

**EAST LYME BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, APRIL 10th, 2013**

Members In Attendance: Raymond Hart, Chairman  
Steve Harney, Secretary  
Camille Alberti  
Steve Carpenteri  
Steve Kelley  
Lisa Picarazzi

Also In Attendance: Paul Formica, First Selectman  
Anna Johnson, Finance Director

Absent: No One

**A. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Hart called this Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance to order at 6:00 PM.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was observed.

**C. Delegations**

Mr. Hart called for Delegations.

Sonya Mazzulli, 183 N. Bride Brook Rd. said that she is the PTA President at LB Haynes and that they are in support of the Board of Ed budget. She has children in the school system and there is great support for the education system here. She is here tonight in support of the Board of Ed budget.

Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Rd. said that he is speaking against the whole budget – he would like them to sharpen their pencils and go over it again. They do not need full time kindergarten – the Board of Ed should cut some of the salaries there and start at the top and give that money back to the Town. He has been in this Town for over 70 years and there are people who cannot afford to continue to live here. Further, they could have had all sorts of businesses in this Town – such as the Harley business and UPS facility – but what happens is that we don't let them in. The first thing is to cut the Board of Ed budget – cut 1.34M off the bottom line and give it back to them and let them cut their line items where they want to since you do not have line item control.

Matvey Sokolovsky, 26 White Birch Circle said that he moved here last year from Mansfield for the good schools and that he believes that good schools are a good investment. It is important what programs are available for the bright and other kids.

Maia Vargas, 18 Pontiac Drive said that she has a 40 minute drive every day to work but she stays here due to the schools and the programs. People live here because of the schools and it is an important piece of the Town budget.

Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Road said that we know that we have good school, however; what most people do not know is that the Board of Finance does not have line item control of the Board of Ed budget. She said that the bottom line should be reduced by 1.3M as there are two programs not mandated – full time kindergarten at \$426,000 and there is also \$958,000 for extra curricular activities. Ultimately the Board of Finance has to look at affordability of the Town as a whole. There is an 8.2% unemployment rate in East Lyme - it is increasing again. From 1989-1999 the Board of Ed budget rose 58.4% and during that same time people's wages decreased. In the High School they have seen an increase in the number of students who

cannot pay for their lunches – in 2009-2010 it was 36; in 2010-2011 it was 87. The largest rate of increase for SNAP participants was in East Lyme this year. They need to look at affordability. There is a decrease in students – (74 less) but they have added teachers – again – they have to look at affordability. She suggested that they cut 1.3M from the bottom line and the Board of Ed can make the decision on where those cuts would be made.

Mike McKee, 59 Black Point Rd. said that he has three children in the school system and has a personal, vested interest in supporting the school system. He respects that they have to address everyone's needs but said that he sees what happens when some of the extra curricular programs are not supported. One of the big appeals of his moving here was the school system and his children are getting to the point of all day kindergarten and could benefit from it. He said that a lot of the teachers in the school system were students in it at one time. He is in full support of the budget.

Stacy Lyster, 12 Sea Breeze Ave. said that she has a child in the school system and that she is happy to support the school budget. When the budget has been cut she has seen the class sizes get larger. She asked that no more cuts be made to the budget.

Pamela Dhillon, 3 Esther Pond Lane said that she is in support of the budget and that she and her husband grew up in East Lyme. She has a daughter entering kindergarten at Flanders next year. She said that the surrounding towns offer full time kindergarten and that at a forum that was held for full time kindergarten 87 parents showed up and 90% of them supported full time kindergarten. She feels that is a good representation and she is in support of the budget.

Randee Siegal, 65 Old Black Point Rd. said that she is in support of the budget and is a mortgage broker who moved here from NYC and works from home. She has a daughter in the school system. She said that we have to compete with other countries and states and that we have to have confident kids coming out of kindergarten and going into first grade so that they can do well. She said that she feels strongly that this needs approval.

Anne Cekal, 21 So. Cobblers Court said that she is in favor of the Board of Ed budget and the schools and thanked them for the time that they are giving to this. Full day kindergarten will bring the kids to where they need to be. The kids need to be fully educated. She wants the budget kept as it is.

Melissa Wallace, 34 Grouse Circle said that she is in support of the budget and feels that this is a good head start.

Michael Williams, 52 Laurel Hill Drive said that he thinks that we all want what is better for our children – but asked if there is any evidence of that extra half day kindergarten and what it will do as he has not heard of any. He said that he will not ask the taxpayers to subsidize his children.

John Drabik, 18 Drabik Road said that he sees that the grand list is essentially flat so any increases would have to come from the taxpayers. With Obama care; higher taxes; insurance costs and other costs you are looking at almost a 2 mill increase – are you people crazy?? Enough is enough – keep the budget flat and make the adjustment to get it there.

Kelly Seals, 27 Stone Ranch Road said that she is in strong support of the full time kindergarten. She came here from New London and when she was faced with the option of sending their child to half day kindergarten here or to full time kindergarten in New London Magnet school – they opted for New London. She said that she feels that it is beneficial and that it increases student achievement and allows a teacher to get to know a student better. She said that they must support this to make it available to the kids in East Lyme.

Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road said that he has listened to these people speak who have kids in the system. He has been coming here for years – they have 18,000-19,000 people in the Town – not just the education people – there are others in this Town and you have to think of them also. Your job is to determine what the Town can afford and not just what the education people want. They all come here for the education system and then after their kids are done with it – they move out of Town and don't pay what it costs to educate their kids. Think of everyone.

John Drabik, 18 Drabik Road said that the umpteenth number of years now – the school system is always looking for more money – and they say that they are investing in our future. He thinks that they owe it to the taxpayers to present a flat budget. He said that he looks around this room and he is the highest paying taxpayer in the room tonight and he pays nearly \$40,000 in taxes. Let the people who want the full time kindergarten and who move into Town for it – pay for it. After these people’s kids graduate – they move and never pay for their kids’ education.

Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Road said that there is less than one-sixth of our population that receives about 67% of the overall budget. The job of the Board of Finance is to determine affordability and this is not affordable.

Mai Vargas, 18 Pontiac Drive said that that they spoke of cutting off from the budget for full time kindergarten and after school activities – and about the school lunches. We need the after school activities and the full time kindergarten. The schools are the connection to the Town.

James Lombardo, 4 Maple Street said that he was speaking as a resident and a businessman who runs one of the biggest businesses in this Town – the school system – with a \$42M budget. He said that he came from Pennsylvania to here and noted that a major magazine cited East Lyme for it’s schools and beaches and there is no mention in the magazine of taxes. He said that he is in negotiation with China to sell our school system to have some of their students come here – they would have to pay \$150,000 to us in order to do this. In order for this to happen the cutting edge programs (marine biology, archaeology, Chinese, etc) are the ones that set their kids apart from others. He said that he does not think that people come to East Lyme to have these programs cut. And – if they have to cut their budget then Ms. Rak’s comments on the East Lyme unemployment figure will make that figure even greater. He expects the people as the Board of Finance to serve these people and support this budget as the people do not come here for cheap taxes – they come here for the schools.

Dawn Rodes, 26 North Road said that she moved here from Washington State and that she came here because of the schools.

Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Road said that with all due respect to Dr. Lombardo that his threat of laying off teachers falls on him – not on you. If he values his teachers then he will make other cuts. She said that what she was speaking of did not impact Spanish, archaeology or marine biology – his threat is his priority and he is telling you what his priorities are. She said that she is also a parent and this is how she sees it as one.

Tara Dowling, 19 Pleasant Drive Ext. said that she did not plan on speaking this evening but there is a lot of hostility in the room. She said that she is a transplant from another place and asked that people keep the hostility levels under control. She asked that they keep doing what they can.

Jill Carini, 10 Corey Lane said that she is a member of the Board of Ed and that she is speaking as a parent. Her daughter graduated recently and she wanted to note how the East Lyme grads shine above others. She said that education is something we have for life and she is speaking in support of the budget. She said that she applauds Jim Lombardo and supports the full time kindergarten.

Ron Rando, 194 Boston Post Road said that he ran the Concerned Citizens with John Drabik many years ago and they heard how if they cut the school budget that they are going to ruin it – well – it is still one of the best. Cut this budget and think of everyone.

Matvey Sokolovsky, 26 White Birch Circle said that people make money on their homes due to the school system. Some people are speaking about people who cannot pay their taxes and that is not what they are talking about right now; full time kindergarten is what they are talking about and that is what is important.

Anne Campbell, 5 South Cobbler’s Court said that she is speaking in support of the budget and the full time kindergarten program – even though her children are beyond that point. She said that it is important that everyone succeeds.

Rita Glover-Quiles, 15 Merrywood Lane said that she is a teacher at Oswegatchie School and that she can see first hand the effects of full time kindergarten at Oswegatchie School and how there are struggles without it. She said that her son will be in kindergarten at Flanders this coming year.

John Drabik, 18 Drabik Road said that the average cost per pupil is \$11,000 – if you are paying only \$4000 per year in taxes and you have two kids in the school system – figure out how long it will take you to pay for your kids' education. You have a superintendent who is passionate and is upset because I don't want to support his budget – we have been investing in this Town for a long time and it is time for some savings – make this a flat budget.

Mr. Hart thanked everyone for their comments.

#### **D. Approval of Minutes**

##### **▪ Wednesday, March 13, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

Mr. Hart called for a motion for approval or any changes to the Board of Finance Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2013.

##### **\*\*MOTION (1)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to approve the Board of Finance Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2013 as presented.

Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

##### **▪ Monday, March 18, 2013 – Special Meeting**

Mr. Hart called for a motion for approval or any changes to the Board of Finance March 18, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes.

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

Mr. Kelley moved to approve the Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2013 as presented.

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

##### **▪ Thursday, March 21, 2013 – Special Meeting**

Mr. Hart called for a motion for approval or any changes to the Board of Finance March 21, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes.

##### **\*\*MOTION (3)**

Mr. Kelley moved to approve the Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2013 as presented.

Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

##### **▪ Monday, March 25, 2013 – Special Meeting**

Mr. Hart called for a motion for approval or any changes to the Board of Finance March 25, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes.

##### **\*\*MOTION (4)**

Mr. Kelley moved to approve the Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2013 as presented.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

##### **▪ Thursday, March 28, 2013 – Special Meeting**

Mr. Hart called for a motion for approval or any changes to the Board of Finance March 28, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes.

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

Mr. Kelley moved to approve the Board of Finance Special Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2013 as presented.

Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

## **E. Reports**

### **◆ First Selectman**

Mr. Formica said that he would provide them with an update during deliberations.

### **◆ Finance Director**

Ms. Johnson said that her monthly report was in their packets and that she would answer any questions that they might have.

There were no questions.

## **F. New Business**

### **a. Budget Transfer – Non-affiliated - Salaries**

Mr. Formica said that this transfer is from contingency for the non-union personnel raises.

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

Mr. Kelley moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$34,416 from account 3-01-01-120-100-500 (Town Payroll Pending PR Change) to various budget line items as itemized on the attached worksheet titled, "Town of East Lyme Unaffiliated COLA increases 7/1/12 – 6/30/13 Additional Funding Required.

Mr. Harney seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

### **b. Budget Transfer – AFSCME Local 1303-229 - Wages**

Mr. Hart called for a motion.

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

Mr. Harney moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$55,762 from account 3-01-01-120-100-500 (Town Payroll Pending PR Change) to various budget line items as itemized on the attached worksheet titled, "Town of East Lyme Local 1303-229 of Council 4 AFSCME (Administrative/Maintenance) 2012/2013 Funding Agreement.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Mr. Formica said that this was the same type of item as the previous only for the contractual employees for the contract that was settled in February of this year that dates back to July 1, 2012.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

(Mr. Hart noted that Ms. Picarazzi had momentarily left the table and was absent for the vote.)

### **c. Budget Transfer – AFSCME Local 1303-436 - Wages**

Mr. Hart called for a motion.

#### **\*\*MOTION (8)**

Mr. Harney moved to transfer \$4,165 from account 3-01-01-120-100-500 (Contingency Pending PR Change) to the following accounts: \$3,869 to account 3-01-25-224-100-212 (Dispatchers), and \$296 to account 3-01-01-114-100-121 (FICA/Medicare) to fund Local 1303-436, council 4 AFSCME (Dispatchers) agreement.

Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

### **d. Budget Transfers – Within departmental budgets**

Mr. Hart called for a motion.

#### **\*\*MOTION (9)**

Mr. Carpenteri moved to ratify departmental transfers in the amount of \$40,240.11 processed for fiscal year end June 30, 2013.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

### **e. Special Appropriation \$1,000 – Biodiversity Preservation Grant**

Mr. Hart called for a motion.

**\*\*MOTION (10)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to approve a Special Appropriation in CNRE Fund 32 in the amount of \$1,000 Les Mehrhoff Plant Biodiversity Preservation Grant received from the Connecticut Association of Wetlands Scientists to implement the Clark Pond Riparian Area Restoration and Enhancement.  
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Mr. Formica explained that Clark Pond is adjacent to Vet's Field and that this funding is part of other money that is to be used for this purpose.

Vote: 6 – 0 - 0. Motion passed.

**f. Budget Deliberations – 2013-2014 Budget**

Mr. Hart said that Mr. McCulloch the Tax Collector was present and was providing them with a copy of the Suspense List for review so that they could act on it at their next Regular Meeting. He asked Mr. McCulloch for a snap shot of it and about the tax collection rate so far and where they expect to be for the end of June.

Mr. McCulloch said that this suspense list is different from previous years in that the personal property side is much higher due to the closing of commercial properties in Town such as the Colonial IGA, etc. The listing represents companies that have been called many times - the total is \$39,043.10.

Mr. McCulloch said that the current collection rate is 98.58% and that he anticipates receiving some large payments by the end of June as they have been promised. At the end of last year the rate was 98.4% collected and some 60 days later it was 98.7%. He would expect to do as well this year.

Mr. Hart thanked Mr. McCulloch and said that they would discuss the Board of Ed budget first. He called for a motion to open that department.

**\*\*MOTION (11)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to open department 999 – Board of Education.

Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Hart said that they are looking for a 3.34% increase. He noted to everyone that they do not have line item control over this budget. He said that his recommendation would be to cut \$650,000 from the bottom line and Dr. Lombardo can look over the budget and make decisions on where it would come from. He said that he is not negating the school system or the full time kindergarten however this is a different year and they still are not sure of where they will be. He asked for comments from the Board members.

Ms. Picarazzi thanked everyone for coming and for speaking and said that this is to a black or white issue. Being fiscally prudent is very difficult as everyone has had to face having to do more with less. Dr. Lombardo is a bright man who is resourceful and can maintain standards. In asking to trim this budget by \$650,000 there are items that have nothing to do with people being let go in the budget. With regard to the full time kindergarten she said that her personal opinion is that she is conflicted with it and not really seeing it. While she is also a 'mom', Niantic Center School is the highest per cost in the school district.

Mr. Kelley said that he supports the Chairman's numbers even though they are a bit off from what he was thinking. He said that they do not have line item veto and that the cut from the Board of Ed budget has nothing to do with the full time kindergarten program. He noted that from 2010-2011 to now that the school budget went from (in round numbers) \$38M to \$42M – which shows that this Board in the last three years has supported education. They have to look at affordability – not just of one area but for everyone in the Town.

Mr. Carpenteri said that he also supports the \$650,000 number.

