

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE: Dan Cunningham, Candice Carlson, Rose Ann Hardy, Don MacKenzie and Jason Deeble.

EXCUSED: Ann Cicchiello

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Public Works Director Joe Bragaw, Fire Marshal Bill Bundy, Deputy Fire Marshal Erik Quinn, and Town Attorney Mark Zamarka

Mr. Cunningham called the regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 p.m. and the visiting Girl Scouts led the pledge of allegiance.

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

1c. Delegations

Girl Scouts from local Troop 63422, led by their troop leader, Dr. Lynn Sosa, 54 Saunders Drive, attended tonight's meeting. The following Girl Scouts spoke and brought up the following concerns. Lauren, Aliza, Edith, Maddie, Ayla, Vivian, Olsen, Aida and Katelyn.

The following concerns were raised by the Girl Scouts:

- More money in the budget to fix or replace the buses.
- More playgrounds at Flanders School.
- More walking trails.
- More eco-friendly energy solutions, such as solar panels and EV charging stations.
- Build "calm down rooms" in the schools for the students.
- Beaches need to be cleaner; suggested community clean-up days.
- Build a dedicated auditorium at Lillie B Haynes or find an empty building to convert into an auditorium.
- New playground equipment at Flanders School.
- Teachers need more training.
- Stop using paper products in the cafeteria.

1d. Approve Minutes

MOTION (1)

Mr. Deeble MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2024, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Hardy. IN FAVOR; Cunningham, Deeble, Carlson, Hardy and MacKenzie. Motion passed 5-0.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (2)

Mr. Deeble MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for May 15, 2024, in the amount of \$364.28.

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

2a. Special Transfer Upgrade Town Fuel System

MOTION (3)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bragaw stated that the town fuel system provides fuel for all town vehicles; public works, police, board of education, etc. This is a necessary upgrade, and this does not require the use of additional taxpayer funds as the money just needs to be transferred from internal accounts; spreadsheet attached hereto as Exhibit #1.

Mr. Deeble MOVED to approve a special transfer in the amount of \$50,483.00 as identified in the attached budget transfer worksheet and forward to the Board of Finance for approval.

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

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT
2024 MAY 21 A 10:50
Candice Carlson
TOWN CLERK

2b. Special Transfer Fire Truck Repairs

DISCUSSION: Acting Fire Chief Bill Bundy explained that these are all unexpected repairs; there is only \$4,000 left in the maintenance line item, and this action will leave a couple of thousand dollars in the account should there be any additional repairs needed before the start of the new fiscal year. Drivers of the equipment have been counseled. Ms. Hardy requested that they provide the Board of Selectmen with a complete list of vehicles in the fleet and what their anticipated lifespan is.

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Estimated Cost for Repairs</u>	<u>Description</u>
Flanders Engine 1 / B-21	\$ 5,000	Damage responding to a call; hit a rock wall.
Niantic Engine 2 / B-12	\$ 5,000	Backed into building.
Flanders Tower 25 / B-25	\$ 2,000	Power Steering Pump O-Ring.
Niantic old Engine 1 / B-11	\$ 4,000	Replace rotted ground wire.
Niantic Engine 3 / B-13	\$ 1,000	Door latch replacement.
Flanders Rescue / B-27	\$ 5,000	Replace rotted out exhaust.
Estimated Total:	<u>\$22,000</u>	

MOTION (4)

Mr. Deeble MOVED to approve a special transfer in the amount of \$20,000.00 to account 01-25-218-200-220 from Contingency account 01-01-120-200-500 as identified above and forward to the Board of Finance for approval. NOTE: This requires a town meeting. Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion passed 5-0.

2c. Presentation by the Short-Term Rental Subcommittee

DISCUSSION: Ad Hoc Short-Term Rental Subcommittee members Anne Santoro, Gary Cicchiello and Gary Farrugia were in attendance. They presented the status report, which contains the Committee's findings, analysis and conclusions to-date, pending the Connecticut Supreme Court's decision concerning short-term rental regulation in the Wihbey case. You may read the Status Report here [STR Report](#), or a hard copy of the report and its exhibits is available in the Town Clerk's office. This presentation can be viewed in its entirety by visiting the Town's website.

2d. Schedule Town Meeting for June 5, 2024

MOTION (5)

Mr. Deeble MOVED the following:

TOWN OF EAST LYME NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING June 5, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M. Notice is hereby given of a Special Town Meeting of the Town of East Lyme to be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. (ET) at the East Lyme Town Hall Upper Meeting Room for the following purposes:

1. To approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$157,000 to the FY23-24 Highway Road Reconstruction account 01-30-317-200-224 to offset utility pavement restoration costs;
2. To authorize the First Selectman, in the name and on behalf of the Town, to execute and deliver a grant agreement with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for \$15,000, and to do all things necessary to effectuate said grant agreement;
3. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Dated at East Lyme, Connecticut, this 15th day of May, 2024. EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

2e. Appointments

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cunningham explained that a typographical error was made in the expiration date at the last meeting, so this motion simply amends Mr. Salerno's term expiration date.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Deeble MOVED to appoint Marc Salerno, 8 Bobwhite Lane, East Lyme, as the Town Moderator for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 5, 2026.

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

3a. Cini Fishing Dock Leases

DISCUSSION: Mr. MacKenzie reported that he has met with the Captain of the Tartan II and signed the new lease; he is expecting to meet with Mr. Lizza soon to have his lease signed.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Ms. Hardy reported:

- Commission of Natural Resources Climate Resiliency Plan; will present at an upcoming meeting.
- Commission on Aging notified no funds left in Dial a Ride program for the month of June. Appointments will need to be cancelled. This is a consortium and not a part of the Council of Governments. Asked that town put pressure on the State to better fund these programs for seniors through communications with State Representatives. Ms. Hardy will reach out to Holly Cheeseman and Martha Marx for assistance.
- Senior Center celebrated the support of their fifty-four volunteers; thank you all for your service.
- Historic Cemetery Commission placed 114 flags on pre-World War II graves. The Veterans Administration places flags on all graves after World War II to present.

Mr. Deeble reported:

- The Barn for Autistic Youth is holding an event on May 17th from 4pm-7pm at the barn at Brookside Farm Museum.
- Stars to Stem is holding a literary event on May 31st from 7pm-9pm.

Ms. Carlson reported:

- Historic Properties is working on a master list; there are currently over 300 houses on the list.
- Recent plaque fundraising event hosted by SignCraft raised \$275 for each historic property.
- They are going to begin advertising in conjunction with Niantic Main Street to get better advertising out about events.
- Properties need to be better maintained; if Parks and Recreation crew does not have enough time or resources, we need to consider other avenues.
- Youth Family and Human Services have created some new programs, including Coffee with a Cop.
- Their office space is complete, and they are settling in; the Intern is doing a great job.
- There was discussion held about requesting a donation from the budget under Services to Community. Ms. Carlson did explain to them that the Board of Selectmen would be creating a policy to manage all future requests for donations.
- The Parks and Recreation crew are facing a lot of challenges with the recent reductions. She reported that the staff does not feel supported, and morale is down. She suggested that the Board take a tour of all of the parks and properties that they have to maintain.
- Ms. Carlson supports Ms. Hardy reaching out to our legislators regarding more funding for the senior center programs.

- She supports the Girl Scouts and their suggestion that we have a community cleanup day; she will help to organize this event. This could include town employees, groups, community members, etc.

Mr. MacKenzie reported:

- Planning Commission heard an application from the Storage Place on Liberty Way to add outdoor storage for items such as boats, trailers, etc. There is a concern that this may cause blight; it has been sent to Zoning for review.

