

**EAST LYME WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 28th, 2022
MINUTES**

The East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 28th, 2022. Chairman Seery called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Kevin Seery, Chairman, Dave Bond, Steve DiGiovanna, Joe Mingo, Dave Murphy, Carol Russell, Roger Spencer, Dave Zoller

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Edward O'Connell, Town Counsel
Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director
Ben North, Municipal Utility Engineer
Matt Garneau, Assistant Utility Engineer
Anna Johnson, Finance Director
Anne Santoro, Deputy First Selectman

ABSENT: Dave Jacques

FILED

July 5, 2022 AT 10:07 AM PM
Brianna H...
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Seery called the Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge.

Mr. Seery asked for a motion to move Item 15 – Executive Session – Bi-Town Agreement Update to after Item 3 – Delegations and to move the other items down accordingly.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to move Item 15 – Executive Session – Bi-Town Agreement Update to after Item 3 – Delegations and to move the other items down accordingly.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2. Approval of Minutes

▪ **Public Hearing Minutes – May 24, 2022**

Mr. Seery called for a motion or any discussion on the Public Hearing Minutes of May 24, 2022.

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of May 24, 2022 as presented.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 2. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Bond, Mr. Spencer

▪ **Regular Meeting Minutes – May 24, 2022**

Mr. Seery called for a motion or any discussion on the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2022.

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2022 as presented.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 2. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Bond, Mr. Spencer

3. Delegations

Mr. Seery called for delegations.
There were none.

4. Executive Session – Bi-Town Agreement Update

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to enter Executive Session at 7:05 PM for the purpose of the Bi-Town Agreement Update inviting Attorney O'Connell, Mr. Bragaw, Mr. North and Ms. Santoro to join them.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Mingo moved to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 7:30 PM with no action in Executive Session.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

5. Billing Adjustments/Disputes

There were none.

6. Approval of Bills

Mr. Seery called for a motion on the DOT Engineering Analysis bills.

****MOTION (6)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the following DOT Engineering Analysis bill: Weston & Sampson Inv. #5221030 in the amount of \$1,880.00.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (7)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the following DOT Engineering Analysis bill: Weston & Sampson Inv. #6221080 in the amount of \$10,880.00.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Mr. DiGiovanna asked what this was for.

Mr. North said that it was for the design work (State) and that it was also on the agenda.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

7. Finance Director Report

Ms. Johnson reviewed her report noting that the cash positions continue to be strong.

Ms. Russell asked Mr. Bragaw how things look in terms of absorbing the inflationary measures.

Mr. Bragaw said that both budgets are coming in under budget. He explained that during the first 10 months that they do what they have to and on the water side that was extremely challenging – especially with the new meters. On the water side they will have about \$130,000 left and after speaking with Ms. Johnson the suggestion was made to roll it into the operating budget for the next year.

Mr. Murphy asked if the prison is picking up.

Mr. Bragaw said that he really does not see it picking up however the Town offsets it.

Mr. Seery said that he recently spoke with the warden and that the population went up from 400 to 800 at the prison.

8. Spinnaker Sewer Maintenance Agreement FY 2023

(Mr. Zoller recused himself from this discussion and left the room)

Mr. North explained that they had used the CPI Index and the anticipated labor rates from the new contract to come up with the rates.

****MOTION (8)**

Mr. Murphy moved to authorize the Water & Sewer Commission Chairman to execute the Maintenance of Sewer Pump Station Agreement with Spinnaker Association Inc. for FY 2023.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

(Mr. Zoller rejoined the meeting)

9. Discussion and Possible Action on the Formation of a Water & Sewer Rate Analysis Subcommittee

Mr. Bragaw noted that our rates and those of the various other Towns differ greatly. He said that they are looking to have a few people meet on this.

Mr. Seery said that he would come up with a charge for this subcommittee

10. Discussion and Possible Action on DOT I-95, Exit 74 Project Hydraulic Model

Mr. North said that Weston & Sampson is working on this and on how to handle these issues. The sewer will basically stay where it is and go down the center of Rte. 161. They will also relocate the water main. Weston & Sampson will do the design and Tighe & Bond has the hydraulic model. The work is planned to go on at night – one night at a time as they need to understand how this impacts the entire system.

Mr. Mingo asked who is paying for this.

Mr. North said that the State will pay for it – we front it and will get it back from the State.

****MOTION (9)**

Mr. Murphy moved to approve a Special Appropriation in Water Operations Fund 7 in the amount of up to \$9,000.00 to an account to be established titled, “DOT Exit 74 Project Hydraulic Model” for a study of the hydraulics of the water distribution system and to better understand the effects of the temporary shutdown of the 16” water main as it pertains to the project.

Appropriation is to be effective July 1, 2022. The State of Connecticut (CTDOT) will reimburse Water Operations for this expenditure.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Mr. Mingo asked why we are putting a 24” main in.

Mr. North said that is a good question

Mr. Bond asked what liability we have when the State does that work in case something happens as it is a major commercial area and a lot of businesses could be impacted.

Mr. North said that he would discuss this with the Attorney and would have more information once the design work is done.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

11. Consumer Confidence Report

Mr. North explained that the high end of the range is always going to be the one reported as that is how the State requires the reporting to be done. He noted that the report is also available on-line.

Ms. Russell said that last year they had spoken about adding a column to show averages.

Mr. North said that the EPA is very specific with how the reporting had to be done and they want the highest number listed and not an average.

Ms. Russell said the report on source water was 2003 and asked if it needed to be updated.

Mr. North said that there was no specific time frame.

12. Project Updates

▪ Meter Replacement Project - Discussion

Mr. Garneau reported that in they changed out 218 meters for a 42% completion rate. He said that they will be sending out orange post cards to those that have not been done.

Mr. Mingo asked how long before it would be finished.

Mr. Garneau said that it is a year and a half for the whole project. They will start the second round in a few weeks.

▪ Update on Well 5 Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Garneau said that this is nearing completion. The generator will probably not get here until February. The well pump is to be delivered in a few weeks.

Mr. Mingo asked the volume.

Mr. North said 540 gpm – a huge asset.

13. Correspondence Log

There were no comments.

14. Chairman's Report

Mr. Seery reported that Amtrak will be experimenting with the fence on the West and see how that goes. Also, a new car wash is going in at the north side of Town at the site of the old one. The old one will be torn down and the new one will be environmentally sensitive. They are hoping to break ground in August and be operational by late fall.

Celebrate East Lyme is scheduled for Saturday July 16, 2022. This past Friday they had vintage cars and other events for the Elvis movie opening. It was a great success. This coming Saturday is the Lions Arts & Crafts Fair.

15. Staff Updates

a. Water Department Monthly Report

Mr. North said that they are in a good spot for right now. The flushing has been suspended for now.

b. Sewer Department Monthly Report

Mr. Mingo asked about any of the Biden dollars for Well 6.

Mr. North said that to do that work would be very expensive.

Mr. Seery said that they have signed a contract with a company who will research grants for us and they will only get \$115 per hour.

16. Future Agenda Items

There were none.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Seery called for a motion to adjourn.

****MOTION (10)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to adjourn this Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission at 8:10 PM.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary