

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 29, 2011

PRESENT: Paul Formica, Mark Nickerson, Rose Ann Hardy, Jack Hogan.

1. Mr. Formica called the Special Meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and led the Pledge.

2. Discussion Regarding Emergency – Hurricane Irene

Mr. Formica noted that per Charter, the First Selectman may declare an emergency for the town if in his opinion, such a declaration is necessary, whereupon he shall immediately call an emergency meeting of the Board of Selectmen which shall confirm or revoke the declaration.

Mr. Formica said that Hurricane Irene hit East Lyme on Sunday, mid morning, but with winds far less than planned for. The winds we received were approximately 65 mph, with some tornados and wind gusts that did exceed 65mph. He said that the town suffered significant power outages and damage to the streets and that 40 roads were closed due to hanging wires, trees or both. He said that crews had been mobilized since Saturday evening and that everyone had performed unbelievably well during this event. He said the Middle School was opened as a regional emergency shelter and that Montville, Old Lyme and Lyme residents had been invited. He noted that in order to be readied for school starting, the shelter was open until further notice at the Community Center. He said that showers were available to residents from 5:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Middle School and that lunch and dinner would be provided for those needing it. He said that the Town Hall, Fire Departments, the lobby of the Police Department and the ELLCC will be open and available for those residents who need to charge phones or computers.

He said he met with and received a liaison from CL&P who was with them at the EOC all day. He said that restoration will be a two fold process, make the town safe and then restore power. He said that we still have neighborhoods where people cannot get in or out.

Mr. Wilson entered the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Mr. Formica said that the landfill is not accessible so that we will be using Vets Field and storing brush there from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If people do not have access to a truck, they can leave the brush near the curb and the Town will pick up at some point. He noted that he had assigned Victor Benni to track the costs for FEMA and noted that they would be coming tomorrow to assess the situation. He added that all in all, we were very lucky – things could have been a lot worse. He said that there was significant footage of McCook's beach lost due to the storm surge and added that 4 out of 7 wells were operating.

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MOTION (1)

Mr. Hogan moved to support the First Selectman's Emergency Declaration for the Town of East Lyme.

Seconded by Mr. Nickerson.

Ms. Hardy inquired when the traffic signals could be made operational.

Mr. Formica said that when the lines are safe to be energized, they will be.

Ms. Hardy suggested that Public Works remind residents what could go in the trash containers and added that no brush was allowed.

Mr. Formica said that regular trash and recycling routes had been performed today and that the Town had not experienced too much flooding since Gorton Pond and Powers Lake levels had been lowered.

Ms. Hardy inquired about the referendum on 9/1/11.

Mr. Formica said that the referendum was set by Town Meeting for September 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center and there is power there. He said that we are bound by this process to focus our efforts on the recovery and the referendum will be held as scheduled.

Mr. Hogan said that ice was available at Abco.

Mr. Formica stressed that this was a community effort and we need to help one another. He said we will clean up and get the power restored as soon as possible.

Mr. Nickerson thanked Dick Morris, the Fire Departments, Mike Giannattasio and the Public Works staff for all of their efforts.

Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Formica noted that Mr. Birmingham was not present since he was at work. He suggested that no one swim in the Niantic River or Long Island Sound until the water was tested. He urged everyone to watch out for loose wires and if seen, do not touch them, but to call the EOC at 860-739-4434 or his cell phone 860-405-4633. He also suggested the townsfolk continue to watch the website.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Nickerson moved to adjourn the August 29, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 4:30 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 5-0.

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Respectfully submitted,

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary