

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026
MINUTES

PRESENT: Dan Cunningham, Ann Cicchiello, Rose Ann Hardy, Candice Carlson, Cindy Collins. Jason Deeble joined via Zoom for a portion of the meeting

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Kevin Gervais, Public Works Director Joe Bragaw, Building Official Frank Lathrop, Senior Center Director Kristen Caramanica and Library Assistant Director Christopher Larson

Mr. Cunningham called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Budget Review

104 Building Department

Frank Lathrop spoke and reported that the driver for this budget increase is salaries and contractual obligations, as well as increase in products and services overall.

317 Highway/Sanitation & Engineering

Joe Bragaw presented on this budget; his full comments are attached hereto as Exhibit #1.

113 Building Maintenance

Joe Bragaw presented this budget; his full comments are attached hereto as Exhibit #2. It was discussed that he might be able to go back and reduce some more of this budget, then noted that further reductions may not be feasible with increased demands in town.

420 East Lyme Public Library

Christopher Larson presented this budget, stating that the East Lyme Public Library provides library service for 6,533 registered non-expired users and 11,241 users generally. The library has a collection of 108,721 physical items, and offers access to 1,109,536 e-books, 370,189 e-audiobooks, 6,000 online magazines and 467,115 online music albums. Approximately 2.5 million items are available through the LION consortium. The increase driver for this budget is contractual increases combined with increased utilization of services offered.

418 Commission on Aging

Kristen Caramanica presented this budget; her full presentation is attached hereto as Exhibit #3. She explained that they sent out an Interest and Satisfaction Survey; the results are attached hereto as Exhibit #4.

999 Capital Projects

Joe Bragaw stated that the newly formed CIP Committee has been working very hard; a summary of their work is attached hereto as Exhibit #5. The full proposed

Capital Projects list is attached hereto as Exhibit #6. Mr. Bragaw stated that in response to the proposed project to replace the irrigation system on the couple fields noted, youth football and soccer fields, the Water and Sewer Department sent a letter asking for further discussion on this project as there is concern over the amount of water the has allotted in the summer. The Water & Sewer letter is attached hereto as Exhibit #7. Mr. Bragaw stated that he will take this information back to the CIP committee for further discussion.

To watch a recording of this meeting, pull a full transcript of the meeting, or to view full budget information, please visit www.eltownhall.com.

3. Adjourn

MOTION (1)

Ms. Hardy MOVED to adjourn the February 17, 2026, special budget meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 7:19 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion passed 5-0. (Mr. Deeble was absent from the motion to adjourn).

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

Exhibit #1



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

Some Vital Services That Highway Provides

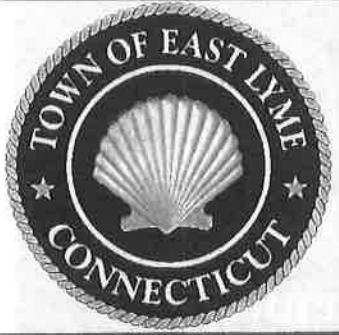
- Maintain 118 miles of Town roads and 17 miles of Town sidewalks
- Plow & salt Town roads all winter long
- Perform curbside garbage and recycling collection 52 wks/yr
- Perform special collections including curbside leaf collection in the fall, Christmas tree collection in January and a paid service for collecting bulky waste for our residents on Town roads from April to Oct
- Operate the Town's Transfer Sta. (3 guys – 5 days/wk, Tu-Sat 7:30-3)
- Sweep all Town roads and parking lots at least once a year
- Maintain 2,900 stormwater structures & over 300,000 LF of drainage



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

Some Vital Services That Highway Provides (Cont.)

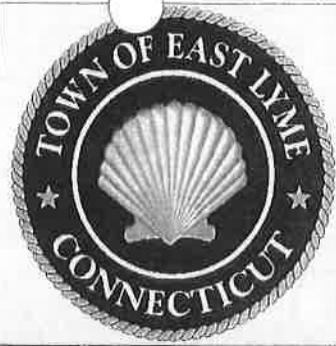
- Perform our own construction work including fixing catch basins, installing drainage, pavement repairs and other town projects
- Multiple loops around Town cutting roadside vegetation & critical sightlines
- Paint over 39 miles of double yellow, 2 miles of white edge lines and stop bars, crosswalks and other pavement markings on Town roads
- Maintain over 1,500 streetlights throughout Town
- Maintain all Town vehicles including Highway, Sanitation, Parks & Rec, Police, ACO, Senior Buses, Em Mgt, General Govt and some Fire vehicles



Town of East Lyme Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation & Engineering

Some Vital Services That Engineering Provides

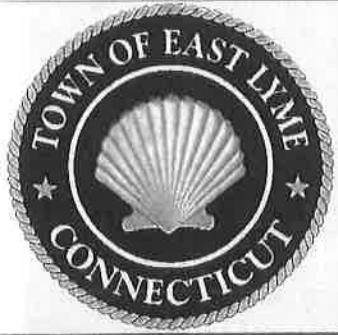
- Provides in house engineering services
 - Performs design work & survey
 - Oversees in-house construction
 - Solicits bid packages to meet Town's purchasing policy
 - On Call Drainage, Sidewalk & Excavation Contracts
 - Provides project administration
- Examples of some projects
 - We just about finished with the \$500k Town Hall ADA Compliance project
 - Installation of EV charging stations at Town Hall, Hope St & Methodist St
 - Installation of about 800' of sidewalk on the S. Side of Boston Post Rd
- This limits the need to hire outside consultants which is very costly



Town of East Lyme Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation & Engineering

Some Vital Services That Engineering Provides (Cont.)

- Applies for and administers grants & outside funding
 - STEAP – \$500k - Plants Dam reconstruction (2026)
 - LoTCIP - \$3.3M – East Patt. Rd Reconstruction & New Sidewalks (26/27)
 - Federal Local Bridge Program - \$5M Colony Rd Bridge Repl. (2026)
 - Federal Local Bridge Program - \$12M Fairhaven Rd Bridge Repl. (2027)
 - Brown Field Remediation – \$200k - Old PD (2026)
- This is around \$21M in projects we are managing right now!
- This the most we have ever had to manage



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

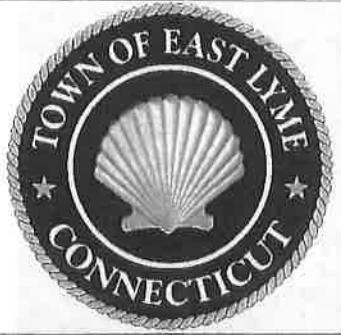
Some Vital Services That Engineering Provides (Cont.)

- Provides service for Land Use office in technical review of permits (eliminating need for hiring outside costly reviews)
- Reviews and issues ROW and Driveway permits on town roads
- Works across multiple departments thru management of Facility Capitol Improvements
- Manages the Town's Pavement Management Program
- Inspects Town sidewalks and manages needed repairs
- Manages the Town's Federal & State permitting requirements



Town of East Lyme Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation & Engineering

- We have a lot to do and take a lot of pride in the services that we provide our taxpayers
- There are a lot of variables we have to contend with each year
 - Like this year with all the Storm OT/plowing & extra salt
 - Emergency construction repairs
 - Hard to guesstimate how much garbage is going to be put out curbside each year as we pay by the ton
 - Not sure how many streetlights will go out or have issues
 - The number of dead trees and branches we need to address
 - Since we absorb the cost of other department's fuel, it is hard to gauge exactly how much each dept will use



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

THINGS WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER

Line 54101 - Garbage Recycling & Bulky Waste Disposal
(showing a \$41.k increase , already cut \$12k)

• This \$912,000 line item is made up of 3 parts

Disposal Cost of Curbside Collection (approx. 86%) – EL sends about 10,000 tons/yr to the incinerator in Lisbon

Disposal Cost of Bulky Waste from TS (12%) – offsetting revenue
TS Compactor rental & Recycling Hauling Cost (2%)

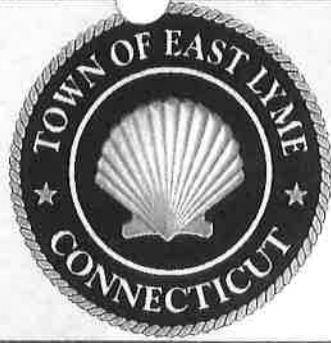
• EL is part of SCRRRA and the tip fee is going up approx. 11%

This is still an incredible deal for EL

(we pay \$75.06/ton this year and will be \$83.10/ton next year)

State average is about \$110-115/ton right now

SCRRRA also pays for our Recycling cost (about \$180k/yr)

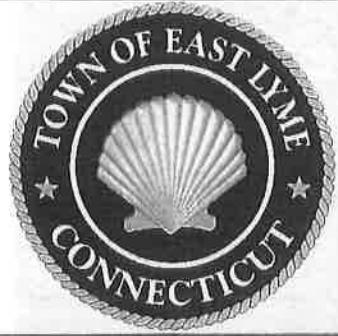


Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

THINGS WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER

Line 54300 – Fleet Maintenance (showing a \$30k increase)

- Factors affecting this line
 - Increased costs of parts & supplies – growing faster than inflation
 - Aging vehicles & equip
 - Deferring replacements in CIP
 - Growing of the fleet with more vehicles & equipment



Town of East Lyme

Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation & Engineering

THINGS WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER

Fleet Maintenance Costs over Last 4 Years



We are asking for \$330k to be more in line with actual costs

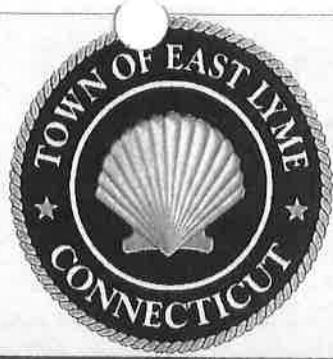


Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

THINGS WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER

Line 56270 – Fuel (shows an \$8k increase but really only \$5k)

- Highway budget covers fuel costs for
 - not only our department (Highway & Sanitation)
 - Parks & Rec
 - Police
 - Fire
 - ACO
 - Senior Buses
 - Emergency Management
 - General Government vehicles (Assessor, Bldg. Off., Bldg. Maint)
- If those depts go over their estimated usage, we absorb those costs



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

THINGS WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER

Line 56270 – Fuel (Cont.)

- Our Dept was able to lock in next year's fuel at 7.7% and 12.3% less for unleaded and diesel respectively
- So why is the budget request up 3.1%?

• Town absorbed the cost of the Fire Dept fuel in this current year budget (this used to be paid by the ELA), \$8k more than was added last year

• We have \$5k in fuel program fees and we are putting the cost of fuel pump repairs in this line – eliminating \$3k from Line 55330

• Starting this coming year, we are spreading fueling costs among all users; BOE, Water, Sewer and the Town – which is the way it should be



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

THINGS WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER

Line 56220 – Streetlights (shows a \$21k Increase)

- For those that remember, we purchased the lights from Eversource back in 10/15 (11 years ago now)
- Back in 2015, the Town was paying \$230k per year
- Purchase price was \$420k, with another \$550k to replace the 1,500 lights with new LED's (finished back in 2016)
- We did a 7-year loan with about same budget amt
- Back in FY 22-23 we paid the last of the 7 payments
- If we didn't do this, this line would probably much > \$230k



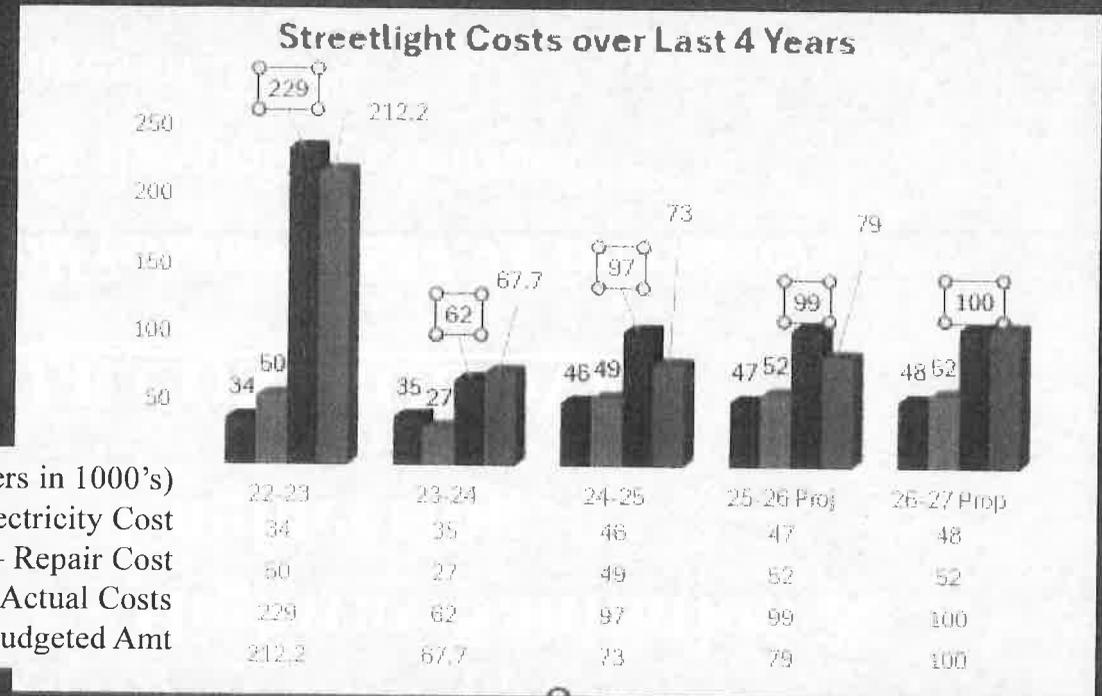
Town of East Lyme

Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation & Engineering

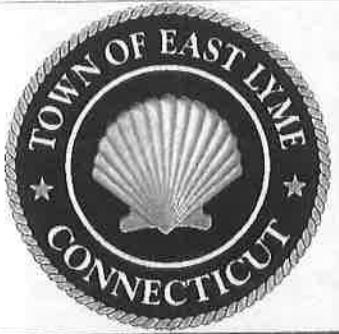
THINGS WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER

Line 56220 – Streetlights

We need to properly budget for our projected costs



(All numbers in 1000's)
 Dark Blue – Electricity Cost
 Red – Repair Cost
 Green – Actual Costs
 Light Blue – Budgeted Amt



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

THINGS WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER

Line 51619 – Regular Payroll (shows a \$54.4k increase)

- This will be the 2nd year of the union contract
 - Contractual GWI increases of 2.75%
- We did have some employees get their CDL's and/or were moved up in classifications which brought increase up to 3.46%
- Starting this FY, we actually have one less person in the Dept (22) than we used to have to help control our btm line budget



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

THINGS WE HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER

Line 51630 – OT Highway (shows a \$5k increase)

- Besides winter storm call outs, this line covers
 - Celebrate EL (approx. \$2-3k in OT)
 - Light Parade
 - Covering shifts on weekend for the Trans Station
 - Sanitation OT (late days, double collections)
 - All OT callouts (trees down, road issues) that we get called on all year long
 - Our OT budget covers the cost of other Depts (P&R and W&S) which assist with roads and town parking lots



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

INCREASES OF NOTE

Line 51618 – PW Supervisors & Eng Staff (\$68.6k increase)

- Reason this line item is showing a large % increase
 - Last year during the budget cycle, our Deputy PW Director retired.
 - Our Town Engineer at the time, Alex Klose, was promoted to the Deputy position but we weren't allowed to backfill the position
 - Our budget was cut so that we could fill the position ½ way thru this budget year
 - We are in the process of doing that now
 - The return on investment is much better for the Town to have this civil engineer position to keep up with all the grants and projects with all of the things identified before



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

INCREASES OF NOTE

Line 55990 – Tree Maintenance & Removals (\$10k increase)

- The Town is responsible for all trees in the Town ROW.
- That is a tremendous amount of trees
- We do the best we can keeping up, but with the cost of outside tree contractor work, the budget goes fast
- Another part of this line is cutting the tree canopy
- We have spent over \$20k on tree canopy work already this FY but this is a big strain on the budget



Town of East Lyme

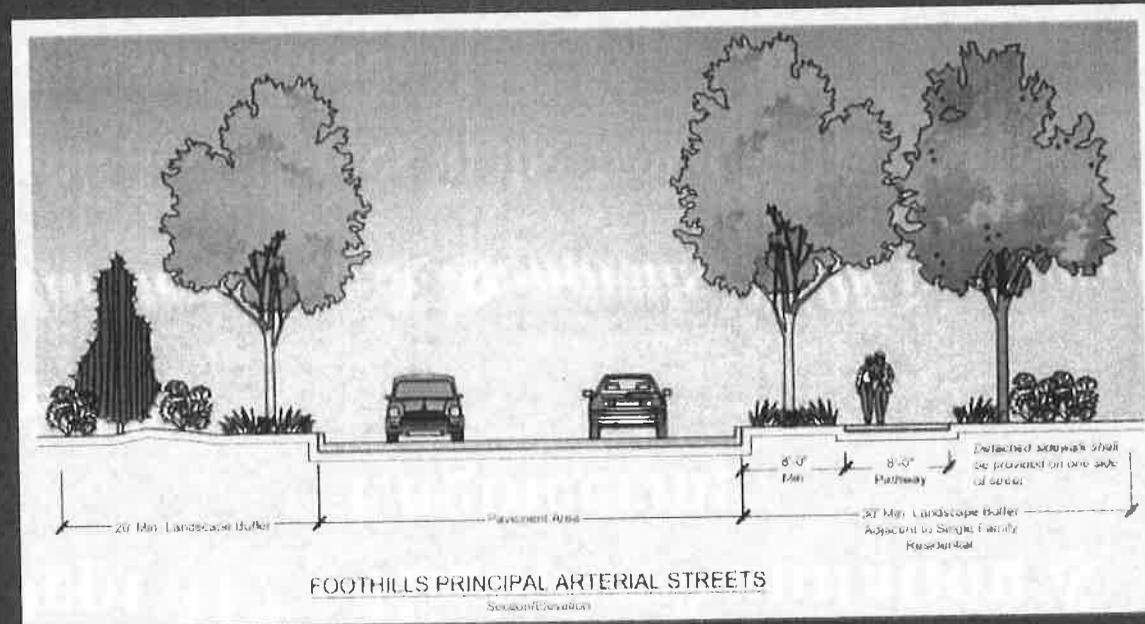
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation & Engineering

INCREASES OF NOTE

Line 55990 – Tree Maintenance & Removals (\$10k increase)

What is the tree canopy?

We try to keep low branches at least 14' above the road surface



- This work is slow and costly, but we have 118 miles of road to keep up with
- This is why we are proposing an additional \$10k in the coming year budget



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

IN CONCLUSION

- Our budget is pretty lean for what we do.
- We look at our expenses all year long to make sure we stay under our total budget
- Last FY Budget Cycle – we were cut \$208,662
- Already cut this cycle \$37,000
- We are currently sitting at an overall increase of 5%
- We will do the best we can do with the funding provided, however we are at the point if we have further cuts, we will have to identify which services we will no longer be able to provide



Town of East Lyme
Dept 317 – Highway/Sanitation &
Engineering

QUESTIONS?



