

**EAST LYME BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, MAY 30th, 2012**

Members In Attendance: Raymond Hart, Chairman  
Steve Harney, Secretary  
Richard Bengtson  
Steve Kelley  
Lisa Picarazzi

Also In Attendance: Anna Johnson, Finance Director

Absent: Steve Carpenteri

**A. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Hart called this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance to order at 6:30 PM.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was observed.

**C. Delegations**

Mr. Hart called for delegations.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane said that he had a few comments regarding the Board of Finance Public Hearing minutes. He said that he made a couple of comments when he was speaking regarding how the grand list had decreased and they were now properly stated. He said that the correct statement that he had made regarding the amounts is: *'Our Grand List has decreased by \$282.5M; and the real estate assessment has decreased by \$290.7M.'* Also, at the Special Meeting after that Public Hearing on April 23, they had said that the budget they were sending to the Town would have an estimated increase of .5 mills. He said that was a bogus statement which he feels had a negative impact on the budget vote.

**D. Reports**

◆ **First Selectman**

Mr. Hart noted that Mr. Formica was unable to attend this evening and asked Ms. Johnson if she had anything to update them on.

Ms. Johnson said that Mr. Formica had asked her to provide them with the most recent figures provided by the State on what they would receive. She said that she had noted the changes on the projected revenue sheet for them also.

Mr. Hart said that it looks to be basically a wash as it is a couple hundred dollars.

**E. New Business**

**a. Discussion/Action – Set Mill Rate for the 2012-2013 Budget**

Mr. Hart said that they are looking at a .5 mill increase in the budget; but to answer Mr. Schulz – he explained that with the reval that the mill rate had to be increased from the current 19.472 to 22.28 to keep it basically neutral. So, the .5 mill increase would be made to the 22.28 mills which is the reval equivalent to the current (pre-reval) 19.472 mills.

(Note: 6:42 PM – Mr. Harney joined the meeting)

**\*\*MOTON (1)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to set the mill rate for the 2012-2013 fiscal year at 22.78 mills.  
Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.

Mr. Hart called for discussion or a vote on the motion.  
Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**F. Public Discussion**

Mr. Hart called for Public Discussion.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane said that he has to take exception to Mr. Hart's statement about the 19.472 mills to 22.28 mills. He said that he understands that they had to increase it for the reval however before the referendum, The Day paper's Jenna Chao had made the statement that the mill rate is increasing by .5 mills. This was stated the same day of the referendum and often times this is the first time that many people see what the budget is and while it is not the fault of the Board of Finance, that is the reality of how it is. He said that they see very few people attend their budget meetings and that frequently he is the only person who is not an employee of the education system or who has something to do with it, who is in attendance at the Board of Ed meetings. In his opinion when the newspaper comes out the day of the referendum, stating that there is a .5 mill increase and stating the 19.48 current mill rate – then the numbers do not add up as it is more than 3 mills over the current rate. He said that many older people rely on the newspaper and he feels that this information may have skewed the referendum vote.

Ms. Picarazzi asked Mr. Schulz what he understood the .5 mill increase to mean.  
Mr. Schulz said that he had come in to ask Ms. Johnson to go over it with him as it did not make sense at first and that once it was explained, he understood it but the public did not get that information.

Mr. Harney said that they could not be held responsible for what the paper writes.

Mr. Hart noted also that there was a correction printed in the paper the following day. He added that they have tried in a number of presentations to get all of the information out to people.

Mark Nickerson, 15 Jean Drive said that they could not write the Day's stories for them and that what the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen and Board of Ed did in their presentations was clear and concise. Further – they have only just now set the mill rate. And – they did not vote on a mill rate last week Thursday at the referendum, they only voted on the budget.

**G. Board Comments**

Mr. Hart called for any comments from the Board.

Ms. Picarazzi said that she had to comment on the increase and the confusion. The only reason for the mill increase was due to the reval. While it may appear that the mill rate went up from the current mill rate some 3+ mills, the actual increase was only .5 mills. She also recalled that Ms. Johnson had explained this in detail at meetings.

Mr. Kelley said that the 22.28 mills was only to keep things flat. He also recalled that they had gone over this with Mr. Schulz personally after the meeting and that he said that he understood it.

Mr. Schulz said that he is not disputing that as he did understand it. He said that what he is concerned about is that others did not understand it and that they felt that the .5 mill was being added to the 19.48 mills as the newspaper had stated.

## **H. Adjournment**

Mr. Hart called for a motion to adjourn.

### **\*\*MOTION (2)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to adjourn this Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance at 6:55 PM.

Mr. Bengtson seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,  
Recording Secretary