4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Cunningham reported:

- He attended the Police Commission meeting where a group of residents addressed their concerns with recent break-ins within their community; the police are investigating.
- There was discussion regarding the golf cart regulation; it was agreed that the Police Commission has control over this regulation.
- There was discussion regarding existing ordinances, such as noise and parking, which exist but cannot be enforced due to lack of equipment and/or resources. For instance, the town has a noise ordinance but does not own a decibel reader. The Board of Selectman will review these ordinances and amend if needed.
- It is Military Appreciation Month; we appreciate all military, especially the CT National Guard and our partnership in the community. Thank you all of your service.
- He attended Friends of Oswegatchie Hills annual meeting.
- DOT I-95 project management meeting was held this week; lots of work still to be done. We will see a lot of construction and travel through that area is going to continue to be a challenge.
- He attended the CCM legislative wrap up meeting via ZOOM.
- He attended a presentation by Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (CFEC) with Selectmen and CEOs from other towns; they discussed affordable housing.

5. Communications

Mr. Cunningham reported that the Board of Selectmen had received a letter from Mr. Michael Firmin, in which he expresses his disapproval with the fees charged by the Fire Marshal's office. Mr. Cunningham confirmed that those fees were enacted by the Board of Selectmen on April 19, 2023. Mr. Firmin's letter is attached hereto as Exhibit #2.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Selectman's Response

There was none.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Deeble MOVED to adjourn the May 15, 2024, regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 9:06 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,


Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary

TOWN OF EAST LYME

Public Works/Highway/Sanitation Department



BUDGET TRANSFERS - FY 23-24

DATE: 5/13/2024 Prepared by Joe Bragaw

FROM ACCOUNT			TO ACCOUNT			
ACCT. DESCRIPTION	ACCT. #	AMOUNT	ACCT. DESCRIPTION	ACCT. #	AMOUNT	REASON
Hghwy Sup/PWD/DPWD	01-30-317-100-211	\$ -	Hghwy Sup/PWD/DPWD	01-30-317-100-211	\$ -	
Regular Payroll Highway	01-30-317-100-311	\$ 14,561.84	Regular Payroll Highway	01-30-317-100-311	\$ -	underage due to being understaffed
OT Highway	01-30-317-100-314	\$ -	OT Highway	01-30-317-100-314	\$ -	
Storm OT	01-30-317-100-315	\$ 35,921.16	Storm OT	01-30-317-100-315	\$ -	underage due to a light winter
Longevity	01-30-317-100-316	\$ -	Longevity	01-30-317-100-316	\$ -	
Uniform allowance	01-30-317-100-317	\$ -	Uniform allowance	01-30-317-100-317	\$ -	
Part time Seasonal	01-30-317-100-412	\$ -	Part time Seasonal	01-30-317-100-412	\$ -	
Traffic Signals/Street Sigr	01-30-317-200-223	\$ -	Traffic Signals/Street Signs	01-30-317-200-223	\$ -	
Road reconstruction	01-30-317-200-224	\$ -	Road reconstruction	01-30-317-200-224	\$ -	
Traffic Calming	01-30-317-200-225	\$ -	Traffic Calming	01-30-317-200-225	\$ -	
Tree Warden	01-30-317-200-239	\$ -	Tree Warden	01-30-317-200-239	\$ -	
Recycling & Misc Disp	01-30-317-210-222	\$ -	Recycling & Misc Disp	01-30-317-210-222	\$ -	
Ground Water Monitoring	01-30-317-210-233	\$ -	Ground Water Monitoring	01-30-317-210-233	\$ -	
SCRRA Tipping Fees	01-30-317-210-295	\$ -	SCRRA Tipping Fees	01-30-317-210-295	\$ -	
Bulky Waste & Tip	01-30-317-210-962	\$ -	Bulky Waste & Tip	01-30-317-210-962	\$ -	
Fleet Maintenance	01-30-317-220-221	\$ -	Fleet Maintenance	01-30-317-220-221	\$ -	
Telephone	01-30-317-300-201	\$ -	Telephone	01-30-317-300-201	\$ -	
Supplies & Misc	01-30-317-300-320	\$ -	Supplies & Misc	01-30-317-300-320	\$ -	
Saftety Equip/Training	01-30-317-300-321	\$ -	Saftety Equip/Training	01-30-317-300-321	\$ -	
Landfill Mat/Transfer Sta	01-30-317-300-420	\$ -	Landfill Mat/Transfer Sta	01-30-317-300-420	\$ -	
Storm Mat/ supplies	01-30-317-300-440	\$ -	Storm Mat/ supplies	01-30-317-300-440	\$ -	
Fuel Tank Repairs	01-30-317-300-450	\$ -	Fuel Tank Repairs	01-30-317-300-450	\$ 50,483.00	needed fuel system upgrade
Stormwater Permit Comp	01-30-317-300-460	\$ -	Stormwater Permit Comp	01-30-317-300-460	\$ -	
Fleet Fuel	01-30-317-310-221	\$ -	Fleet Fuel	01-30-317-310-221	\$ -	
Streetlights	01-30-317-400-210	\$ -	Streetlights	01-30-317-400-210	\$ -	
TAR	01-30-317-500-224	\$ -	TAR	01-30-317-500-224	\$ -	
	TOTAL	\$ 50,483.00	TOTAL		\$ 50,483.00	
					\$ -	

