

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

PRESENT: Kevin Seery, Ann Cicchiello, Dan Cunningham, Bill Weber and Anne Santoro  
EXCUSED: Rose Ann Hardy  
ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Director of Emergency Management Julie Wilson, Finance Director Kevin Gervais, Public Works Director Joe Bragaw, Town Engineer Alex Klose

Mr. Seery called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and Mr. Gervais led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Items  
There were none.

1c. Delegations  
Fredricka Guenther, 123 Pennsylvania Avenue, stated that she understood that the SCORE group might be in attendance to speak about racism, and she explained that she does not agree that racism is a public health concern. There was no one else in attendance to speak on this topic.

1d. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION (1)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve the Board of Selectmen Public Hearing Minutes of August 3, 2022, as submitted.  
Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. IN FAVOR; Seery, Cicchiello, Cunningham and Santoro.  
ABSTAINED; Weber. Motion passed 4-0-1.

**MOTION (2)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2022, as submitted.  
Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. IN FAVOR; Seery, Cicchiello, Cunningham and Santoro.  
ABSTAINED; Weber. Motion passed 4-0-1.

1e. Consent Calendar

**MOTION (3)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve the consent calendar for the regular meeting of September 7, 2022, in the amount of \$14,363.20.  
Seconded by Mr. Weber. Motion passed 5-0.

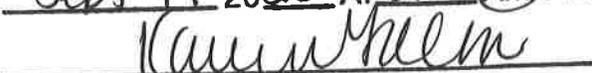
2a. Special Appropriation – NSEP Grant

DISCUSSION: Ms. Julie Wilson, Deputy Director of Emergency Management, stated that this is a grant that has been previously approved and now needs to be appropriated through the standard appropriation process.

**MOTION (4)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$25,948.80, to cover the cost of purchasing the listed equipment for the Emergency Operations Center, and forward to the Board of Finance for action. NOTE: This requires a Town Meeting.  
Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Motion passed 5-0.

FILED

Sept 14 2022 AT 8:20 AM/PM  
  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting of September 7, 2022  
1 of 4

Quantity	Item to be purchased	Details	Cost
<b>2023 NSEF Grant Award for EOC Equipment:</b>			<b>\$45,125.00</b>
1	<b>Trailer-Mounted Message sign (2 of 3)–</b>	The unit is essential for directional messaging at major evacuation route intersections. One additional unit will be requested in our 2024 NSEF Grant application.	\$16,625.00
1	<b>EOC Operations Computer Workstation</b>	This position is responsible for sharing vital event information to the EOC Command Staff during drills and real-world emergencies. The old unit has reached the end of its usable life.	\$2,481.00
30	<b>36" Reflective Rollup traffic directional signs &amp; stands</b>	The signs are essential for directing vehicles out of Town during an emergency evacuation.	\$5,842.80
50	<b>36" Traffic Cones w/ reflective collars &amp; E.L.E.M Identification markings</b>	Essential for traffic management during drive-thru distribution events as well as evacuation management.	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL of 1st Special Appropriation Request for 2023 Equipment:</b>			<b>\$25,948.80</b>
<b>Balance remaining of 2023 Grant Appropriation:</b>			<b>\$19,176.20</b>

2b. Proposed Emergency Access to Romagna Road via Stoneywood Drive

DISCUSSION: Alex Klose, Town Engineer, was present to speak on this matter. He stated that there is no action being taken on this matter tonight, and that tonight's presentation is to get the information out to the Board and the public for information purposes. Mr. Klose stated that this area is prone to flooding, and the Town would like to be proactive and create an alternate route in and out of this neighborhood to allow for safe egress in the event of future flooding. He reported that this matter was approved at the July 12, 2022, meeting of the Planning Commission, noting that an approved 8-24 is a statutory requirement. He stated that they are currently preparing the plans and conducting a survey of property, which is a Town of East Lyme owned right-of-way, in preparation for applying for any grants that may become available; he noted that he would re-visit the Federal Infrastructure Bill to see if any funds are available through that source.

2c. Route 161 DOT Corridor Study

DISCUSSION: Mr. Seery reported that the State DOT will be holding a public informational session at the East Lyme High School on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm to provide information on this project and to seek public input.

