

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2011
MINUTES

PRESENT: Paul Formica, Mark Nickerson, John Birmingham, Rose Ann Hardy, Rob Wilson.

EXCUSED: Jack Hogan.

Mr. Formica called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Calendar Items
There were none.

1c. Delegations
There were none.

1d. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of September 7, 2011
MOTION (1)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 7, 2011 as submitted.

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

1e. Consent Calendar
MOTION (2)

Mr. Nickerson moved to approve the Consent Calendar in the amount of \$2691.75 for the September 21, 2011 meeting.

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

2a. FEMA Update

Mr. Formica said that we are still in the clean up stage from the storm and are still picking up brush. He said that Vets Parking Lot is closed so brush will be taken to the landfill. He added that we are waiting on a tub grinder to chip the brush if possible, to distribute back to the residents. He said that immediately after the storm, FEMA had 3 crews here and they were in the process of determining preliminary numbers.

Emergency Management Director Dick Morris said copies of receipts for potential reimbursement by FEMA for any structural damage should be filed. He said to call his office at 860-739-4434 for the forms that must be filled out and then, have a meeting with a FEMA representative in Groton. He said that the town has received great support from FEMA and today, they had filmed a public relations promo with the First Selectman and himself.

2b. Appointment – Town Building Committee

MOTION (3)

Mr. Birmingham moved to appoint Jerry Fortier of 13 N Ledge Rock Road, Niantic, CT to serve on the Town Building Committee through January 6, 2014.

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

2c. POCD Update

Town Planner Gary Goeschel was present and reviewed the status of the Plan of Conservation and Development. He passed out Chapter 4, which the Planning Commission had just completed and noted, it would be held until the transportation section was completed and then send both to a public hearing.

2d. Rescind Water Conservation Measures

Ms. Hardy inquired if there was any water use reduction at the prison since the closure.

Mr. Formica responded that more prisoners had been put in the Niantic Annex (approximately 500 total) since a prison in Mansfield had closed. He said they now expect to realize a 2-3% reduction in water usage at the prisons.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Nickerson moved to rescind the mandatory water conservation measures that went into effect on July 22, 2011 due to a decline in weekend water supply demand and recent rain events that have improved stream flow in the Pattagansett River and Bride Brook.

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

2e. Ratify IAFF Contract – Wage Opener for Existing Contract

Mr. Formica said this increase in wages totals a \$19,000 increase. He said he negotiated with the Union President and no legal fees were incurred.

MOTION (5)

Mr. Nickerson moved to ratify the wage scale for the East Lyme Fire Fighters Local 3377 for the period beginning July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013 as attached.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

3a. Samuel Smith House Update

Mr. Formica noted that at the last meeting, Ms. Lange and Mr. Carlson had presented the idea of purchasing the Huber property – known as the Samuel Smith house. At that time, the Selectmen authorized up to \$1500 for appraisals on the property to ascertain the value.

Mr. Carlson said he had been trying to assess what type of appraisals was needed. He said that DECD had informed him that they wanted a sales comparison analysis similar to

appraisals done on properties. He said that the grant must be in by October 28th. He noted that two appraisals were needed and he had contacted Silverstein who said he could do it for \$750 and another firm in Waterford for \$800.00. He introduced Ms. Anne Faust as the grant writer they hoped to use.

Mr. Wilson inquired why no appraisal firms from East Lyme had been contacted.

Ms. Lange responded that the grant requires a commercial appraisal and they understood that Buckley Appraisal does not perform commercial appraisals.

Mr. Formica said that he would contact Buckley Appraisals and inquire.

Anne Faust of Community Consulting said that she is a grant writer for non profits and municipalities. She said that the RFP for this grant is 50+ pages and is the only grant available to assist in the acquisition of a property, awarding up to \$200,000. She added it is a 1-1 cash match and if the property is over \$400,000, the Town needs to show how they will get the money and they want the purchase of the property done within 6 months of notification of winning the grant. She said it is a reimbursable grant, which means the Town expends the money and then the state will reimburse the town for the matched amount. She said that the Town has to support the project and a resolution of support from the Selectmen had to be included in the grant package. She said there is a preservation easement required. She noted she was excited with the opportunity, but cautioned the Board that she would need to start right away on the grant writing in order to file within the time period.

Mr. Formica inquired how long it would take her to prepare the grant.

Ms. Faust said she needed to start by next week.

Ms. Hardy inquired who would pay Ms. Faust's salary.

Mr. Carlson responded that the Town would pay the \$2800.

Ms. Hardy said that the Selectmen are committed to this idea and would like to move forward, but we will need time to go to Town Meeting to receive the support of the town and said this was a very tight timeframe.

Mr. Formica said that he would have the resolution required emailed to the members tomorrow. He said that this item will be on the October 5th agenda and by then, perhaps the legal questions could be answered and to find out if DECD will give us until the spring to get Board and Town Meeting approval.

Ms. Hardy said that it was too late to get this purchase on the ballot for November and realistically, approval from the town would take until December.

4a. Trail Ride Flyer

Mr. Formica noted the flyer for a trail ride on October 9th, rain or shine, at 8:00 a.m.

5a. Ex-Officio

Mr. Wilson had no report since the Parks and Recreation meeting had no quorum.

Mr. Birmingham had no report.

Ms. Hardy attended the Commission on Aging meeting and they were experiencing very low attendance at the luncheon program and noted that there would be more discussion.

She attended the Board of Education meeting where they had a discussion on the school calendar and how the 4 days missed due to Storm Irene would be made up. She added that the Board would be voting on this at their next meeting and if the public wanted to offer input, to contact the Superintendent's Office. She said that a 2/10 Chinese teacher had been hired and that class enrollments were more than anticipated. She said that the brick wall restoration had begun and the gas lines run for the culinary department. She said that since the projects were under-budget, there was talk of fixing the ballfield.

Mr. Nickerson attended the Town Building Committee meeting where they were discussing the status of the Colton Road Facilities building. He also attended the Economic Development Commission meeting where they discussed the upcoming trail ride.

5b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Formica noted that he had been interviewing Human Resource firms and reminded the Board that this budget had been reduced and he would be moving the HR manager to the new Field Services building around the first of the year.

He attended a regional housing forum on affordable housing.

He attended the Commission on Aging picnic at McCook's.

He attended a ribbon cutting at Camp Niantic and celebrated Family Day with the National Guard.

He attended and spoke on 9/11 at the Niantic Baptist Church.

He toured the Boardwalk to examine the damage and is in the process of filing paperwork with FEMA for the damages incurred by the storm.

The Board of Finance meeting was cancelled.

He met with Ed Jutila and reviewed the flaws of CL&P in the handling of the hurricane.

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He participated in the program – Remembering the Nehantics sponsored by the Historical Society.

He attended the Niantic Fire Department picnic at Camp Niantic.

He noted that the bond for the roadwork, culinary lab and repair of the brick wall had not been fully expended and there should be enough funding to repair the High School ball field. He added that the Culinary Lab had been turned over to the school.

He said that Metrocast was going to provide an opportunity on Channel 99 to view local shows and meetings on demand.

He said that the East Lyme Water Department had found a few pockets of coliform in the system and they had been flushing and chlorinating those spots. He stressed that there was no need for alarm since coliform is considered harmless. He added that this detection was moving the chlorination program forward.

He said that the Rocky Neck Heart Walk will be on October 2nd; registration at 9:00 and walk at 10:00.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Wilson moved to adjourn the September 21, 2011 meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:42 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene C. Stevens
Recording Secretary