

TOWN OF EAST LYME
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2010

Moderator, Eugene Cushman, called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the East Lyme Town Hall. Ed O'Connell led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Esther Williams, Town Clerk, read the call of the meeting, stating it had been posted on the signpost, published in The Day on February 12 and filed in her office.

Moderator spelled out the rules of the meeting citing CGS Statute 7-6, eligibility to vote at a town meeting, saying that registered voters or taxpayers appearing on the Grand List of October 1, 2009 and having a minimum assessment of \$1,000 are eligible. He also cited CGS 9-360 dealing with penalties for voting if not franchised. There were approximately twenty-five people in attendance.

Item 1 of the call: Special Appropriation \$79,119 Energy Efficient Conservation Block Grant

Motion by Charles Holyfield, second by Darlene Stevens to adopt Item 1 of the call.

Paul Formica, First Selectman gave background on this item stating this is a grant coming to the Town of East Lyme for energy efficiency. It will be used for street lamps for the new streetscape project. It will include twenty six street lamps which will use less power than the six that are there now.

There being no further discussion, Moderator called for a vote. **Item 1 was unanimously adopted.**

Item 2 of the call: Special Appropriation \$200,000 Main Street Streetscape Phase II STEAP grant

Motion by Charles Holyfield, second by Holly Cheeseman, Mitchell Drive, to adopt Item 2 of the call.

Paul Formica, First Selectman gave an overview of this item. He stated that with this grant money, the streetscape will be continued from the railroad tracks across Main Street to Baptist Lane, the entrance to the Hall in the Wall. They hope for completion by mid to late summer.

There being no further discussion, Moderator called for a vote. **Item 2 was adopted unanimously.**

Item 3 of the call: Special Appropriation \$357,500 – Autoload Recycling Carts

Motion by Ed O'Connell, Town Attorney, second by Ruth Reluga.

Attorney O'Connell introduced the following substitute resolution:

RESOLVED, to appropriate the sum of \$357,500 for the purpose of purchasing approximately 6500 autoloader recycling carts for use in the Town's single stream recycling program. Said purchase to be paid in part by \$45,000 from the Town's current funds and in part by \$295,000 borrowed from the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRA), as evidenced by a promissory note in the principal amount of \$295,000 bearing interest at an adjustable rate of 1% over the Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF) interest rate as reported by the Connecticut State Treasurer's Office, payable in annual installments over a term of five (5)

years. The First Selectman is authorized in the name and on behalf of the Town to execute and deliver said promissory note and any instruments required by SCRRRA in connection with said loan transaction.

Paul Formica discussed this item saying that Public Works has put out 2000 gray carts which are used for recyclables, combining paper and glass and cans. The adoption of this resolution will enable them to purchase 6500 more containers giving a total of 8500 on the street. Having this method of collection will reduce the expenditures of the Public Works department. Labor costs and ease of operation will come into play. It will also reduce the Municipal solid waste going to the plant.

There being no further discussion, **Item 3 of the call was unanimously adopted.**

Item 4 of the call: Special Appropriation \$225,000 – Autoloader Recycling Truck.

Motion by Charles Holyfield, second by Holly Cheeseman to adopt Item 4 of the call.

Paul Formica again gave further information on this item saying that in order to make the program discussed in Item 3 happen, we will be needing additional vehicles. This will allow us to get another truck out on the road when we have to pull one off the road for service so there will be no interruption in service. It is in our Capital Improvement Plan. The three trucks currently being used for recycling will be sold at auction and the money will be put back into the CNRE account for future vehicle acquisitions. We will take cash out of the CNRE in the amount of \$210,000 and \$15,000 out of the savings that we will receive in the line item for recycling.

There being no further discussion, **Item 4 was unanimously adopted.**

Item 5 of the call: Special Appropriation \$655,000 – Municipal Lease Purchase of Miscellaneous Vehicles

Motion by Attorney Ed O'Connell, second by Charles Holyfield. Attorney O'Connell introduced a substitute resolution for this item:

RESOLVED, to appropriate the sum of \$655,000 for the purpose of acquiring by way of lease or purchase various vehicles more particularly described in the Town's FY 2009-2010 Equipment Acquisition Plan, as evidenced by one or more agreements for the acquisition of said vehicles by lease or purchase or a combination thereof, for a total price of \$610,000 plus interest at the rate of 3.21% per annum, payable in annual installments of \$131,000 over a period of five (5) years. The First Selectman is authorized in the name and on behalf of the Town to execute and deliver any documents that may be required in connection with said transactions.

Paul Formica once again gave background information for this resolution. An equipment plan has been put in place by Mike Giannattasio, Public Works Director, Parks and Recreation Director, Dave Putnam, Finance Director, Anna Johnson and a Board of Education representative to address this need. It is now time to pay the piper with regard to vehicles. We have not funded this item adequately over the last ten years and we have an aging fleet. We have vehicles dating back to 1983 and it is now necessary to address these needs. This program will spread the pain out over a period of time so we may fit this into our operating budget every year. If we were to pay cash over the years to purchase, this line item would be in the red. By paying over time \$610,000, over a five year period, with \$45,000 in interest, we would be able to manage our debt accordingly.

There being no further discussion, **Item 5 was unanimously adopted.**

Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Charles Holyfield, second by Holly Cheeseman. The Special Town Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther B. Williams
Town Clerk