3a. Solid Waste Ordinance

DISCUSSION: Mr. Seery stated that the revisions that were discussed and agreed upon in the Indemnification section after the public input at the public hearing of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the

subsequent discussion by the Board of Selectmen, have been made and the ordinance is again before the Board for adoption. It was agreement that they would also add the following language to Section 51.06 as Section E:

"All new private roads and/or private developments failing to meet Town road standards as determined by the Town of East Lyme need to provide a private contractor to address their garbage and recycling needs."

#### **MOTION (5)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to adopt the amendment to the Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE REGULATING THE STORAGE, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE" presented at a public hearing before the Board of Selectmen on August 3, 2022, and as amended on September 7, 2022. The effective date of the ordinance shall be ten (10) days after publication of the notice of its adoption.

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

#### 3b. Charter Revision

DISCUSSION: Mr. Seery stated that no action will be taken tonight and that he would like to communicate some possible topics for said charter revision. Some of the items that have come up for review are; consider four year term for Board of Selectmen, consider changing the term of the First Selectman to four years, consider a Town Manager versus a First Selectman, eliminate the automatic referendum in the yearly budget process, consider changing the town meeting process and the amount that needs to go to town meeting for approval; currently purchase of \$10,000 or more requires town meeting and that should be increased. Consider setting up a separate grant account, change the policy on filling vacancies on boards and commissions, review the policy covering the absence of the First Selectman, and consider changing the policy on appointed positions. Ms. Santoro suggested that former First Selectmen be queried on their thoughts for possible changes. Mr. Seery stated that they will consider appointing from nine to eleven people to this Charter Revision Committee.

#### 4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Ms. Santoro reported on the following:

- Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission – the Harbor Master has resigned recently. The commission will hold a special meeting in the next week or so to address this. The process will be that the commission will forward three candidates to the Governor, and Governor Lamont will choose one candidate to be appointed as the Harbor Master.
- Zoning Commission - Approved one application for 138 Boston Post Road.
- Inland Wetlands Agency – Received an application for re-development of 190-202 Flanders Road for a proposed 4,200 sq. ft. convenience store; this is the site of the current Citgo station. A public hearing will be held in October.
- Inland Wetlands Agency - Discussion about the condition of Little Indian Pond in Crescent Beach; the Wetlands Officers will work with the residents on this issue.

#### 4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Seery reported on the following:

- Attended the ribbon cutting of the Giving Garden. He reported they are collaborating with the Board of Education to bring agricultural classes to the high school. Have provided over 8,000 pounds of food to our community since its inception.
- Our Police Department has gotten a lot of positive press in recent weeks; lots of community events and some crucial arrests that were in the news.
- The annual Niantic Children's Museum Gala will be held this Friday night at Rocky Neck Stat Park.

- The annual Miracle League's Oysterfest will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup> behind St. John's Church.
- Amtrak has not yet decided on what type of fencing they will be installing.
- Project at 185 Main Street is coming along, and Sift Bakery is expected to be opening soon.
- He has heard from several American Rescue Plan funding recipients that when they went to purchase the goods and/or services approved for this funding, the prices have increased due to inflation and now we are seeing that some things are not fully funded as planned.
- There have been some issues with a couple of Airbnb's and the Town has been unable to collaborate with the owners of said properties. Although we are a beach community and people have always been able to rent out their property in the summertime with no issue, this policy is now going to be reviewed and revamped as needed. We will be reviewing what our neighboring towns have put into place regarding short term rentals and Airbnb's and we will be addressing this policy going forward.
- Jerry Lokken has come on board as the Town's Park and Recreation Director. Welcome aboard Jerry and Happy Retirement to David Putnam.
- In the process of hiring an IT Director, which is a newly formed position.
- Kevin Gervais has come on board as the Town's Finance Director. Welcome aboard Kevin, and Happy Retirement to Anna Johnson.

#### 5. Communications

There were none.

#### 6. Public Comment

There was none.

#### 7. Selectman's Response

There was none.

#### 8. Executive Session

##### **MOTION (6)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to enter into executive session at 8:14 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a real estate matter, Hathaway Farms LLC., and personnel matters - Ongoing Union/Labor negotiations.

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

The Board returned to the regular meeting at 8:53 p.m. and Mr. Seery stated that no formal votes were taken in executive session.

#### 10. Adjourn

##### **MOTION (7)**

Ms. Santoro MOVED to adjourn the September 7, 2022, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:53 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson  
Recording Secretary