

TOWN OF EAST LYME
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 10, 2010

Recorded May 11 2010
11:10 AM PM Esther B Williams
East Lyme Town Clerk

Moderator, Eugene Cushman, called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the East Lyme High School. Rose Ann Hardy led the assembly in reciting 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 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 who are US citizens and whose names appear on the Grand List of October 1, 2009 and have 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 one hundred people in attendance. Moderator also stated there would be no vote taken on the budget (Item 1) as this is going to a referendum to be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 from 8 AM to 8 PM and the East Lyme Community Center.

Item 1 of the call: To review and discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ron Rando, Boston Post Road called point of order and asked if the budget can be cut. Moderator said no, that the budget will go to referendum as finalized by the Board of Finance.

Paul Formica, First Selectman gave an overview of the budget process as it occurred and the philosophy that was used. The budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 as proposed by the Board of Finance is \$60,770,731, a 0.67% increase.

The total town budget shows 1.41% increase, reduction in the debt service of almost 11%, increase of almost 30% capital items, and the Board of Education increase of 1.83%.

Formica said the philosophy that we have taken is to maintain and increase departmental efficiencies while investing in our capital infrastructure; to utilize the window of debt service reduction and to fund those capital items without raising taxes, at least as much as we can; and thirdly to be mindful of what the State is doing and to keep an eye on what they are doing in regard to aid to municipalities.

Departmental efficiencies: We want to invest in our workforce. We have put into place wellness programs which have been proven to save money and reduce costs. We have instituted the wellness program, a safety fair, a health fair, and a walking program for employees and managers. These are very positive steps for the betterment of all Town employees.

Public Works has had a facilities upgrade with a newly purchased building on Capitol Drive. Their old building will be used for cold storage for Fire Marshal, Board of Ed, and Water and Sewer. Care and Share will utilize a portion of the building which will be heated. Vehicles are being upgraded as we feather in a new fleet of motor vehicles year by year.

The recycling program has been updated to single stream recycling and it has already shown positive signs. The amount of solid waste has been decreased because of the new system; and we have increased the tonnage of recycling materials which we do get paid for.

Parks & Recreation has instituted a special revenue fund. Monies will be generated by user fees. The revenues generated will go partly to the Parks and Recreation capital program and partly to the General Fund.

Increases are due to the following:

Registrars of Voters will be relocated to the Community Complex as Probate will take over the entire building on Pennsylvania Avenue. There are also added costs for the referendum and the statewide primaries to be held in August.

Animal Control is a shared position. We pay a portion of his salary as does Waterford. Waterford has the dog pound and we fund the vehicle.

Public Safety has added a 911 dispatcher. In addition, a second person on the weekend will be added. He is still interested in regionalizing and continues to pursue it.

Capital will increase by 30%. Prices continue to go up so we will take advantage of improving our capital infrastructure as much as we can while prices are down.

Debt service is \$670,000 less than last year and continues to go down each year. We maintain a Aa3 rating with Moody's; we've done two refundings over the last 12 months and have saved around \$300,000 on each of those refundings over our long term debt.

Revenues are down. Conveyances taxes are down and the Senate failed to extend the conveyance tax and allowed it to sunset. However, we are being told they will go back in session and remedy that. This money is desperately needed by all municipalities. Last year, around \$280,000 was generated in conveyance tax revenues.

Robert Kleinhans, Old Black Pt Road, chairman of the Board of Finance made a brief presentation stating that his Board had made the following cuts: \$215,000 from General Government, \$57,318 from Board of Ed and \$550,000 from Capital Improvements with a net reduction of \$822,420. He stated there is a .67% increase over 2008-2009.

School Superintendent, Dr. Jim Lombardo addressed the Board of Education budget, stating the lion's share of the increase is in benefits and health. He said that salaries for teachers, administrators and secretaries will not go up for this budget cycle. Fuel costs will rise. Special Education costs are driven by transportation to areas outside of our school district. He hopes to provide a program here in East Lyme so that students will not have to be transported outside of the district, thereby saving a considerable sum.

The increase in the budget includes staff changes which include the addition of a supervisor who will work with our new Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Services. This is an investment which will in the long run save us money and will help to build the program.

The budget includes this one additional position at around \$85,000, a reduction of 3 full time teachers, no changes in secretarial or custodial staff, but a reduction of 10 full time equivalent positions in para-professionals. It is hoped these reductions can be accomplished by attrition or retirements. The one Special Education position was covered entirely this year by stimulus funds and one half will be covered next year by stimulus funds. The remainder will be covered by the reduction of para-professionals.

He stated that we spend less than the State of Connecticut per pupil.

Mike Schulz, Lovers Lane asked about the Special Education support person and the Assistant Superintendent and wanted to know if it is one and the same person and what is the salary

Dr Lombardo said that in 2008-2009, we had both an Assistant Superintendent and a Director of Special Education. One of the positions was eliminated and the Board of Education voted to combine the two into one as Assistant Superintendent for Special Services. In addition to that, there is a supervisor of Special Education paid at the \$85,000 level which is a new position. This is an important investment to help us to develop the new programs which we need in the district in order to offset many of the high costs of transportation, tuition and outside services. He anticipates that the savings realized will offset the cost of that one position.

Mr Schulz again asked for the salary of the Assistant Superintendent position. Tim Hagen, Boston Post Rd, Chairman of the Board of Education stated that it will be \$135,000.

Moderator moved on to the next item.

Item 3 of the call: To adopt a Five Year Capital Plan.

Motion by Steve Kelley, second by Bob Kleinhans.

There being no discussion, Moderator called for a vote. **Item 3 of the call was adopted** with three voting nay.

Moderator announced this meeting will adjourn to a referendum to be held on May 20, 2010 at the East Lyme Community Center. Voting will be from 8 AM to 8 PM.

Motion to approve by John Drabik, Drabik Road, second by Bob Kleinhans.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Esther B. Williams
Town Clerk

Board of Finance Proposed Budget 2009-2010 Compared to Prior Years

Expenditures	Expended 2008-2009	Appropriated 2009-2010	Proposed 2010-2011	% Increase Decrease
General Government	\$13,940,537	\$14,343,971	\$14,530,043	1.30%
Contingency	\$100,000	\$190,000	\$208,400	9.68%
Total General Government	\$14,040,537	\$14,533,971	\$14,738,443	1.41%
Debt Service	6,370,107	6,126,947	5,456,688	-10.94%
Education	39,282,225	39,201,715	39,917,597	1.83%
Capital Equip/Spec Approp	812,849	506,240	658,003	29.98%
Operating Tr Out	244,582	0	0	
Total Expenditures	\$60,750,300	\$60,368,873	\$60,770,731	0.67%

Att. 1