

TOWN OF EAST LYME
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 9, 2022

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

Karen Miller Galbo, East Lyme Town Clerk read the Call of the Meeting.

Mr. Cushman reviewed the ground rules for the Annual Town Meeting and appointed the Registrars of Voters as tellers and checkers.

- 1. To review and discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 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, 2022 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.

Denise Hall, Chair of the Board of Finance stated they had a Public Hearing a few weeks ago where they presented their budget in detail. She then reviewed highlights of the proposed budget. They have maintained the undesignated fund balance at 15%. She described the undesignated fund as the Town's savings account. They are hoping the rating agencies will upgrade the Town's rating. They have forecasted 98.2% tax collection. The budget is a 3.39% increase with an estimated mill rate of 23.84 pending the referendum.

Kevin Seery, First Selectman reviewed new or increased positions in this proposed budget. They will have two dispatchers for fire and police at all times. They have added an IT Director. They added 1.5 positions for the police, one will start in July and one will start in January. The Human Resources Assistant position is in this budget. There is a part time building official in the budget to speed up the permit process. There are additional hours being added into the Finance Department. The Tax Collector's Office has also had 7.5 hours added into a position, that will also give other offices help.

Mr. Seery reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan.

Recorded May 10 2022
AM
2:35 PM Karen Miller Galbo
East Lyme Town Clerk

Jeffrey Newton, Superintendent of Schools reviewed the mission statement for the Board of Education, to address student behavioral and emotional issues, address ongoing achievement gaps, address needed student support services, ensure adult to student ratios remain appropriate in every classroom. Their budget shows a proposed increase of 3.64%.

2. To adopt a Five-Year Capital Plan.

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

Seconded by Jaime Barr-Shelburn.

Mike Schulz of Lovers Lane thanked the Boards for their work in developing this budget. This budget has been discussed for a few months now, everyone has had their chance to voice their opinions, this meeting seems redundant. He knows it is required by Charter, but he feels this meeting should go beyond the budget. He also would like to know why we need social workers and psychologists at the schools. Where do parents come into this? School is about education. He would like to hear from the First Selectman regarding issues he is dealing with and he would like to hear from the public about issues they are facing.

John DeSantis of Corey Lane asked if the \$850,000 for roads was going to be used on Roxbury Road, there are safety issues there.

Maryrose Conklyn of 97 West Main Street asked if they would use the undesignated fund money to offset a tax increase next year as well.

Denise Hall said there was a large amount of conveyance tax collected this year, and back taxes paid and the Board of Finance decided to use that money to offset a greater tax increase.

Motion (1) Passed.

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

Mr. Cushman adjourned the Annual Town Meeting to the Budget Referendum on May 19, 2022 at the East Lyme Community from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Karen Miller Galbo
East Lyme Town Clerk**