Town of East Lyme

Dept 113 – Maintenance of Town Buildings

HIGHLIGHTS

- Total Budget is up 3.34% (\$32,800 increase)
- Line 51618 – Custodians – up 2.75% for contractual GWI
- Line 51630- Overtime – the \$22k last year did not include raises so the new figure takes that into account
 - \$21.8k this year includes weekend coverage at the ELCC
 - 8 ½ hrs on Saturdays (50 wks/yr) & 4 hrs on Sundays (34 wks/yr)
 - Remaining \$2.5k covers calls outs, winter sidewalks, etc.
- Line 56114 – Building Maintenance – There is a lot of pressure on this line to keep up with our buildings and make the necessary repairs



Town of East Lyme
Dept 113 – Maintenance of Town Buildings

LINE 53520 – SERVICE CONTRACTS (\$6,900 Increase)

- This line covers preventive maintenance contracts for HVAC at Town Hall, ELCC, FSB and the PSB
- Burglar Alarms – ELCC, Town Hall, FSB and the Trans Sta
- Fire Alarms – ELCC, Town Hall, FFD, NFD Main, NFD Sta 2, FSB, Old PD, PSB, Sam Smith House, Old Garage
- Fire Alarm testing at all of these sites
- Elevator pm contract at PSB
- Sprinkler testing at ELCC and FSB
- Pest Control at town buildings
- We also added pm contracts this coming year for generators at Town Hall, PSB, FSB, ELCC, Old Dispatch – part of increase

Exhibit #3



Town of East Lyme

Dept 113 – Maintenance of Town Buildings

LINE 56240 – Heating Oil/Propane (\$9k Increase)

- We have a favorable propane contract - \$1.39/gal
- Buildings in Propane – FSB, PSB, Town Hall & the Old Highway Garage – 37,000 gallons per year
- ELCC on Natural Gas- been large increases in natural gas costs over the last two years
- Buildings on #2 Fuel Oil – NFD Headquarters, Sta 2 and FFD – totals about 10,000 gallons per year
- The last few winters were very mild so we had to up the estimated usage next year as this winter is NOT MILD



Town of East Lyme
Dept 113 – Maintenance of Town Buildings

QUESTIONS?

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Presentation



KRISTEN CARAMANICA/DIRECTOR

MICHAEL BEKECH/CHAIRPERSON

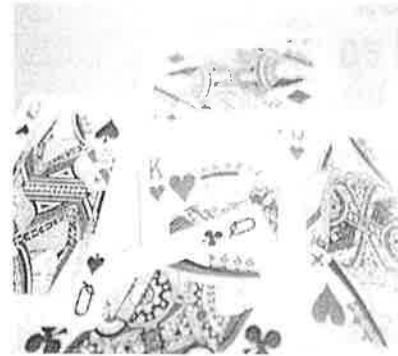
Exhibit #3

EXHIBIT #3

Operating Budget

- The Senior Center supports individuals aged 55 and older, by offering a variety of services, including social events, health and wellness programs, supportive resources as well as transportation services.
- The budget allocation ensures delivery of high-quality programs, the maintenance of well-equipped facilities and the efficient operation of services that benefit our older adults.
- General Fund is for the senior center operations as well as staff salaries.
- Special Revenue Fund-funded by revenue and donated funds not taxes for wellness programs and special events. *Goal is to continue building fund balance.*

By strategically planning our budget, we maximize our resources to ensure that funding is directed to the areas of greatest need. This approach allows us to sustain essential programs while fostering community spirit through engaging events and activities.



Senior Center Programs

We provide a variety of engaging activities, events and services tailored to enhance the interests and well-being of individuals aged 55 and older.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Ageless Fitness | Balance and Core Class |
| Bingo | Café Meals |
| Canasta | Chair Yoga |
| Chair Zumba | Craft Classes |
| Drawing classes | Duplicate Bridge |
| Footcare | Fit Dance Exercise |
| Haircuts | Hiking |
| Jam Session | Lifelong Learning |
| Mahjong | Manicures |
| Massage Therapy | Meals-On-Wheels |
| Mindful Motion | Music Lessons |
| Painting | Pickleball |
| Ping Pong | Quilting |
| Shootout Bridge | Tai-Chi |
| Taxes | Transportation |
| Trips | Scrabble |
| Special Events | Strength Training |
| Walking | Writing Class |
| Yoga | Zumba |

Senior Population

STATE of CONNECTICUT

885,046 population over 60

Which is:

24.5% of the population

629,108 population over 65 =17%

58.% are aged 65-74

28% are aged 75-84

14% are aged 85+

EAST LYME

6,249 population over 60

Which is

33.6% of the population

4,742 population over 65 = 57%

56% are aged 65-74

29% are aged 75-84

15% are aged 85+

*Information provided by: The Healthy Aging
Data Report from 2025*

East Lyme Senior Housing

Housing Name	Number of Units	Status
Chapman Farms	62	Complete
Chapman Woods	95	Complete
Spinnaker	103	Complete
Clarks Hollow	25	Complete
Sleepy Hollow Hills	32	Complete
Whiting Farm	25	Complete
138 Post	25	Complete
Twin Haven	40	Complete
AHEAPA 250-I	54	Complete
AHEAPA 250-IV	50	Complete
AHEAPA 250-V	52	Complete
Total	563	

10 Year Projection

Wellness

Independence

Quality of Life

Renovate the Senior Center Facility

- Dedicated Health Service Area
- Outdoor space

Increase in Number of Attendees

- Increase innovative quality programming
- Increase services
 1. Community outreach/advocacy
 2. Housing alternatives
 3. Aging in place/livable community

Transportation

- 24 hour notice no longer needed
- New Bus

Staffing

- Evening and weekends
- Kitchen Staff
- Transportation Coordinator

Marketing

- Improve community awareness
- Branding

Expect growth in demand due to growth of population the ELSC serves.

EAST LYME
SENIOR CENTER

INTEREST &
CUSTOMER
SATISFACTION
SURVEY

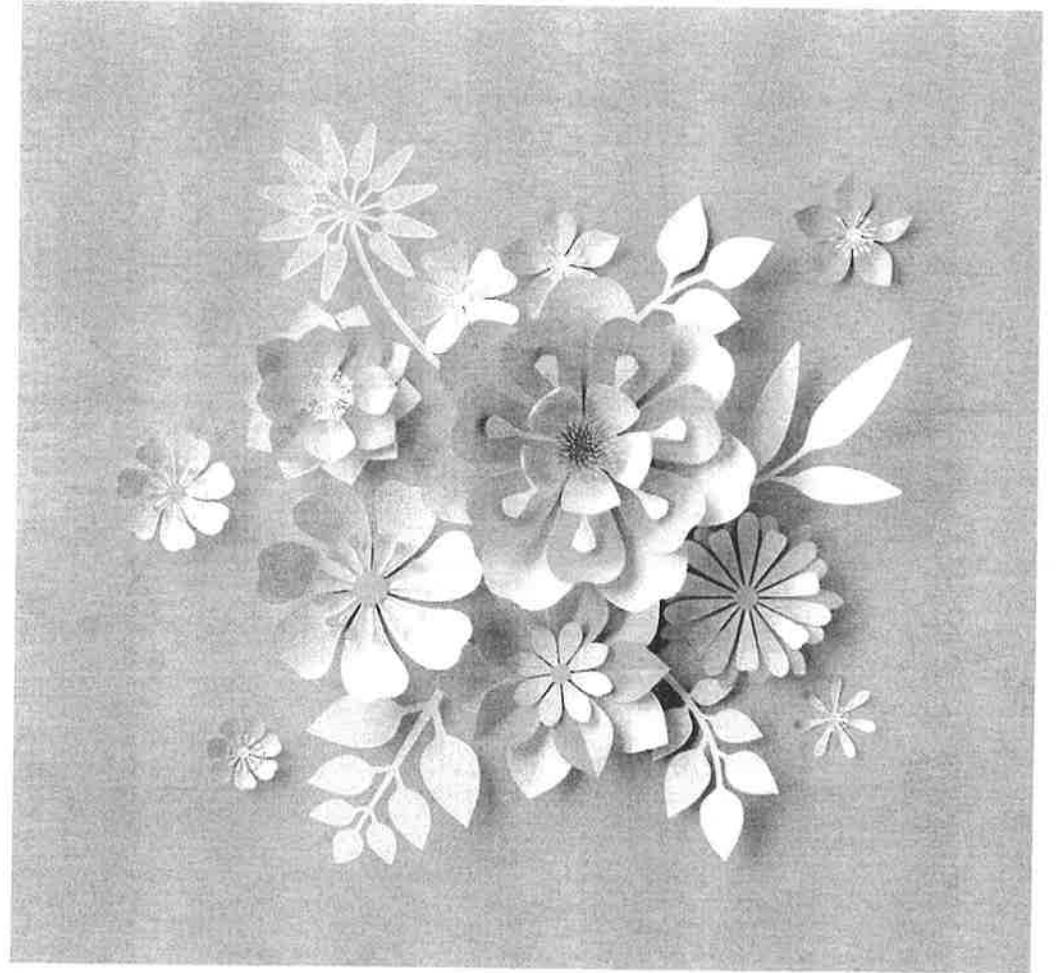


Exhibit #4

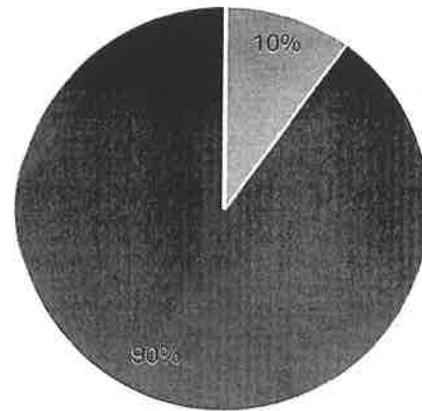
WHY DID WE CONDUCT THIS SURVEY?



- *To get direct feedback and understand clients' needs
- *Improve our services
- *Identify problems
- *To ensure long-term growth
- *To boost customer satisfaction & retention.

Essentially, we wanted to know our populations likes, dislikes, and wants to meet expectations better, resolve issues and be proactive.

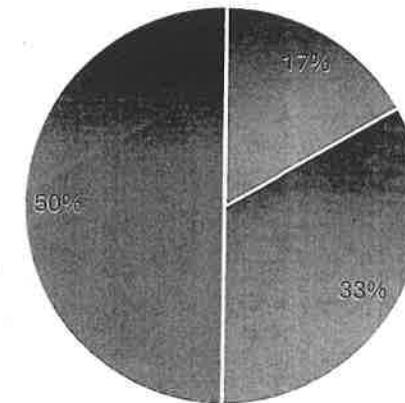
Do you ever go to the Senior Center ?



- No, I've never been there before
- I've been there a few times
- I go to the Senior Center Regularly

*Percentage of people

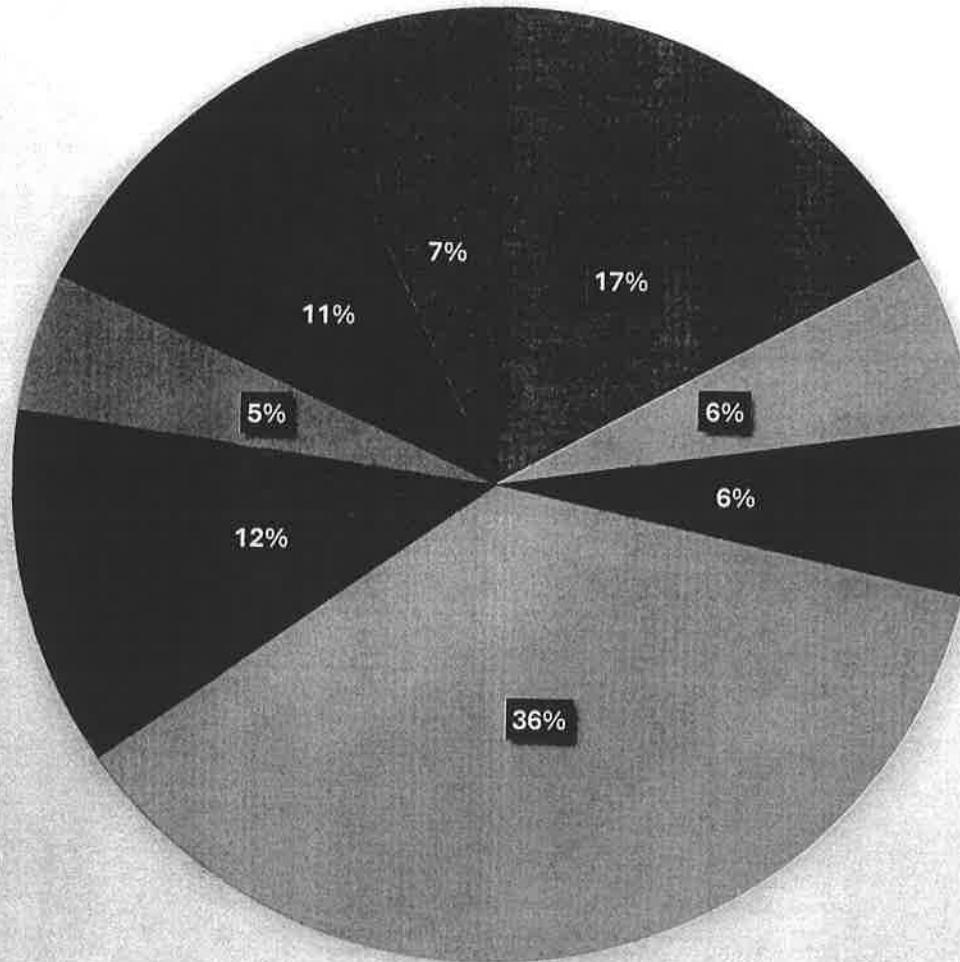
What are the reason that you don't visit the Senior Center?



