

TOWN OF LYME, NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN MEETING
March 8, 2022
Minutes

The Polls were open for voting by Official Ballot on Article 1 on Tuesday March 8, 2022 at the Lyme School Community Gymnasium from 7:00AM to 7:00PM.

The Business Meeting convened at 9:05AM, at which time all other Articles were considered. Approximately 150 people were in attendance.

Moderator Kevin Peterson recognized attendees who had been or are currently in the Armed Forces.

Daria Killebrew, for Lyme Foundation, presented the Citizen of the Year Award to Kathleen (Kathy) Sherrieb.

Rules of Procedure were presented by the Moderator.

Kathy Larson made the motion and Rich Brown seconded the motion to adopt these Rules for the purpose of conducting this meeting. Voted in the Affirmative by Voice Vote.

Voice without Vote was voted in the Affirmative for Attorney Laura Spector-Morgan.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ARTICLE 1. To vote by non-partisan ballot for the following Town Officer:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 Budget Committee members for 3 years | Wilkes McClave Brian C. Spence John Biglow Rich Brown |
| 1 Cemetery Commission member for 1 year | Laurie Wadsworth |
| 3 Library Trustees for 3 years | Meg Lysy Kim Werner Melanie Isett Pete Swart |
| 1 Library Trustee for 1 year | Nancy Grandine |
| 1 Overseer of Public Welfare for 1 year | Eric Furstenberg |
| 2 Planning Board members for 3 years | Vicki Smith Ben Kilham |
| 1 Select Board member for 3 years | Susan MacKenzie |
| 1 Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years | Marci O'Keefe |
| 1 Tax Collector for 3 years | Mary Lou Robinson |
| 1 Town Treasurer for 3 years | Rich Brown |
| 1 Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 years | Kevin Peterson |
| 1 Town Moderator for 2 years | |

TAX COLLECTOR TO BE APPOINTED

ARTICLE 2. David Kahn MADE THE MOTION for the Town to consider discontinuing the elected office of Tax Collector. If approved, the person elected to that office this year will continue to serve until March 14, 2023, at which point the Select Board will appoint an individual to serve as Tax Collector.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

SECONDED by Andrea Colgan

After considerable discussion, questions and comments, Kathy Larson called the question.

ARTICLE 2 was VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

TREASURER TO BE APPOINTED

ARTICLE 3. David Kahn MADE THE MOTION for the Town to consider discontinuing the elected office of Treasurer. If approved, the person elected to that office this year will continue to serve until March 14, 2023, at which point the Select Board will appoint an individual to serve as Treasurer.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

SECONDED by Karen Keane

There was no discussion.

ARTICLE 3 was VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

OVERSEER OF PUBLIC WELFARE TO BE APPOINTED

ARTICLE 4. David Kahn MADE THE MOTION for the Town to consider discontinuing the elected office of Overseer of Public Welfare. If approved, the person elected to that office this year will continue to serve until March 14, 2023, at which point the Select Board will appoint an individual to serve as Overseer of Public Welfare.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

SECONDED by Karen Keane

There was no discussion.

ARTICLE 4 was VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

ARTICLE 5. Dick Jones MADE THE MOTION that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million six hundred eighty one thousand five hundred forty three dollars (\$2,681,543.00) which represents the operating budget as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Said sum does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles.
(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0-1) (To be raised by taxation)

SECONDED by Jennifer Cooke

Judy Brotman, for the Select Board answered assorted questions concerning budget items.

ARTICLE 5 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND TRUST FUNDS

ARTICLE 6. Susan MacKenzie MADE THE MOTION that the Town vote to raise and appropriate four hundred ten thousand dollars (**\$410,000**) to be added to the following Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds previously established for the purposes for which they were created.

Capital Reserve Funds:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Bridge Capital Reserve Fund | \$50,000 |
| Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund | \$200,000 |
| Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund | \$30,000 |
| Property Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund | \$10,000 |
| Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund | \$75,000 |
| Computer System Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund | \$5,000 |
| Town Buildings Major Maintenance and Repair Fund | \$5,000 |
| Fire Fighting Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund | \$5,000 |
| Recreation Facilities Capital Reserve Fund | <u>\$5,000</u> |

Capital Reserve Funds Subtotal: \$385,000

Expendable Trust Funds:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Town Poor Expendable Trust Fund | \$20,000 |
| Annual Leave Trust Fund | <u>\$5,000</u> |

Expendable Trust Funds total: \$25,000

Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds Total: \$410,000

These appropriations are **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)
(Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10-0) (To be raised by taxation).

SECONDED BY James Graham

There was limited discussion.

ARTICLE 6 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BLOCK GRANT APPROPRIATION

ARTICLE 7. Ben Kilham MADE THE MOTION that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety-five thousand dollars (**\$95,000**) for the purpose of maintenance, construction and reconstruction of Class IV & V highways with \$95,000 anticipated to come from the State of New Hampshire Block Grant. Said sum does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.)
(Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Julia Gartner

There was limited discussion.

ARTICLE 7 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 8. Margaret Johnston MADE THE MOTION that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty one thousand seven hundred sixteen dollars (**\$81,716**) for the annual payment on the Fire Station, the purchase of which was authorized in 2020; and further to authorize the withdrawl of this amount from the Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund.
This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)
(Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Jan Williams

Moderator Peterson recognized newly appointed Fire Chief Aaron Rich. Chief Rich expressed appreciation and recognized previous Fire Chief Mike Mundy. In regard to Article 8, he commented on the successful construction of the new Fire Department building, extending a public thanks to the many funds and contributors that provided support toward the project.

ARTICLE 8 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

WITHDRAWAL FROM VEHICLE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 9. Hebe Quinton MADE THE MOTION that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty two thousand four hundred sixty seven dollars (**\$82,467**) for the annual payment on the Fire Truck, the purchase of which was authorized in 2019; and further to authorize the withdrawl of this amount from the Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. The purchase agreement does not contain an escape clause.
This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)
(Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Kathy Larson

Fire Chief Aaron Rich voiced appreciation to the Town for enabling the purchase of the new fire truck.

ARTICLE 9 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

***INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND***

ARTICLE 10. Stephen Campbell MADE THE MOTION that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand nine hundred eighty-three dollars **(\$6,983.00)** to sponsor an Independence Day celebration, including but not limited to a parade, picnic, music and family fun and to fund this appropriation by authorizing withdrawal of that sum from the Independence Day Celebration Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 2003 Town Meeting. This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

(Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Jan Williams

ARTICLE 10 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

MILFOIL TREATMENT FOR POST POND

ARTICLE 11. Blake Allison MADE THE MOTION that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty nine thousand nine hundred ninety seven dollars **(\$39,997.00)** for milfoil treatment of Post Pond, with nineteen thousand nine hundred ninety nine dollars **(\$19,999.00)** to be funded through a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; a withdrawal of three thousand eight hundred thirty one dollars **(\$3,831.00)** from the Unassigned Fund Balance and sixteen thousand one hundred sixty seven dollars **(\$16,167.00)** to be funded by the withdrawal of this amount from the Conservation Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the milfoil problem is resolved or by December 31, 2027, whichever is sooner.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

(Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by vote of 10-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Barbara Woodard

ARTICLE 11 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

***WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE GIFTS
AND DONATIONS FUND***

ARTICLE 12. Simon Carr MADE THE MOTION that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand nine hundred ninety one dollars (**\$15,991.00**) to be used towards funding maintenance of the Town Cemeteries and to authorize funding this appropriation by the withdrawal of such sum from the Cemetery Maintenance Gifts and Donations Fund (established by the Select Board on January 5, 2000).

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.)

(Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 10-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by STEPHEN CASTELLANI

ARTICLE 12 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

***REVOLVING FUND FOR TOWN (AED'S) AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC
DEFIBRILLATOR***

ARTICLE 13. Aaron Rich MADE THE MOTION that the town vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of maintaining and replacing the AED's owned by the Town of Lyme. All revenues received from gifts, donations and fund-raising efforts performed by The Lyme Fast Squad and its designees for the purpose of maintaining and replacing the AED's will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's General Fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out only upon order of the Select Board approval and no further approval is required by the town meeting to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose of maintaining and replacing the AED's owned by the Town of Lyme. (Majority vote required)
(Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.)

Aaron provided information about this article and the current and potential locations each device would be located. Dick Jones asked if the fund included the police cruisers. Chief O'Keefe replied that both cruisers have AED's and that the fund did allow for replacement of the units in the cruisers.

ARTICLE 13 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE

ARTICLE 14. Richard Brown MADE THE MOTION that the town, according to **RSA 72:27-a**, shall increase both the amounts of income and assets, not to be exceeded, in order to qualify for the Elderly Exemption and the amounts of exemptions granted as follows:

Elderly Lyme residents may apply for the elderly tax exemption as of 2021 for **\$215,000** if they are between the ages of 65 and 75, **\$270,000** if they are between 75 and 80, and **\$320,000** if they

are over 80. Exemption amounts and qualification parameters shall be voted on any year of a town wide revaluation. (State law RSA 72:39-b) In order to qualify, an applicant must:

- a. Be 65 years old or older on or before April 1st;
- b. Be a New Hampshire resident for at least **Three** years;
- c. Own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly on April 1st;
- d. Have been married for at least five years if the real estate is owned by your spouse;
- e. Have a net income of not more than **\$40,000** or if married/civil union a combined net income of not more than **\$50,000**; and
- f. Have net assets of not more than **\$220,000**, excluding the value of your actual residence and the required minimum lot size for your zoning district
(Majority vote required)

SECONDED BY Kathy Larson

Judy Brotman, for the Select Board, provided the Boards' perspective on this Article and suggested that the Board be allowed until next year to fully examine the changes and the impact it would have on the budget.

Lee Larson offered AN AMENDMENT to be added to the end of to ARTICLE 14 AMENDMENT SECONDED BY JAM WILLIAMS

It was determined by Laura Spector-Morgan that the proposed amendment was not viable. Lee Larson withdrew his proposed motion to amend and Jan Williams withdrew her second to the motion.

After more discussion, Ms. Spector-Morgan clarified that the numbers could be changed each year. Dick Jones wants all four exemption categories examined and considered for next year so that rational adjustments may be made for cost of living changes.

Select Board member David Kahn expressed concern that the Article states the ability for elderly Lyme residents to apply for the elderly tax exemption as of 2021. He clarified that there was no statutory ability to do this. An amendment would be needed to move forward with correcting the year to 2022.

Moderator Peterson asked Richard Brown, who had made the motion to move Article 14 for a Friendly Amendment to make this adjustment to the Article. Both Mr. Brown and Kathy Larson (who seconded the motion) agreed to a Friendly Amendment.

There was further discussion regarding specific statutes concerning exemption laws and timing. Select Board Chair, Judy Brotman assured that the Select Board had been very active working with taxpayers who were experiencing difficulties with the current tax situation.

ARTICLE 14, AS AMENDED, WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

REPORTS OF AGENTS, AUDITORS & COMMITTEES


ARTICLE 15. To hear reports of Agents, Auditors, or Committees or other officers heretofore chosen, and to pass any vote relating thereto. (Majority vote required.)

Moderator Peterson asked for any reports. There being none, Moderator Peterson moved on to Article 16.

OTHER BUSINESS

ARTICLE 16. To transact any other business that may be legally brought before this Town Meeting.

There being no other business brought forward, Moderator Peterson offered appreciation to everyone for attending this Town Meeting and requested help in cleaning up the auditorium.


Patricia G. Jenks, Town Clerk