Ms. Alberti said that she is relatively new to this Board and that she does support the Chairman's recommendation and defers to his expertise. She said that as a parent that they moved here eight years ago and that she also has children. Given that, she said that she would like to be able to retire in this Town and it

is a very difficult balancing act. She thanked everyone for their words of support and said that she does not think that they need to be lectured as they do not take any of this lightly.

Mr. Hart asked Mr. Hagen and Mr. Lombardo if they would like to say something.

Tim Hagen, Chairman, Board of Education said that he knows that their job is difficult but he is disappointed especially with the all day kindergarten even though he know that is not what they are saying. He said that over the past years of Dr. Lombardo's leadership that he thinks that they have shown cost savings and brought transparency – especially with SPED. While he also has mixed feelings about the all day kindergarten – standards have been passed down that it is a good program and he is disappointed that they have not taken this to the public to vote on as there is support for it in the community.

Mr. Hart said that he thinks that they have a big opportunity to offset a lot of this in Healthcare savings and some of the bigger line items in their budget have money there that could be reduced.

Mr. Hagen said that they may have some give back and that they could leverage with that.

Dr. Lombardo speaking as the Superintendent of Schools said that in terms of Healthcare savings that they could probably knock off \$350,000 and that leaves them with \$300,000. If they knock off the teacher evaluations at \$130,000 the other \$150,000 if they are able to have it as a give back to them, they could possible save. They would like it considered letting them have it back just as they did three years ago. That would take care of the \$650,000 for the most part.

**\*\*MOTION (12)**

Mr. Kelley moved to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$650,000.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (13)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to close department 999 – Board of Education.

Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Formica said that he would update them on the revenue picture from the State. With respect to the Education funding, the Legislative Committee passed keeping the ECS funding separate from the PILOT funding. It now has to go to appropriation in about two week's time. The Senate Majority and Minority leaders spoke today and he was appointed to the Committee on Education and they have been discussing how to fund the mandates – so there has been some thinking to re-look at teacher evaluations. The Governor has proposed \$755,000 of PILOT going to zero and they are fighting to keep PILOT separate. The \$334,000 of Pequot funding has been proposed to be reduced to \$40,000 and they are hoping that it may end up somewhere in the middle. LoCIP and TAR, the Governor is purposing to take that money and put it in his budget and then bond to get it to give to the cities and Towns.

The Town's fund balance some years ago was in the low 5.4% range and this group wanted to move it up to at least 7%. They have grown it to 7.9% with the anticipated \$500,000 return unspent to general government. They have used \$350,000 as a holder to use this year and he suggested using \$500,000 for the upcoming year to help the budget. While it will not add to the fund balance, it won't change it either.

Mr. Harney asked about a safe number to look at with regard to revenues. He said that whatever budget is passed will have an effect on the mill rate.

Mr. Formica said that he is comfortable with the numbers from the bottom up of the revenue listing. He said he is comfortable with the Healthcare savings such as the \$350,000 for the Board of Ed and added that he likes to keep the fund balance stable as the bond agencies look favorably on that.

Mr. Kelley asked if PILOT is \$849,000 or \$754,000.

Mr. Formica said that they should use the \$754,000 figure.

Mr. Hart asked if there was any further word on the car taxes.

Mr. Formica said that they understand in Hartford that there is no way to replace it. In East Lyme it would be \$2.4M in revenue that would have to be made up by property taxpayers. For now it appears to be dead, although there may be a 'down the road' concept.

**\*\*MOTION (14)**

Mr. Kelley moved to open department 101 – Selectman.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (15)**

Mr. Kelley moved to reduce line 300-320 – Supplies by \$500.  
Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Alberti suggested that they could reduce line 100-111 – First Selectman to \$107,992.  
Mr. Hart suggested reducing the stipend for the Board of Selectmen to \$7821.  
Ms. Johnson noted that they are reducing salaries that are already in place that were approved in February.  
Mr. Formica said that the Board of Selectmen stipend is going into next year and if they would rather say no raises next year and keep everything flat – that would work. He added that they could take money from Contingency if they want to reduce salaries.