- I do not know where it is
- I do not have transportation
- I do not know anyone who goes there
- I do not think anything would interest me
- I am too busy
- Other reasons

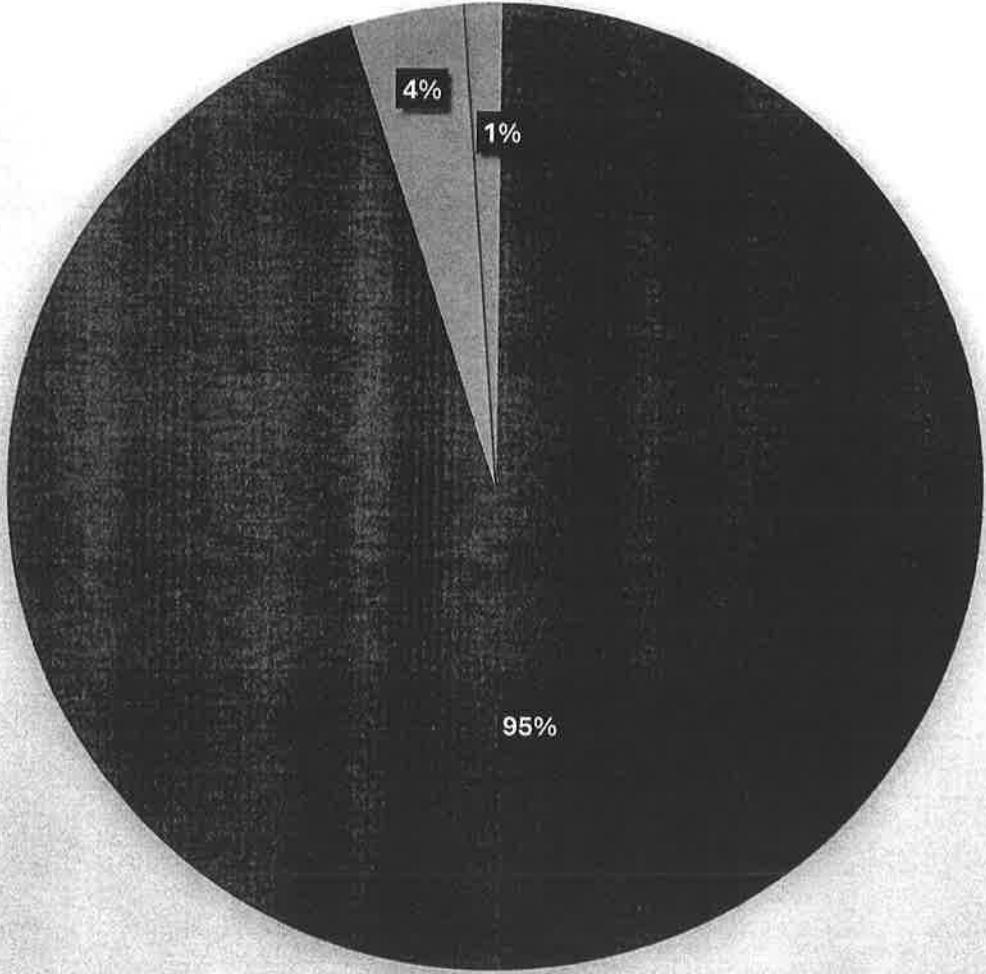
*Percentage of people

What are the reasons you visit the senior center ?

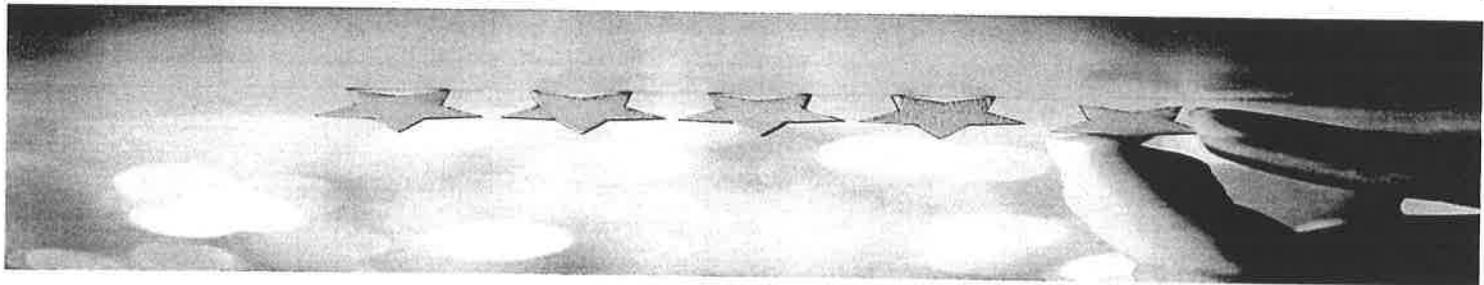


- To see my friends and socialize
- For arts or music class
- To eat lunch
- To take exercise classes
- To play cards, bingo or other games
- To volunteer and help others
- Educational talks
- Other

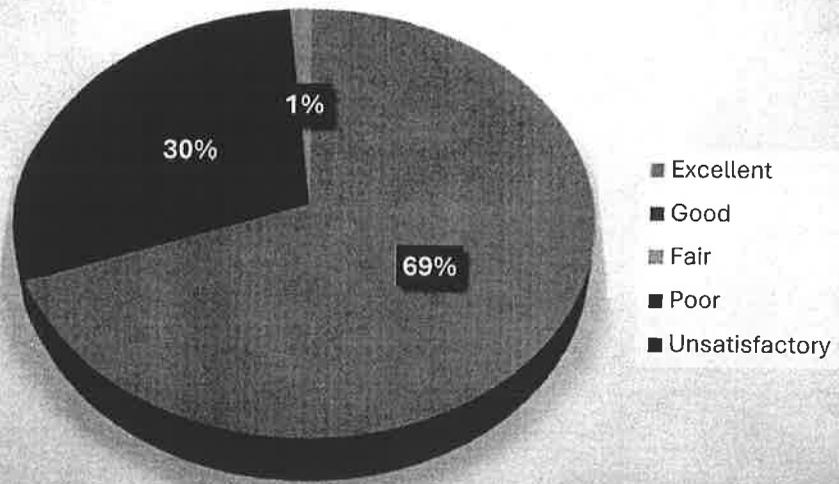
Do you plan on visiting the senior center in the next month ?



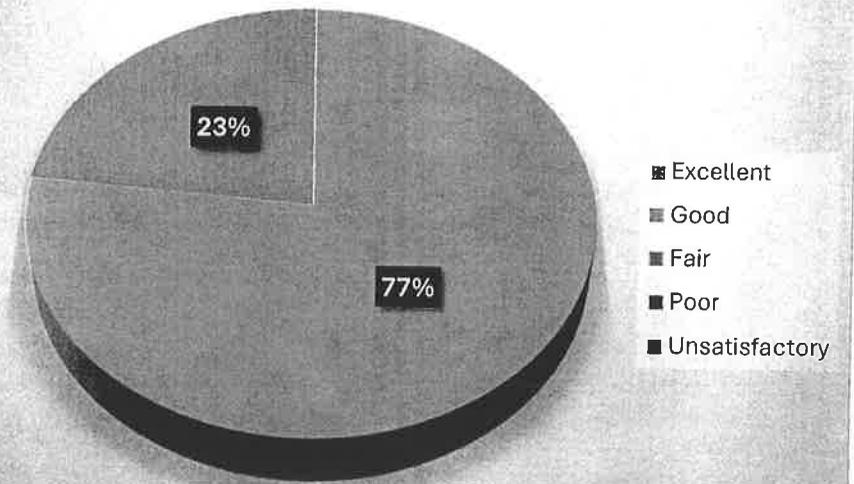
- Yes
- ▒ Probably so
- Maybe/Maybe Not
- ▒ Probably Not
- No



How would you rate the programs?



How satisfied are you with the customer service experience?



Do you have any suggestions to make the East Lyme Senior Center better/comments?

Please bring back the freebie table to the lobby

More educational talks/informational sessions/ lectures

Need larger mirror in the all- purpose room Variety of Instructor

Ensure acknowledgement at the window even holding up a finger to say one minute

Pay for programs online On-line registration is difficult

Microphone , audio equipment for all classes, for hearing impaired.

If classes items for class such weights, and art class

A casual section to hang coats between classes

Exercise room with equipment

More adventures by bus/museums, have a committee to choose places & things to do

Add more classes/space/they fill too quickly

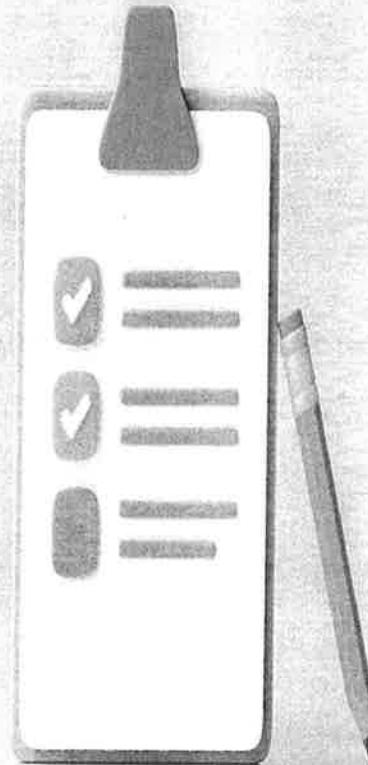
Would like to see the monthly lunch and learns return

Meet at Crescent Beach Stand and BBQ at McCooks

Staff does a wonderful job

Keep doing what you are doing! Excellent variety of classes available

Keep up the good work



BOS BUDGET MEETING – 2-17-26 - TALKING POINTS

Exhibit #5

CIP Committee

- The CIP Committee reconvened for 1st meeting on 1/13/26 with 2 members of BOS, BOF and BOE with public representatives for each board totaling 9 members (Roseann Hardy & Ann Cicchiello represented the BOS).
- We jumped right in and started hearing from the various departments that submitted CIPs.
 - Police/Fire & Em Mgt on 1/20/26
 - The committee toured the following locations on 1/22/26.
 - ELCC, Sam Smith Homestead, Bridebrook Park, McCook's Seawall, Niantic River Boardwalk and we ended up at the Niantic Fire Station HQ off of Grand St
 - Parks & Rec and PW on 1/27
 - PW finished up then General Govt on 1/29
 - IT and BOE on 2/3
- After the meeting on 2/3, KG provided the town's current debt and projections.
- On 2/5, the committee started deliberations.
 - We went over our process.
 - Dan Cunningham & KG gave us a target to cut from the submitted total of \$11,739,721 in projects down to \$7M so we needed to cut over \$4.7M in projects.
 - We went dept by dept, discussed which projects we remembered were important and then went project by project. If a committee member made a motion to cut a project, it needed to be seconded, discussed then voted on.
 - The first night we were able to get down to \$9M in our first round of cuts.
- We meet again on 2/9 for a second day of deliberations.
- At our 8th meeting of the committee in less than a month, we were able to make an additional \$2M in cuts to give you the recommended CIP that you have in front of you now.
- One of the items under Parks & Rec was a \$50k project to provide irrigation at the youth football and all-purpose field between ELMS and Lille B Haynes. I asked our Water Chief Operating Officer to weigh in on this project, and he put together a letter against this project as proposed due to the impact on the Town water supply.

Conclusions

1. The Committee was very efficient and worked well together to come up with a consensus on what is best for the Town going forward.
2. We hope that through the work of this committee, that it will be easier for the BOS and BOF to recommend the CIP budget for next FY.
3. We agreed to meet again in a few weeks to look at all the projects that we cut in next year's CIP and see if/where they fit into the next 5 years. It is the intention of the committee to formalize a 5-year CIP plan that would then need to be approved at the Town meeting in May.

Exhibit #6

Town of East Lyme

Capital Projects Budget Proposal as of February , 2026

Fiscal Year 2026-27

Project #	Priority #	Description of Capital Request	Useful Life	CIP CMTE RECOMMENDED BUDGET	Proposed Funding			
					20 year Bond	10 Year Bond	5 Year Bond	Paid Cash
General Government								
		Townwide Radio Communications System	25	\$ 1,365,000	\$ 1,365,000			
		ADA - Website Redesign	5	\$ 20,000				\$ 20,000
		Town Match - 1772 Grant (Sam Smith Farmstead)		\$ 10,000				\$ 10,000
		Town Match - SHPO (50%) Structural Analysis		\$ 20,000				\$ 20,000
		Assessment Reval Reserve	5	\$ 75,000			\$ 75,000	\$ -
Information Technology								
		IT - Townwide Fiber Items not Covered by Grant	12	\$ 12,000				\$ 12,000
		IT - Secure Firewall Hardware and Subscription	7	\$ 17,000				\$ 17,000
		IT - Town Wide Computer Replacement 5yr Plan - Catch Up	5	\$ 56,000			\$ 56,000	\$ -
		IT - Storage Increase Server/Backup Cyber Protection	5	\$ 10,000				\$ 10,000
		IT - UPS Battery Backups TH/PD/EOC	7	\$ 8,000				\$ 8,000
		IT - PSB Server Replacement - PD	7	\$ 366,000			\$ 366,000	\$ -
		IT - Town Wide Secure WiFi Cyber Security (ELConnect)	5	\$ 8,000				\$ 8,000
		IT - Town Hall Cameras and Supporting Infrastructure	15	\$ 70,000			\$ 70,000	\$ -
Public Safety								
Police								
A		Police Vehicles- Upfit with Equipment	6	\$ 170,000			\$ 170,000	\$ -
A		Patrol Rifles	10	\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000	\$ -
B		Regional Tactical Team Equipment	10	\$ 25,000			\$ 25,000	\$ -
A		Ballistic Vests	5	\$ 12,100				\$ 12,100
D		Dispatcher Chairs	5	\$ 7,000				\$ 7,000
East Lyme Fire Service								
1		Apparatus Recapitlization - Ladder 1 (2005) B-15	15	\$ 600,000		\$ 600,000		\$ -
2		Firefighting Equipment	5	\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000	\$ -
PUBLIC WORKS								
Roads, Bridges, & Paving								
		Road Paving Program (Roads, Town parking lots, etc)	10	\$ 750,000			\$ 750,000	\$ -
		Town Sidewalk Construction	15	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000	\$ -
		Fairhaven Road Bridge - Carrying Costs (Fed/State Reimburse	50	\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000
Vehicles and Equipment								
		Purchase of MSW & Recycling Cans	10	\$ 23,500				\$ 23,500
		Replace 2012 Loader at Transfer Station		\$ 255,000		\$ 255,000		\$ -
		Replace 2015 Wheeled Excavator		\$ 230,000		\$ 230,000		\$ -
		Replace chassis and refurbish 2011 - 14EL Large Dump Truck		\$ 75,000			\$ 75,000	\$ -
Buildings and Infrastructure								
		Plants Dam Rebuild - Contingency		\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000	\$ -
		HVAC Renovations and Replacement (CNRE)		\$ 20,000				\$ 20,000
		Municipal Building Repairs and Improvements (LOCIP)		\$ 50,000				\$ 50,000
		ELCC ADA & Other Improvements		\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000		\$ -
		Replace Fire Station Boilers (LOCIP)		\$ 250,000				\$ 250,000
		Niantic River Boardwalk - Replace Decking (LOCIP)		\$ 220,000				\$ 220,000
Culture and Recreation								
Parks- Building and Equipment								
1		Contour Rotary Mower (2012)	12	\$ 97,000			\$ 97,000	\$ -
2		Mechanical Beach Groomer Large (2005)	10	\$ 75,000			\$ 75,000	\$ -
Parks- Parks Maintenance								
2		Park Improvement Plan	10	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000	\$ -
5		Bleacher Replacement	25	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000	\$ -
3		Youth Football and Soccer Irrigation	20	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000	\$ -
EDUCATION								
High School								
		ELHS - HVAC Component Recapitalization		\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000		\$ -
Middle School								
		ELMS - HVAC Recapitalization		\$ 350,000		\$ 350,000		\$ -
		ELMS Roof Life Extension/Restoration (Final Phases FY27)		\$ 350,000		\$ 350,000		\$ -
District Wide								
		HVAC IAQ Inspections (FL, LBH, ELMS, ELHS) (\$.4/SqFT [p4% Escalation)		\$ 24,120				\$ 24,120
		Technology and Other Capital Items - BOE		\$ 499,000			\$ 499,000	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL				\$ 6,999,720	\$ 1,365,000	\$ 2,085,000	\$ 2,788,000	\$ 761,720
				General Government	\$ 2,037,000			
				Public Safety	\$ 944,100			
				Public Works	\$ 2,173,500			
				Culture & Recreation	\$ 322,000			
				Education	\$ 1,523,120			
				Grand Total	\$ 6,999,720			
					Bonds \$ 6,238,000 Cash Capital \$ 761,720 Subtotal \$ 6,999,720 Less: Proposed Budget \$ 6,999,720 Variance -			

Cash Capital Breakdown	
LOCIP Funds	\$ 520,000
Town Operating	\$ 241,720
Total Cash Capital	\$ 761,720
Add:	
Lease Payments	\$ 293,851
Total Cash Capital Request	\$ 1,055,571

Town of

Chief Operating Officer
Benjamin M. North
bnorth@eltownhall.com
Phone (860) 691-4108



East Lyme

P.O. Drawer 519
108 Pennsylvania Ave
Niantic, Connecticut 06357

Memo

To: East Lyme Board of Selectman

From: Ben North, Chief Operating Officer, East Lyme Water and Sewer

Date: 2/17/2026

RE: Capital Request for Installation of Additional Irrigation Pumping Systems at Gorton Pond

Esteemed Board of Selectman members:

It has come to my attention that there is a currently a capital request by the East Lyme Parks Department to obtain \$50,000 for the purpose of installing additional pumping systems in Gorton Pond to assist with irrigating the athletic fields between the East Lyme Middle School and Lilly B Haynes Elementary School. I would formally like to object to this capital request for the following reasons:

East Lyme Water and Sewer Commission currently operate two major wells in close proximity to not only the Parks Department's proposed new pumping system, but also to the current Parks Department pumping system that is already in use. Our municipal wells can produce about 1.5 million gallons of clean, safe drinking water per day, providing nearly half of the entire demand of the East Lyme system, but are restricted during dry periods of the summer months due to Connecticut DEEP requirements to maintain adequate stream flow levels. East Lyme's water deficits in the summer months should come as no surprise to the Board of Selectman, as it has been a perennial issue for years, and was the main driver for the town spending roughly \$10 million 13 years ago to create an interconnect with New London to make up for this summer-time shortfall.

These wells are extremely important to the viability of the East Lyme Water System. The water they produce serves homes and businesses that create a thriving community and support critical infrastructure such as fire protection. But when the stream levels run low in Gorton Pond, this critical infrastructure must be shut down to comply with state regulations. In competition with this resource, the Parks department is operating an un-

regulated pumping operation that takes water directly from the site at which our ability to withdrawal water is affected. I have already advised the Parks Department that the current operation must operate under 50,000 gallons per day threshold to stay under the requirement for a DEEP diversion permit, but given water is already withdrawn by two major wells in the area, the operation should be reviewed for compliance considering all withdrawals and their cumulative impacts on streamflow. The current Parks system has no flow meter, or logs of daily totals of operation. It is operated under a series of guesses and assumptions. To allow the current system to continue in its current form is problematic, and to allow an increase in this activity is an active subversion to the East Lyme Water System and the rate payers who rely on it.

Consider a scenario where Southeastern Connecticut is in a drought, just as it was last summer. The stream gauge installed in Gorton Pond drops below safe levels. The municipal wells that homes and businesses rely on are shut down to conserve stream flows in Gorton Pond. And yet at the same time, water is pumped, unmetered and unregulated, from the very same tributary that the Water Department is trying to protect so that athletic fields can stay lush and green. At the same time that water demand throughout the system is at its highest and regulated production is taken offline, water is continued to be withdrawn for non-potable, non-necessary uses. Not only does this practice deprive residents of the ability to use their water through mandatory water restrictions, it also undermines the regulations that protect environmental sustainability of the Gorton Pond area. And by the Parks department continuing to pump water from a source already under stress to irrigate fields, it further exacerbates and delays the recharging of the aquifer to allow municipal water production to resume.

The proper action moving forward demands that the Parks Department, and any other entities operating unpermitted and unregulated pumping systems, cease the withdrawals from the Gorton Pond area and connect to the East Lyme Water System where it can be properly metered and regulated. Instead of increasing production and further circumventing regulations and its own water department, the Town should be a model citizen and abide by state regulations and support protecting the integrity of the East Lyme water system and maintaining environmental stewardship of our natural resources.

Thank You for your consideration of this very important matter.