

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2012
MINUTES

PRESENT: Paul Formica, Mark Nickerson, Holly Cheeseman, Kevin Seery, Rob Wilson
Rose Ann Hardy.

Mr. Formica called the meeting to order at 8:17 p.m.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items

MOTION (1)

Mr. Nickerson moved to add 2d. Appointments – Boards and Commissions to the February 15, 2012 Board of Selectmen Agenda.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

1c. Delegations

Steve Kelley of 8 Joval Street noted he was a Board of Finance member and East Lyme's representative to TVCCA. He said that TVCCA was having a fundraiser on April 14th and requested that the Selectmen support the purchase of a page in their fundraising booklet costing \$250.00 which would support meals on wheels.

Bill Rix of 8 Islanda Court requested that the Selectmen ask questions about the regional dispatch proposal and not to believe everything that you hear.

1d1. Approval of Minutes, Special Meeting of February 1, 2012

MOTION (2)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 1, 2012 as submitted.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

1d2. Approval of Minutes, Regular Meeting of February 1, 2012

Ms. Hardy noted the following corrections / deletions / additions:

Page 6 motion 5, second paragraph should read: Ms. Hardy said that they spent \$100,000 on the Doyle property and there was a need for it and this proposal does not offer any upgrades to improve the property.

Page 7, third paragraph should read: Ms. Hardy said that she thinks that there is a definite difference between discussions and hearing specific details for the first time on TV.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 1, 2012 as amended.

Seconded by Mr. Seery. Motion passed 6-0.

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (4)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the Consent Calendar in the amount of \$8,917.49 for the meeting of February 15, 2012.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

2a. Budget Reviews

Niantic Fire Department Dept # 217

Chief McDonald was present and reviewed his budget noting that most lines had stayed the same as last year. He noted that the vehicle maintenance line was increased since several tires had to be purchased and the training line was increased by \$500. He noted a capital expense of replacing the floor and said that the town would be taking out the floor and performing the asbestos removal and the Ambulance Association was paying to install the new floor.

Ms. Hardy noted that part of the rationale comment on the vehicle maintenance line was omitted. She inquired what would happen if they exceeded their budget for propane.

Mr. Formica responded that he did not think that would happen since we were utilizing a new vendor and the price was quite a bit lower.

Mr. Wilson asked the Chief to review the Ambulance Association's proposed payments.

Chief McDonald said that they would be purchasing all of the diesel fuel (\$9600) and they also purchase fire fighter turn out gear (\$2000 per set) and radio maintenance.

Ms. Cheeseman inquired about the additional part time fire fighter.

Chief McDonald responded that an additional part timer was needed at Station 2 and explained that one part timer staffs the station from 11:00 p.m. on 7 days per week.

Mr. Nickerson noted that only 33% of the department's vehicle maintenance budget had been used this year and inquired if this line could be altered.

Chief McDonald said a good deal of the maintenance is done in the spring and pumps have to be tested.

Flanders Fire Department # 218

Chief Levandoski was present to review his budget. He said there was a significant increase in the part timer's line to support weekend coverage. He added that they are failing to bring in new members and there is a lack of available people on weekends. He said that they have an average of 5.4 people responding to a call.

Ms. Hardy inquired if the department received any rebate from the State for responding to problems on I-95.

Chief Levandoski responded in the negative.

Mr. Seery said that the ambulance charges for attending to problems on I-95 and suggested that if a pumper is dispatched, there should be a way to bill the state for that vehicle.

Chief Levandoski noted that the training line was increased \$500 and added that it costs \$700 a person for training.

Mr. Formica noted that the new Field Services Building has a training room and suggested that multiple trainings could be done on site at a potential lower cost.

Chief Levandoski noted that the tower truck was in for replacement starting next year.

Emergency Management / Public Safety / Dispatch #224
Emergency Management Director Dick Morris was present to review his budget. He noted that he had requested a 5th dispatcher however; it had not been supported by the First Selectman.

Mr. Seery said that he would like to see a chart of the busiest days at Dispatch.

Mr. Wilson suggested going to a 5-3 schedule.

Mr. Morris noted he agreed but added it would have to be negotiated.

Ms. Hardy inquired if the town proceeds with regionalizing dispatch, how much the Director's salary line will be reduced.

Mr. Formica responded that it would depend on what town we regionalized with.

Ms. Hardy noted that there is no funding to cover the administrative assistant's vacation or sick time.

Mr. Morris responded that he or the Deputy would cover the office in those cases.

Mr. Formica said that a draft memorandum of understanding between Waterford and East Lyme had become public and this was unfortunate since it was a draft and only conceptual and had no signatures. He said it is his responsibility to look for efficiencies wherever he can and that the technology now exists to consolidate a couple of local dispatches. He said he is also looking at other towns, not just Waterford and when his research is complete, he will bring several alternatives to the Board. He said that Waterford and East Lyme have different dispatch processes and there would be an

opportunity for the police department to become more autonomous, with a shared lock up. He said the decision would be determined on operational merit and notes that the potential exists for savings and efficiencies. He added if Waterford is chosen, a 6-month notice period is required. He stressed that public safety cannot be compromised, it has to be of the same quality or enhanced. He added that obviously, emotions are running high, but he wants to hear operational impacts, not emotional impacts.

Ms. Hardy said that she thought that this Board should have been better informed before this hit the papers.

Mr. Formica noted that he had been discussing regionalization of dispatch for the last two years and that the board was apprised.

Police # 216

Resident Trooper Sgt. Blanchette was present to review his budget.

Mr. Formica noted that we just received the State's estimate for resident trooper charges for the upcoming year. He added that we might need to add an additional \$15-20,000 for overtime after reviewing the estimate from the State.

Sgt. Blanchette said that presently there are 21 full time officers and one part timer. He said since the Boardwalk area would be re-opened in May of 2013, he wanted to hire another officer.

Ms. Hardy asked if an additional officer were hired, would the overtime line be reduced.

Sgt. Blanchette responded in the negative noted the need for minimum manning and that shifts needed to be staffed. He said when manning the boat, sometimes, not one of the three is part of the minimum manning and two officers are needed on the boat each time.

2b. Darrow Pond Environmental Study Committee

Mr. Formica noted as part of this purchase, the Town will set aside 200 acres for open space and a committee will be formed to review

2c. Set Remainder of Budget Review Schedules

The consensus of the Board was to review the following budgets: Public Works, Engineering, IT Building Maintenance; Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Commission on Aging and the Library all on Monday February 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Revenues, Debt, Capital and any other budgets necessary would be reviewed on March 5th at 6:00 p.m.

2d. Board and Commission Appointments

MOTION (6)

East Lyme Board of Selectmen February 15, 2012 minutes

Mr. Nickerson moved to appoint Robert J. Sullivan III of 1 Mallard Circle, East Lyme, CT to serve on the Town Building Committee through January 4, 2016.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (7)

Mr. Nickerson moved to appoint Peter Harris of 5 South Ridge Road, Niantic, CT to serve on the Niantic River Watershed Commission as an Alternate, representing the Waterford / East Lyme Shellfish Commission through January 6, 2014.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 6-0.

5a. Ex-Officio

5b. First Selectman's Report

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Board decided to offer their reports at a later meeting.

6. Public Discussion

Steve Kelley noted that the artwork was due by March 2nd for the TVCCA donation.

The consensus of the Board was to provide funding for an Ad Hoc Committee to support TVCCA.

MOTION (8)

Mr. Nickerson moved to adjourn the February 15, 2012 meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 10:21 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Wilson. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary