

TOWN OF LYME

TOWN MEETING

MARCH 11, 2008

Minutes

The Moderator, Bill Waste called this meeting to order at 9:04 A.M in the Lyme Community Gymnasium. The Colors/Salute to the Flag was presented by the Lyme Scout Troop #273.

Moderator Waste shared his plan to address the invocation issue. This meeting would be started with a look to the *Past, Present & Future* and there would be a “sense of the meeting” vote as part of Article 25 to help him determine how to proceed with future town meetings.

Reverend Lorain Giles spoke to the *Past*, honoring those Lyme residents who died in 2007.

Gerry Clancy, representing the Lyme Foundation spoke to the *Present*, honoring Bill Murphy as the Citizen of the Year in 2008.

Dr. Nancy Turkington spoke to the *Future*, honoring all the new babies born in 2007.

Moderator Waste requested approval for Voice without Vote to Planning & Zoning Administrator Francesca Latawiec, Administrative Assistant Carole Bont, Transfer Station Supervisor Dan Quinn and Town Legal Counsel Jae Whitelaw. Permission granted by Voice Vote.

He also provided general community announcements and established procedural guidelines.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

Three Budget Committee Members to serve for a term of 3 years

Judith Brotman

Dick Justice

William R. Lewis

One Budget Committee Member to serve for a term of 1 year

Earl F. Strout

One Cemetery Commissioner to serve for a term of 3 years

Jennifer Cooke

Three Library Trustees to serve for a term of 3 years

- Stephen Campbell
- Margot Maddock
- Tish Smith

One Library Trustee to serve for a term of 1 year

- Anne Baird

One Overseer of Public Welfare to serve for a term of 1 year

- Nancy Elizabeth Grandine

One Planning Board Member to serve for a term of 3 years

- Stephanie A. Clark

One Planning Board Member to serve for a term of 2 years

- David M. Roby

One Road Agent to serve for a term of 1 year

- Fred O. Stearns III

One Selectman to serve for a term of 3 years

- Richard G. Jones

One Sexton to serve for a term of 1 year

- William H. LaBombard

One Supervisor of the Checklist to serve for a term of 6 years

- Alan R. Greatorex

One Town Moderator to serve for a term of 2 years

- William H. Waste

One Trustee of Trust Funds to serve for a term of 3 years

- William R. Lewis

ZONING AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Lyme Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Change the definition of “lot” to provide for the demerging of certain lots in common ownership that were merged prior to March 31, 2007 and add a new section 4.57 establishing a procedure for their demerging.

YES 296

NO 80

ARTICLE 3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Lyme Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section 3.27.1 to include wetlands shown on the National Wetlands Inventory as information provided on the Town’s maps.

YES 309 NO 56

ARTICLE 4: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Lyme Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Table 4.1 to delete all conditional use approval requirements as Site Plan Review is already required. Change all “CAs” to “SPRs” to indicate they are only allowed after Site Plan Review approval. Delete any reference to Conditional Use Approvals and replace with Site Plan Review where appropriate. Delete Section 12.20 Conditional Use Approvals.

YES 287 NO 74

ARTICLE 5: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Lyme Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend 4.53 Driveways to clarify preferable development areas and that the road referenced is to be the access road.

YES 289 NO 74

ARTICLE 6: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Lyme Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Sections 4.62 A. Steep Slopes Conservation District, 4.64 Agricultural Soils Conservation District, and 4.66 Ridgeline and Hillside Conservation District to include fire protection structures as a permitted use.

YES 308 NO 70

ARTICLE 7: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Lyme Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Appendix E to delete all but the Dowd’s Inn well on the map for the 400’ protection zone in section 5.13 E. 2.

YES 275 NO 88

ARTICLE 8: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Lyme Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Delete Section 7.26 Application of Requirements to remove the requirement that a Special Exception be obtained from the ZBA for joint parking.

YES 287 NO 78

ARTICLE 9: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Lyme Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section 10.40A #12 to indicate that a special exception could be conditioned to Site Plan Review approval.

YES 287 NO 73

***BOND WARRANT ARTICLE FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
INCLUDING POLICE OFFICES
(non-lapsing special warrant article)***

ARTICLE 10. Don Metz made the motion that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, three hundred nine thousand dollars (\$1,309,000) (gross budget) for the purchase of land and buildings at 1 High Street, Lyme, NH, presently owned by Ray G. Clark and Christina N.L. Clark (Lyme Tax Map 201, Lot 120, including Lots 115 and 116) and for the design, construction and original equipping of new municipal offices including police offices (one of the pre-existing buildings will be partially renovated and will incorporate a substantial addition); and to authorize the issuance of not more than nine hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$925,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, the maturity and other terms thereof, and further to authorize the withdrawal of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) from the “Public Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund” and forty-four thousand dollars (\$44,000) from the “Town Offices Building Capital Reserve Fund” the balance of the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to come from donations.

(2/3 ballot vote required) (Recommended by the Select Board.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

Note: After discussion, the polls and ballot box will remain open for a least an hour for voting on this article.

SECONDED

Mr. Metz as Co-Chair of the Town Offices Building Committee offered an explanation of the committee's proposal. Jay Smith, a member of the Building Committee presented the budgeting details and proposed financing plans. It was noted that the private fundraising efforts to help this project had earned over the goal of \$200,000.00. Donations/pledges are still welcome.

Several members of the public spoke to this article, some of whom expressed support, other expressed concern over increasing taxes.

After discussion ended at 10:30 AM, issue was moved to vote on paper ballot, polls to be open for at least one hour. Polls closed at 1:10 PM.

ARTICLE 10 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE

YES 234 NO 105

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

ARTICLE 11. Barney Brannen made the motion that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, nine hundred seventy-four thousand, three hundred eighty dollars (\$1,974,380) which represents the operating budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. Said sum does **not** include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles.

SECONDED

Barney Brannen as Chair of the Budget Committee spoke to the Article. Selectman Richard Jones explained the difference between the Board of Selectmen proposed budget and that presented by the Budget Committee; which is that the salary for the Planning and Zoning Administrator had not yet been established, as the position had not been filled at the time of budget planning.

Article 11 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

***TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND TRUST FUNDS
(special warrant article)***

ARTICLE 12. Tony Ryan made the motion that the Town vote to raise and appropriate three hundred thirty thousand five hundred dollars (\$330,500) and make payment to the following Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds previously established for the purposes set forth in the budget submitted by the Budget Committee as follows:

Capital Reserve Funds:

Bridge Capital Reserve Fund	\$5,000
Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund	\$150,000

Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
Property Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,000
Town Offices Building Capital Reserve Fund	\$25,000
Emergency Highway Repair Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000
Computer System Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund	\$12,000
Town Buildings Major Maintenance and Repair Fund	\$15,000
Fire Fighting Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$11,500
Public Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$20,000</u>
Capital Reserve Funds Subtotal:	\$293,500

Expendable Trust Funds:

Emergency Major Equipment Rebuilding Trust Fund	\$15,000
Town Poor Expendable Trust Fund	<u>\$22,000</u>
Expendable Trust Funds Subtotal:	\$37,000

Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds Total: \$330,500

SECONDED

Article 12 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

***WITHDRAWAL FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND
EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS
(individual warrant article)***

ARTICLE 13. Sue Ryan made the motion that the Town vote to raise and appropriate fifty-six thousand, four hundred twenty-three dollars (**\$56,423**) and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the Select Board, as agents for the Town, to withdraw and expend such funds from the Capital Reserve and Trust Funds for the purposes for which they were created as submitted by the Budget Committee as follows:

Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment:

Fire Fighter Equipment Trust Fund (Bessie M. Hall Trust) (Fire Fighting Protective Clothing & Major Equipment)	\$6,923
Fire Fighting Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (Fire Fighter Protective Clothing)	\$4,000
Computer System Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund (Computers, Printers & Wiring)	<u>\$7,500</u>
Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment Subtotal:	\$18,423

Town Buildings Major Maintenance & Repair Capital Reserve Fund (Scapewel Windows & related health & safety remediation measures)	<u>\$20,000</u>
Buildings Subtotal:	\$20,000

Improvements Other Than Buildings:

Property Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund (third year of three-year revaluation project – includes payroll)	<u>\$18,000</u>
Improvements Other Than Buildings Subtotal:	\$18,000

Total: \$56,423

SECONDED

Article 13 was VOTED IN AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

***WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE GIFTS
AND DONATIONS FUND
(individual warrant article)***

ARTICLE 14. Jean Smith made the motion that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nineteen thousand five hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$19,597) for the completion of the cemetery cremation garden 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).

SECONDED

Jean Smith moved to postpone Article 14 indefinitely, explaining that the Cemetery Commission will use Perpetual Care funds in 2008 and consider using the funds proposed in Article 14 in the future.

SECONDED

Motion to postpone Article 14 indefinitely VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

***WITHDRAWAL FROM INDEPENDENCE DAY
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
(special warrant article)***

ARTICLE 15. Lee Larson made the motion that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand four hundred dollars (\$8,400) to sponsor an Independence Day celebration, including but not limited to a parade, a picnic and fireworks 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 is a "special" warrant article pursuant to NH RA 32:3, VI.

SECONDED

Article 15 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

***APPROPRIATING MONIES TO PUT INTO BLISTERS FOR BOOKS
EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND
(special warrant article)***

ARTICLE 16. Marya Klee made the motion that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) to put into “Blisters for Books Expendable Trust Fund (ETF)” established in 2007 for the purpose of purchasing children’s books, audiotapes and other resources. Said funds to come from the 12/31/2007 unreserved fund balance, and represent monies taken into the general fund in 2007.

SECONDED

The Selectmen explained there is no legal authority to expend these funds annually without a vote at town meeting.

Article 16 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

***EXPENDING MONEY TO FILL IN LOW-LYING AREAS OF CHASE BEACH
(special warrant article)***

Prior to the motion for Articles 17, 18 & 19 Peter Mulvihill, representing the Recreation Commission, offered a detailed explanation of Articles 17, 18 & 19 and answered questions from the floor.

In addition, Selectman Richard Jones asked Town Legal Counsel, Jae Whitelaw, to provide her opinions about the various issues surrounding these articles. Points of interest:

- Conservation Commission has clear responsibilities to conserved land and resources.
- Recreation Commission also has a clear responsibility which is to maintain the beach and recreation areas.
- The problem is that the two charges in this instance are not consistent with each other.
- From a legal standpoint, both entities are trying to do what they’re supposed to do resulting in conflict.
- NH RSA 210:9 defines who is able to deal with beavers.
- Any water body located in New Hampshire over 10 acres belongs to the State of New Hampshire. Therefore, Post Pond belongs to the State of New Hampshire. The “property line” (between town & state) falls at the Natural Mean High Water-measured at 3.0 feet on the local staff gauge.
- Permitting from NH Department of Environmental Services would need to be obtained in order to change the pipes being used to help control the beavers.

Discussion continued about the conditions and concerns at the beach, ball fields and Chaffee Wildlife Center.

Tish Smith commented that it appears that Article 19 should be considered before acting on Articles 17 and 18.

Tish Smith made a MOTION to suspend discussion on Articles 17 or 18 until Article 19 had been discussed and acted on.

SECONDED

Motion to suspend discussion on Articles 17 and 18 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY 2/3 VOICE VOTE.

Tish Smith made the MOTION to begin discussion on Article 19.

SECONDED

MOTION TO BEGIN DISCUSSION ON ARTICLE 19 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

RECOMMEND "RE-AFFIRM" STANDARD OF CUSTODIAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP OF CHAFFEE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

ARTICLE 19. Jack Elliott made the motion that the Town vote to recommend that the Town re-affirm the standard of custodial care and management stewardship for the Town's Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary consistent with the representations made at the time the Chaffee land was acquired. This standard of custodial care and management of Chaffee includes taking such actions as are necessary to maintain the water level in Post Pond and in the Chaffee land at a level reasonably calculated to protect and preserve the Town's adjoining recreational facilities. The mean level presently required to protect and preserve the Town's recreational facilities is not more than 2' on the water gauge located at the Post Pond boat landing.

SECONDED

Discussion continued about conditions at the Post Pond area. Concerns ranged from health issues due to parasites and other unsavory conditions that arise from standing water to those of wildlife management and protection. It was asked to consider the dissolution of the Conservation Commission at this meeting.

Attorney Jae Whitelaw opined that the Conservation Commission could not be dissolved by an action taken at this meeting as there has been no due legal notice of intent.

Tom Toner made the MOTION TO TABLE DISCUSSION ON ARTICLE 19.

SECONDED

Moderator Waste explained that this action would mean to set aside this article until after this meeting or until next Town Meeting.

MOTION TO TABLE DISCUSSION ON ARTICLE 19 WAS VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

Moderator noted that the polls were closed on the paper ballot for Article 10, time: 1:10 PM.

Kevin Peterson commented that he hoped that the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Commission could find ways to work together and find fair compromise on the significant issues they continue to deal with.

Jeff Lehmann made the **MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION, ending further discussion on Article 19.**

SECONDED

MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION, ENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION ON ARTICLE 19 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

Attorney Jae Whitelaw reminded voters that the result of the vote on Article 19 is an ADVISORY VOTE only. Town Meeting may offer opinion in this case, but is not able to instruct the Conservation Commission as to what to do.

