

SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2009
EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES

PRESENT: Paul Formica, Pam Rowe, Jack Hogan, Rob Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson, Director of Public Works Mike Giannattasio, Director of Parks and Recreation Dave Putnam.

Mr. Formica called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m. and led the Pledge.

He noted that Ms. Hardy was excused and that Mr. Kleinhans was on his way.

MOTION (1)

Ms. Rowe moved to open Tab 724 Capital Outlay / Capital Equipment.

Seconded by Mr. Hogan. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Formica said that they had been working on the Capital Improvement Plan for many months. He stressed that the Board of Selectmen has done a good job of reducing the budget but revenues are what will drive the budget this year. He reviewed the potential of many losses in revenues from the State and from Town Departments due to the economy.

Mr. Kleinhans entered the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Formica said that the Capital Improvement Plan has a list of items that we need no matter what the economic environment is and we have to plan on how to pay for them over the next 5 years. He added that the Capital Improvement Plan is adopted every year at our Annual Town Meeting. He said that he has reduced the CNRE Accounts and replaced them with a Vehicle Replacement Program. A Master Plan Consultant position has been added to determine a 10 – 20 year plan for the Town and to determine the reuse and or construction of buildings. He added that this position would enable us to make up a comprehensive maintenance plan for buildings and where we should put money in the future.

Mr. Formica reviewed the Long Range Capital Plan and concentrated on the requests for 2009/2010. He said that we needed to operate the town as a business, but always keep in mind that the Town will be here 150 years from now. He added that this is an ambitious program but it best serves the long-range needs of the town.

Director Mike Giannattasio noted that the new Vehicle Acquisition Program is a purchase-financing package that is done by many municipalities and then proceeded to review it with the Board.

Mr. Kleinhans confirmed that the replacements are based on a 5-year schedule and this time period is well within the life cycle of the vehicle. He added that he liked this program a great deal since it softens the impact on the taxpayer. He said that he would like to see the numbers on a longer term than 5 years also.

Mr. Wilson commented that the Commission on Aging is slated for vans which are a much more manageable sized vehicle and no CDL license is needed for operation which offers a great deal of

flexibility.

Director Giannattasio reviewed the new single stream recycling program and added that the future of municipal solid waste is going to single stream which is everything going into one container (paper, cardboard, tin and plastics). He added that the biggest savings that the town will realize is in the pick up. He added that the process would start in 2010 with the purchase of a vehicle and 6200 additional containers.

The consensus of the Board was there approval for single container recycling.

Director Giannattasio stated that recycling equals less tax dollars we will have to pay for the service.

Mr. Formica said that he would have one person handle the fleet maintenance at the Highway Garage, which will make a more efficient process.

Parks and Recreation Director Dave Putnam reviewed his capital requests.

Mr. Wilson said that the turfing of the High School field had been discussed for years with the potential for fundraisers, etc. to fund it. He inquired how the relationship with the Board of Education was since now Parks and Recreation would be undertaking this?

Director Putnam stated that we should do one synthetic turf field in town and it made sense to do the one at the High School due to the use of the field.

Mr. Hogan inquired if once it was done, would it be available for youth sports in the summer?

Director Putnam replied yes since there would be no need to rest the field.

Finance Director Anna Johnson noted that Flanders Fire House's turn out gear in the amount of \$5340. had been omitted from the Capital Plan.

The Board decided to have this addition available for the next meeting.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 724 Capital Outlay / Capital Equipment with a bottom line of \$725,600.

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

MOTION (3)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 522 Debt Service / Interest on Debt.

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

The Board noted that the debt budget was what it was.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 522 Debt Service / Interest on Debt with a bottom line of \$1,622,731.

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

MOTION (5)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 523 Principal.

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

Finance Director Johnson commented that this shows us taking on a new program and keeping our debt service level.

Mr. Formica said we want to take advantage of the market rates and improve our infrastructure while still having our debt go down.

Mr. Kleinhans stated that we have the potential of a substantial investment without a substantial outlay of money.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 523 Principal with a bottom line of \$4,504,216.

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

MOTION (7)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 120 Contingency.

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

Finance Director Johnson said that there had been an earlier request to increase the payroll line in Contingency by \$6000 due to the potential of the Governor cutting the Resident Trooper line.

Mr. Kleinhans suggested this change also wait until the next meeting.

MOTION (8)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 120 Contingency with a bottom line of \$167,210.

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

MOTION (9)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 111 Probate.

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

Mr. Formica noted that this number might change depending on whether or not the Governor consolidated the Probate Courts.

MOTION (10)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 111 Probate with a bottom line of \$5000.

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

MOTION (11)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 115 Services to the Community.

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

Mr. Formica suggested the Board consider adding \$10,000 to help fund Celebrate East Lyme. He said that last year the money had been collected from sponsorship fees but he believed that this amount would be hard to realize this year due to the poor economy. He stressed the need to continue the celebrations and added it was important to continue this event. He requested that the Board think about it. He commented that the funding to assist the Homeless Shelter had been added to this budget.

MOTION (12)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 115 Services to the Community with a bottom line of \$22,550.

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

MOTION (13)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to adjourn the February 25, 2009 Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 7:14 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary