

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2023
MINUTES

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EAST LYME, CT

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

ALSO PRESENT: Also in attendance were Senior Center Director Cathy Wilson, Library Director Lisa Timothy, Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Lokken, Parks and Recreation Commission Members Pat Larkin and Tom Beebe.

Mr. Seery called the special meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. and Ms. Cathy Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Seery noted that this is Ms. Wilson's last budget meeting as she will be retiring this year in March after 28 years of service to the Town as the Senior Center Director.

2. Budget Discussion

420 Library

Library Director Lisa Timothy reported that their proposed budget includes a 4.87% increase; this is primarily due to contractual annual salary and benefit increases. She noted that she was able to eliminate one full-time position as someone left and she did not replace them and the workload was absorbed into existing positions. The Library is partnering with Care and Share to provide internet services to families in our community through their registration process. Ms. Timothy reported that the use of the former dispatch building on Boston Post Road is not going to work for a historic archive / museum; looking into moving the periodicals out of the adult area and creating a space back there. They are also considering the open space in the lobby to the right of the library door for a historical area; there is feasibility study currently underway and there will be more information generated from this study and should be wrapped up by the fall.

418 Commission on Aging

Senior Center Director Cathy Wilson was in attendance to speak on this budget. Ms. Wilson stated that a majority of the increases in this budget are due to contractual salary increases, health insurance premium increases, as well as general inflation. One of the Senior Center drivers will be retiring and they are looking into filling that position with two part-time drivers instead of one full-time driver. She reported that a letter went out to all participants that they will now have a ride cap of 24 round trip rides per year. Ms. Wilson reported that the decrease in the program subsidy line is due to the paid instructors being funded out of the special revenue fund; she will provide a more detailed breakdown of this special revenue line item. She reported that during the height of the pandemic from July 2021 through June 2022, they assisted 1,691 residents; last year they assisted 1,010; that's an average of about 70

people per day. The new van that was supposed to be received in the summer of 2022 has not yet been delivered; in the meantime they have repaired the existing van enough that they will continue to use it as a backup once the even after the new van is received.

421 / 422 Parks and Recreation / Youth Services

Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Lokken was in attendance and presented the budget with a proposed 8.47% increase from last year; this consists primarily of contractual salary and benefits increase, as well as making one part-time position a full-time position, and contracting out the cleaning of the parks restrooms. His primary goal over the next fiscal year is to build back up the special revenue fund, which was drained during the pandemic. It is funds from this account that will pay for the replacement of the floating dock at McCook's Park, which had to be removed from the water as it is past its useful and safe lifespan. The key season of the Parks and Recreation department is June through September, and he estimates that it costs approximately \$1,100 per location per month during their busy season to keep these parks in good condition. The new lighting that is proposed will save money over time as the town will be able to control better how long the lights stay on at each individual location. Two items in the capital projects budget are the replacement of two zero turn mowers, and a new automatic line painter.

115 Services to Community

The additions to this year's budget requests for services to community are The Blue Door Foundation, the Giving Garden and the Veterans Representative Mileage reimbursement accounts.

3. Adjourn

MOTION (1)

Ms. Santoro MOVED to adjourn the February 15, 2023, special meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 7:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary