

Recorded 8/10 20 15  
(AM)  
9:00 PM Lesley A. Blais  
East Lyme Town Clerk

TOWN OF EAST LYME  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 5, 2015

Moderator, Pierce Connair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the East Lyme Town Hall and then led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk, Lesley Blais read the Notice of the meeting and stated that said Notice was signed by the Board of Selectmen, had been posted on the Town signpost and that a copy thereof had been published in The Day, a newspaper published in the City of New London and of general circulation in the Town of East Lyme and filed in the Town Clerk's office.

The Moderator stated that in accordance with Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, only an elector of the Town or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more whose names appear on the Grand List of October 1, 2014 and are liable to the Town for taxes assessed against him based on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 are eligible to vote.

Item #1 of the Call: To approve the Allocation in the amount of \$350,000 from Open Space Fund 59 for the purpose of purchasing a conservation easement on property to be owned by the New England Forestry Foundation at the closing of the purchase and sale of the property; consisting of approximately 166 acres with an entrance at the intersection of Goldfinch Terrace and Cedarbrook Road in East Lyme. The conservation easement shall be in a form satisfactory to the Board of Selectmen and the Town Attorney. Also resolved, that said amount shall not be paid unless and until other funds from the following sources are made available to the New England Forestry Foundation at the closing of the purchase and sale of the property; \$500,000 from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; \$375,000 from private or public funding received by the New England Forestry Foundation.

Motion was made by Steve Kelly and seconded by Bill Henderson to move the motion.

William Young asked what is the price to be paid to the present owner of the property. Art Carlson responded stating it would be \$8,000 per acre.

Mike Schultz questioned what are the taxes currently being paid on this property and Steve Harney a member of KSK Associates, who is the current owner of the property, responded that the taxes are approximately \$380 per year.

After several more comments both for and against the Call, Moderator called for a vote. Item #1 of the call was adopted.

Item #2 of the Call: To approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$20,600 in CNRE Fund 32 to an account to be established titled "Fiber Optic Network" for a grant awarded by Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to install and lease for 20 years a fiber optic connection from the Town Hall to the Niantic Fire Station where it will tie into the Connecticut Education Network (CEN).

Motion was made by Rob Wilson and seconded by Kevin Seery to move the motion.

Bill Scheer, Deputy Director of Public Works, stated that the State of Connecticut wants to get all the towns in the state on a high speed optic network and they have offered grants to accomplish this. Our current internet connection at the Town Hall is extremely slow. We have a lot of computer usage and this is currently hindering our abilities to do our jobs. The State has offered us a grant to allow us to tie into the state's fiber optic network so that we can have very fast speeds.

Bill Henderson has some serious concerns. He stated that the fiber optics network is in everyone's best interest and that everyone should be connected, especially our emergency services. Technology is moving very fast and what is the best today is outdated tomorrow. Looking at the 20 year lease, Mr. Henderson feels this will be outdated in 5 years. He stated we should be talking about bringing fiber network to the businesses in town. We should be looking at a wider scope. He feels a bidding procedure would give us the best price and having private enterprise do it will serve us all better.

Bill Scheer stated that this is the fiber network that the schools started with years ago. The schools are on it, the library and the police department will be on it. We need this now. This will bring our speeds up 300 fold.

After further discussion, Moderator called for a vote. Item #2 of the call was adopted.

Item #3 of the Call: To approve a special appropriation allocating \$40,000 to upgrade the Town Hall Servers and purchase and install a new firewall and redundant back-up units.

Motion was made by Holly Cheeseman and seconded by Kevin Seery to move the motion.

Bill Scheer discussed some of the problems the Town has been

having with their computers. He stated Star Computers has been brought on as consultants. After reviewing these problems, it appeared that we need to replace our servers and get a better backup system. We will have an off-site backup at dispatch so that if anything happens here at Town Hall, we can recover all our information.

Moderator called for a vote. Item #3 of the call was adopted.

Item #4 of the Call: To approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$114,460 to complete projects consistent with the Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion was made by Darlene Stevens and seconded by Rob Wilson to move the motion.

Mark Nickerson discussed the various projects that this money will be used for including generators for the Niantic Fire Department, Station #2 as well as the Grand Street property. He also discussed the East Lyme Community Center natural gas conversion energy efficiency and energy efficient HVAC controls at the Town Hall.

Moderator called for a vote. Item #4 of the call was adopted.

Item #5 of the Call: To approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$178,668 in the 2015/16 budget to the following budget accounts \$178,668 to 01-30-317-500-224(Town Aid Roads)and corresponding revenue account 01-03-300-301 due to the adoption of the State of CT budget. Total amount is \$156,226 Town Aid Roads and \$22,442 MRSA for Municipal Projects to be used for roads.

Motion was made by Holly Cheeseman and seconded by Steve Kelly to move the motion.

Mark Nickerson explained the budget process is a difficult one. We set our budget and the State, a month later, sets its budget so that we are always in a guessing game. We budgeted conservatively on purpose for the fiscal year 2015/16, for \$62,169 but we were approved for \$318,000 so this is making up the difference. We now have extra money to fix our 120 miles of Town road.

Moderator called for a vote. Item #5 of the call was adopted.

Motion was made by Rob Wilson and seconded by Holly Cheesemen to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Lesley A Blais**  
Town Clerk