

SPECIAL MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2009
EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES

PRESENT: Paul Formica, Robert Kleinhans, Jack Hogan, Pam Rowe, Rose Ann Hardy,
Rob Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson.

Mr. Formica called the Special Meeting for the purpose of Departmental Budget Reviews to order at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Formica led the Pledge.

There was a discussion regarding how the Board wished to review the budgets this year, after reviewing different options. The consensus of the Board was to make a motion to open the individual budget, review and comment and then to close the budget.

Mr. Formica commented that the Board of Finance was not interested in having a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen where the Board of Education presented their budget. He inquired if the Selectmen wanted to have the Board of Education come to one of their meetings since by Charter, the Board of Selectmen could only make suggestions to the Board of Finance about the Education Budget, they could not make any cuts.

Ms. Hardy stated that the Charter states that all Town Budgets must come before the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Formica noted he would check on this and report back on Wednesday night.

MOTION (1)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 216, Public Safety – Police Department.

Seconded by Mr. Wilson.

Sgt. Blanchette was present and reviewed his budget noting an increase that has to be added on line 511 Constables – increased by \$6988. He commented on the increase for Grant OT – line 514 - \$100,000, adding that \$75,000 of this amount is reimbursed if we receive the grant. The funding would pay for one officer 2-3 weeks for the year. He said that the other increases in salary and part time constables were all contractual. He noted that the Boat Duty was being split between Waterford and us and was in increase due to the effort to provide better service. He said that Line 213 has funding to enable the road cars fully functional with mobile radios. He added he would check on ammunition.

Mr. Formica said that since the Governor's address stated that there would be regionalization funding available, we would try to get some money for the joint boat patrol effort.

Sgt Blanchette commented that there is no money budgeted for uniforms for the new officers hired (4 – 2 last year, 2 this year). He noted the increase in miscellaneous supplies.

Mr. Formica stated that he has requested a cost breakdown for supplies.

Sgt. Blanchette noted he would send it in.

Ms. Hardy commented that the Governor was to reduce the Resident Trooper allotment by 5% and she suggested taking \$6000 and put it into the contingency fund in case we do not receive the money from the State. She also suggested pulling out line 514 \$100,000 for the grant OT reimbursement and added that if this figure is approved in the budget, we would be responsible for the funding.

Mr. Hogan agreed with Ms. Hardy suggested taking out the \$100,000 for the grant and placing \$25,000 (the Town's share) into contingency in case the grant is approved.

Sgt. Blanchette stated that he would like to get in the practice of assigning 2 officers per car and he was close to this goal.

Mr. Wilson commented that there was a tremendous increase in use of the police boat and noted that there was not enough money in the budget for maintenance.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to increase Tab 216, Line 511 Constables by \$6988.

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

MOTION (3)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to reduce Tab 216, Line 514 Grant OT Reimbursement by \$100,000.

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

MOTION (4)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 216, Public Safety / Police Department with a bottom line of \$1,757,281.

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

MOTION (5)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 217 Public Safety / Niantic Fire Department.

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

Chief Pringle was present and noted there was an increase in salaries due to contractual agreements but that there was no capital request and no increase in operations.

Ms. Hardy inquired if this budget lets you meet all safety requirements?

Chief Pringle responded yes.

Mr. Hogan inquired if there was sufficient funding for training?

Chief Pringle responded that all mandatory and safety training was covered. He added that if he could have a wish list, replacement of imaging cameras (2 for \$20,000) would be on it.

Mr. Formica stated that he had placed this request in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Chief Pringle reminded the Board that Niantic Fire Department was scheduled for the purchase of a pumper in 2011 and suggested that additional funding be placed in the CNRE since the cost would be approximately \$450,000.

Mr. Formica noted that he had been informed by the Fire Marshal that there was some legislation regarding assistance for emergency vehicles when they support State facilities and suggested Chief Pringle look into this and go to Hartford and testify.

MOTION (6)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 217 Public Safety / Niantic Fire Department with a bottom line of \$434,120.

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

MOTION (7)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 218 Public Safety / Flanders Fire Department.

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

Chief Foley noted that the salary line shows an increase due to contracts, but that there was a 0% increase in operations.

Mr. Hogan inquired about the training levels.

Chief Foley noted he was satisfied.

Mr. Wilson inquired about the increase in the fuel line.

Chief Foley responded that all of the fuel for the Niantic Fire Department is paid by the East Lyme Ambulance Fund, whereas, they do not pay for Flanders fuel.

Mr. Hogan suggested changing the narrative on this line.

MOTION (8)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 218, Public Safety / Flanders Fire Department with a bottom line of \$330,047

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

MOTION (9)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 224 Public Safety / Fire Marshal.

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

Fire Marshal Morris commented that salaries had increased due to contracts.

Mr. Formica noted that he had removed the new Notification System line from the budget.

Mr. Morris stated that he was requesting line 215 be increased since they had not received any increase in many years (cleaning of EOC).

Ms. Hardy inquired why our custodians did not do this?

Mr. Morris responded that they have always done the cleaning of the building and they can do it for so much cheaper.

Ms. Hardy inquired if the Dispatcher Contract was concluded?

Mr. Formica responded that he had a handshake agreement at present and he hoped to have an Executive Session in the very near future to address this contract.

Mr. Hogan said that new windows were needed.

Ms. Hardy inquired if the roof repair fixed the leaks?

Mr. Morris commented that the leaks are fixed. He added that the carpeting is in bad shape.

Mr. Formica stated that if the building use gets regionalized, there would be money for refurbishment.

MOTION (10)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 224 Public Safety / Fire Marshal with a bottom line of \$447,267.

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

MOTION (11)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 226 Public Safety / Animal Control.

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

Mr. Formica noted that this budget is for a joint venture with the Town of Waterford and this funding will basically pay for one half of a Waterford police officer's salary and benefits. He added that East Lyme furnishes the van, which was donated, to us by Dominion, and they furnish the pound and the other half of the salary.

Mr. Wilson inquired if the officer takes the vehicle home?

Mr. Formica noted he would check into it and added that hopefully, we will be able to reduce the funding if we qualify for regional grant funding.

MOTION (12)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 226 Public Safety / Animal Control with a bottom line of \$38,550.

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

MOTION (13)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to open Tab 102 Assessors.

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

Assessor Donna Bekech reviewed her budget noted that she had no control over the service contracts increase and the salaries were by Union contract.

Mr. Formica noted that the Grand List increased .993%.

Ms. Bekech noted that the Motor Vehicles Grand List had dropped and the personal property had stayed level.

MOTION (14)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to close Tab 102 Assessors with a bottom line of \$185,333.

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

MOTION (15)

Mr. Kleinhans moved to adjourn the Special Meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 6:53 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary