sets the salary.

522 Deb Service Interest

No discussion on this budget.

523 Debt Service Principal

No discussion on this budget.

724 Capital Outlays/Capital Equipment

No discussion on this budget.

**MOTION (11)**

Mr. Weber MOVED that in the Information Technology budget, decrease line item 109-100-211 to \$67,916.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

**MOTION (12)**

Mr. Weber MOVED that in the Contingency budget for payroll, decrease line item 120-100-500 to \$373,162.

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

Mr. Weber stated that he would like to discuss the First Selectman's salary; Mr. Seery turned the meeting over to Deputy First Selectwoman Anne Santoro and left the meeting. Mr. Weber stated that he did some research on comparable towns' salary for their First Selectman or comparable position, and the range is very wide. He explained that each town is different in what responsibilities this position includes, so it is difficult to compare. Mr. Weber suggested that going forward that the First

Selectman receive the same salary increase as the department heads. Ms. Hardy stated that if the former First Selectman had not reduced his own salary, this position would be up to \$132,000 at this point. It was agreed that a large jump would not be prudent, and that they would gradually increase the salary until it is in the range that is acceptable. It was decided to raise that salary in the amount of \$3,000 this year.

**MOTION (13)**

Ms. Hardy MOVED that in the First Selectman budget, increase line item 101-100-111 to \$105,250.

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

At this time, the Board took a short recess; they returned at 8:47 p.m. and resumed the meeting.

**MOTION (14)**

Mr. Cunningham MOVED that in the Dispatch budget, increase the line item 215-100-212 to 497,661.

Seconded by Ms. Santoro. IN FAVOR; Seery, Santoro, Hardy, Cunningham and Weber. OPPOSED; Cicchiello. Motion passed 5-1.

Mr. Weber MOVED that in the Police Department budget, decrease the line item 216-100-514 Overtime by \$28,007 to \$302,332.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. IN FAVOR; Seery, Weber and Cicchiello. OPPOSED; Santoro, Cunningham and Hardy. Motion failed.

**MOTION (15)**

Ms. Weber MOVED that in the Niantic Fire Department budget, decrease line item 217-100-614 to \$140,000.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

**MOTION (16)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve the proposed 2022/2023 Town Budget in the amount of \$81,344,754 for a net increase of 4.30% consisting of the following, and to forward to the Board of Finance for approval:

General Government	\$20,361,324
Debt Service	\$ 5,674,292
Capital	\$ 700,660
Board of Education	\$54,608,478

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

3d. Ms. Santoro reported that the ARP Subcommittee has received thirty applications from small businesses and non-profit organizations, eight of which have been asked to provide more information. She stated that they will finish with those at

tomorrow's meeting and also work on the department head requests. They expect to present to the Board of Selectman on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

There were no reports this evening.

4b. First Selectman's Report

5. Communications

There was none.

6. Public Comment

There was none.

7. Selectman's Response

There was none.

8. Adjourn

**MOTION (17)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to adjourn the March 2, 2022, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 9:48 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson  
Recording Secretary