**\*\*MOTION (16)**

Mr. Carpenteri moved to close department 101 – Selectman.  
Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (17)**

Mr. Kelley moved to open department 102 – Assessor.  
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (18)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 200-216 – Service contracts by \$5,793.  
Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (19)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to close department 102 – Assessor.  
Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (20)**

Mr. Harney moved to open department 103 – Tax Collector.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (21)**

Mr. Kelley moved to reduce line 300-320 – Supplies by \$500.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (22)**

Mr. Kelley moved to close department 103 – Tax Collector.  
Mr. Harney seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (23)**

Mr. Kelley moved to open department 110 - Registrars.

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (24)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to reduce line 300-201 – Telephone by \$700.  
Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (25)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to close department 110 - Registrars.  
Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (26)**

Mr. Kelley moved to open department 114 – General Govt.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (27)**

Mr. Kelley moved to reduce line 140-233 – General Govt. Legal Services by \$25,000.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (28)**

Mr. Carpenteri moved to reduce line 100-127 – Health/Dental Care by \$18,000.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Mr. Kelley asked if they make this reduction if they would be able to pay the Health insurance bills.  
Ms. Johnson said that this reduction is a result of a new provider. The expectation is that they will have more solid numbers on this at the public hearing.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (29)**

Mr. Kelley moved to close department 114 – General Govt.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (30)**

Mr. Kelley moved to open department 116 – Zoning  
Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (31)**

Mr. Kelley moved to reduce line 200-New – Consultant by \$1000.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Mr. Kelley noted that they had reduced the same type of item in the Inland Wetlands budget.  
Ms. Alberti added that this comes in on the revenue side and agreed that it would be fine to reduce it.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (32)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 100-211 – Zoning Official by \$16,000 for a four day work week.  
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Mr. Hart said that he had done some research and said that he would ask Mr. Formica if there are any contractual issues.

Mr. Formica said that there are no contracts, the department heads are 'at will'; he added that he had shown them the project boards.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (33)**

Ms. Alberti moved to close department 116 – Zoning

Mr. Harney seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (34)**

Mr. Harney moved to open department 120 – Contingency

Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (35)**

Mr. Harney moved to reduce line 100-500 – Payroll by \$2500.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (36)**

Mr. Harney moved to close department 120 – Contingency

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (37)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to open department 134 – Smith Harris Commission

Mr. Harney seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (38)**

Mr. Kelley moved to increase line 300-201 – Telephone by \$300.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (39)**

Mr. Kelley moved to close department 134 – Smith Harris Commission

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (40)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to open department 136 – Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission

Mr. Harney seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (41)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to reduce line 200-225 – Maintenance of Harbor by \$530.

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (42)**

Mr. Harney moved to close department 136 – Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission

Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (43)**

Mr. Harney moved to open department 216 – Police

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (44)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 100-512 – PT Constables by \$5000.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (45)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 100-515 – Overtime Boat Duty by \$7500.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Mr. Hart said that he had looked at this and that every shift runs overtime.

Mr. Formica said that this cut would impact operations even with the sharing with Waterford. He suggested that they could take the \$1000 from Clerical OT.

Mr. Hart said that he is going to keep it this way and if during the summer months it gets heavier they –

Mr. Kelley said that it is an overall \$2.1M budget and they are talking about \$7500 – they can switch money around within the department – he said that he agrees to leave it.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (46)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 100-516 – Longevity/Shift Differential/Stipend by \$5000.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (47)**

Mr. Harney moved to close department 216 - Police

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (48)**

Mr. Kelley moved to open department 217 – Niantic Fire Department.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (49)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 100-614 – Overtime by \$5000.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (50)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 100-612 – PT Firefighters by \$5000.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (51)**

Mr. Carpenteri moved to close department 217 – Niantic Fire Department.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (52)**

Mr. Kelley moved to open department 218 – Flanders Fire Department.

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (53)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 100-614 – Overtime by \$10,000.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (54)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 100-612 – PT Firefighters by \$5,000.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (55)**

Mr. Kelley moved to close department 218 – Flanders Fire Department.  
Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (56)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to open department 224 – Public Safety/Fire Marshal.  
Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (57)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 300-246 – Transportation Allowance by \$3000.  
Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.

Mr. Hart said that he was suggesting this reduction with support for use of a Town vehicle for people to attend meetings, etc.  
Mr. Kelley agreed that he would much rather see a Town person using a Town vehicle to attend a meeting.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (58)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 300-243 – Training by \$500.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (59)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to close department 224 – Public Safety/Fire Marshal.  
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (60)**

Mr. Kelley moved to open department 420 – Library.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (61)**

Mr. Kelley moved to reduce line 150-295 – Library budget by \$15,000.  
Mr. Hart seconded the motion.

Mr. Kelley said that they have an overall budget of \$1,010,798.  
Mr. Hart noted that they are open 62 hours per week and that they could save that money with a one hour reduction - also the new members are paid less.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (62)**

Mr. Kelley moved to close department 420 – Library.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (63)**

Mr. Kelley moved to open department 421 – Parks & Recreation.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (64)**

Mr. Kelley moved to reduce line 100-412 – PT Seasonal Labor by \$15,000.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (65)**

Mr. Kelley moved to close department 421 – Parks & Recreation.  
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (66)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to open department 724 – Capital.  
Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Picarazzi said that she would like to see Town Projects – various reduced by \$75,000 to zero.  
Ms. Alberti said that she would be more comfortable with a \$50,000 reduction.

**\*\*MOTION (67)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to reduce line 724-700-100 – Town Projects Various by \$50,000.  
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.  
Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (68)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 724-700-100 – Revaluation by \$20,000.  
Mr. Carpenteri seconded the motion.

Mr. Kelley said that in three years they are going to pay \$300,000 and if they take the \$20,000 out this year – it will be really tight next year. He said that he would prefer that they leave it alone.

Vote: 0 – 6 – 0. Motion failed.

Mr. Kelley said that contingent on what the Town Attorney had said regarding the CNRE accounts - that the interest was to be held in a separate account and once that was completed; they could transfer the rest to like use that he would suggest reducing some Public Works items.

**\*\*MOTION (69)**

Mr. Kelley moved to reduce line 724-700-708 – PWD – Trucks Acquisition Program by \$100,000.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Mr. Formica said that it looks like they can apply the CNRE money as it is being used for the same intent – vehicles.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (70)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 724-700-403 – Harbor Management Update Plan by \$7500 and to reduce line 724-700-403 – Engineering/Consultant PW Fueling Station & Tanks by \$10,000.  
Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Mr. Kelley said that with the \$10,000 reduction in fuel tanks that when dealing with environmental hazards that they only get more expensive the longer that they wait – considering that – he said that he hesitates to change this at all.

Mr. Formica explained that this is in relation to the DEEP permit. The study will advise on moving the tanks to the new Field Services Facility.

Ms. Johnson said that there is about \$189,000 available in CNRE and they took \$100,000 – if they took another \$10,000 it would be okay.

Mr. Kelley said that he would agree to do that.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Picarazzi asked that the Board reallocate \$15,000 to the skateboard park project and to ask Dave Putnam if he has any money in the Special Revenue account that he kicks some in.

**\*\*MOTION (71)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to increase line 724-700-403 – Skate Board Park by \$15,000.

Mr. Harney seconded the motion.

Mr. Kelley said that they are taking money from supplies and from legal and that he cannot support this at this time.

Ms. Picarazzi said that she thinks that it is important for the kids to have this.

Ms. Alberti said that while she understands and agrees that she feels that she has to abstain as she does not know the history on this with respect to insurance, safety or uses for the property.

Vote: 1 – 2 – 3. Motion failed.

For: Ms. Picarazzi

Against: Mr. Kelley, Mr. Hart

Abstained: Mr. Carpenteri, Ms. Alberti, Mr. Harney

**\*\*MOTION (72)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 724-700-461 – PS Niantic Fire Dept Hose by \$8400 and under the same line – PS Niantic Fire Dept Acquisition Program by \$8480.

Mr. Harney seconded the motion.

Mr. Formica suggested that it is prudent to purchase a new vehicle for the Fire Marshal and to move his to EOC. The vehicle they drive now would be eliminated.

Mr. Hart asked what is coming off-line at the Police Department.

Mr. Formica said that they are high mileage and that it is better to auction them off.

Mr. Hart amended his motion to read: reduce line 724-700-461 – PS Niantic Fire Dept Hose by \$8400.

Mr. Harney seconded the amended motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (73)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 724-700-462 – PS Flanders Fire Dept SCBA Equipment by \$28,000.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Mr. Hart asked Mr. McDonald how many years they have left on the equipment.

Mr. McDonald said that they can only put one grant in and that they have one in to replace all the Niantic packs. Since Niantic has put in for a grant – Flanders cannot have one in as it is the same Town.

Mr. Kelley said that normally with a grant that they allocate the money and it is reimbursable.

Mr. Hart said that this relates specifically to the Flanders Fire Department.

Mr. Harney said that they still need to know when those expire.

Vote: 0 – 6 – 0. Motion failed.

**\*\*MOTION (74)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 724-700-461 – PS Emergency Management Acquisition Program by \$2965.  
Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Mr. Formica said that with all of the outfitting that is needed that he would ask if they could split the difference here. He added that this old vehicle goes to the building official.

Mr. Hart amended his motion to read: reduce line 724-700-461 – PS Emergency Management Acquisition Program by \$1484.

Ms. Alberti seconded the amended motion.

Vote: 5 – 1 – 0. Motion passed.

Against: Mr. Kelley

**\*\*MOTION (75)**

Mr. Hart moved to reduce line 724-700-715 – PWD – Street Sign Equipment by \$5000.

Ms. Picarazzi seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Formica noted that they could use some of the Public Works CNRE dollars for this.

**\*\*MOTION (76)**

Mr. Kelley moved to close department 724 - Capital.

Mr. Harney seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

**\*\*MOTION (77)**

Mr. Carpenteri moved to leave the following departments as they are: 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 118, 126, 127, 130, 131, 132, 133, 138, 226, 317, 418, 419, 422, 522, and 523.

Mr. Kelley seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Ms. Johnson synopsised the reductions that had been made - \$978,607 Total; \$182,384 from Capital; \$146,223 from General Government and \$650,000 from Education. The new budget total is \$63,199,865.

**G. Old Business**

There was none.

**H. Public Discussion**

Mr. Hart called for Public Discussion.

Kelly Seals, 27 Stone Ranch Road asked when the best time to give feedback on the budget is.

Mr. Hart said that it begins in February with the Board of Selectmen and then moves to the Board of Finance in early March.

Mr. Harney noted that the Board of Finance received the budget and started discussion on March 13, 2013 this year.

John McDonald, Niantic Fire Chief thanked the Board for the time they have taken. He commented on the \$8400 for the fire hose noting that while it seems like a lot that they have hose that was purchased before 1987 that has to be taken out of use. That is how old some of it is.

**I. Board Comments**

Mr. Hart asked that the meeting that would have been held on Monday evening, April 15, 2013 had they not completed budget deliberations be cancelled.

Ms. Picarazzi thanked everyone for working together on this difficult budget and for the support.

Mr. Hart said that they are still in tough times and that they may have to reduce further once they get additional information from the State.

**J. Adjournment**

Mr. Hart called for a motion to adjourn.

**\*\*MOTION (78)**

Ms. Picarazzi moved to adjourn this Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Finance at 10:00 PM.

Ms. Alberti seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,  
Recording Secretary