Exhibit #1

EAST LYME HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

FUELMaster/FUEL TANK MONITORING UPGRADE

QUOTE	Fuelmaster heads	1st yr FM live subs	FM Setup & Shipping	FM Subtotal	Install of FM	Total FM upgrade	Replace TLS units w/ new probes & sensors	Replace TLS units w/o new probes & sensors	TOTAL FOR BOTH
1	\$ 14,232.60	\$ 4,560.00	\$ 4,717.00	\$ 23,509.60	\$ 9,264.38	\$ 32,773.98	\$ 45,912.00		\$ 78,685.98
2						\$ 31,608.00		\$ 18,875.00	\$ 50,483.00

Exhibit #2

Board of
Selectmen

MAY 15 24

Agenda Item
5

May 7, 2024

RECEIVED

MAY 08 24

First Selectman
East Lyme, CT

To: East Lyme Fire Marshall's Office

Bill Bundy (Fire Marshal)

I received an invoice from your office back in February and left a voicemail for you to call me on my cell phone or at my business on February 15, 2024. Additionally, I spoke with the First Selectman Daniel Cunningham on April 26, 2024, and advised him that you had yet to return my call or see me in person, and that I still wanted you to contact me. I received another invoice with late fees now applied with a note to contact your office with any questions. I called this morning at approximately 0840 and there was no answer. I find it unprofessional that you have yet to reach out to me after nearly 3 months, and instead of doing so, you send an invoice with late fees.

I have several questions that I would like clarified. 1). Whom within the Town of East Lyme proposed the billing for the periodic inspections? I'm aware the Town of Montville (your former employer) and the Town of Waterford adopted similar measures. 2). When was this passed by the Board of Selectman? 3). And most importantly, why was I not advised of the new billing process prior to the inspection? Or why did the Assistant Fire Marshal not advise me at the time of the inspection? Instead, an invoice of \$250.00 for a less than 20-minute walk through was billed in the mail, which was never previously done.

I find it appalling that we have elected officials who continue to think that the businesses in the Town of East Lyme have open checkbooks and are continuously taxed in many ways. Many of us are longstanding and are the backbone of this community by supporting the schools, sports leagues and charity events in town to name only a few. Unfortunately, many of us are also too busy running our businesses to pay attention to what is going on behind the scenes.

Enclosed is a check for the original invoice (without the late charges), as again you were unprofessional and never had the decency to return my call. I'd rather this money be put to a donation to the Flanders Fire Department, then to justify the newly created salaries of the Fire Chief and his assistant. I would appreciate a response to my inquiries.

Sincerely,


Michael Firmin

Firmin's Garage Inc.

Cc: Daniel Cunningham First Selectman Town of East Lyme
East Lyme Board of Selectmen

I request this letter be read into the minutes at the next Board of Selectman meeting.