Moderator Waste instructed distribution of the pink voting cards to proceed with vote on Article 19.

ADVISORY VOTE RESULTS ON ARTICLE 19: YES 184 NO 48

Moderator Waste declared that Articles 17 & 18 were now suitable for discussion.

ARTICLE 17. Jack Elliott made the motion that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the purpose of filling the low-lying areas behind Chase Beach, to be expended only if the Conservation Commission adopts and implements a policy to manage the beaver dams in the Chaffee Sanctuary so that the average seasonal water level is two (2) feet on the gauge near the Post Pond landing. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the work has been performed or December 31, 2009, whichever is sooner.

SECONDED

Freda Swan asked what happens to the \$3000.00 if the Conservation Commission decides not to adopt and implement the proposed policy.

Moderator Waste confirmed the money may only be spent if the Conservation Commission agrees to the plan. Money would stay in the General Fund.

Article 17 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

EXPENDING MONEY TO RENOVATE THE JOHN BALCH MEMORIAL FIELD
(special warrant article)

ARTICLE 18. Jack Elliott made the motion that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety thousand five hundred dollars (\$90,500) for the purpose of renovating the John Balch Memorial Field, thirty thousand five hundred dollars (\$30,500.00) to be raised by taxes and sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) to be raised from donations, to be expended only if the Conservation Commission adopts and implements a policy to manage the beaver dams in the Chaffee Sanctuary so that the average seasonal water level is two (2) feet on the gauge near the Post Pond landing. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the work has been performed or December 31, 2009, whichever is sooner.

SECONDED

Peter Mulvihill offered an AMENDMENT to ARTICLE 18 indicating that it should read:

That the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety thousand five hundred dollars (\$90,500) for the purpose of renovating the John Balch Memorial Field, not more than twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000) to be raised by taxes and sixty-nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$69,500.00) to be raised from donations, to be expended only if the Conservation Commission adopts and implements a policy to manage the beaver dams in the Chaffee Sanctuary so that the average seasonal water level is two (2) feet on the gauge near the Post Pond landing. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the work has been performed or December 31, 2009, whichever is sooner.

SECONDED

MOTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 18 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

Tony Ryan made the motion to further amend Article 18 by adding “successfully” implements....

Jason Reeves asked about changing the wording in Article 17. Moderator Waste indicated this was not possible as the Article had already been voted on.

Questions continued about Mr. Ryan’s proposed amendment centering around what the criteria for “successfully” was and who determines that it’s successful.

Alfred Balch commented that this issue and others surrounding Articles 17, 18 & 19 had become much more complicated than they needed to be.

Virginia Beahan commented that the word “successfully” was redundant in this case.

MOTION TO FURTHER AMEND Article 18 by adding “successfully” implements....was VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

Moderator Waste confirmed that this brings the meeting back to consideration of the original amendment as presented by Peter Mulvihill.

After further comments, Jodie Rich made the motion to CALL THE QUESTION, ending debate on Article 18.

Motion to end debate was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

Moderator Waste instructed distribution of the pink voting cards.

ARTICLE 18, AS AMENDED WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE:

YES 165

NO 40

ADOPT SOLAR EXEMPTION

ARTICLE 20. Matt Brown made the motion that the Town vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 72:62 to provide for a property tax exemption for solar energy systems used to heat or cool the interior of a building, heat water for use in a building, or generate electricity for a building. The exemption shall be an amount equal to any increase in the assessed valuation that results from the installation of the system. Applications for exemption shall be administered by the Board of Selectmen.

SECONDED

Matt Brown offered a short explanation as to why Article 20 was proposed.

Dick Jones, speaking for the Selectmen indicated that at this time there is no value associated with solar systems for town assessment purposes. This passing of this Article would have no effect on the assessed value of a property; however it is possible that may change in the future.

ARTICLE 20 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

DISCONTINUE A PORTION OF BAKER HILL ROAD

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue as a public highway the old portion of Baker Hill Road bounded by a certain parcel of land now owned by David M. Roby, Trustee of the Bliss Lane Realty Trust u/d/t dated 2/28/2006 (known as Tax Map 409, Lot 45 or 216 Dorchester Road) (See Book 3255, Page 709, in the Grafton County Register of Deeds, dated March 1, 2006), a certain parcel of land now owned by David M. Roby, Trustee of the Bliss Lane Realty Trust u/d/t dated 2/28/2006 (known as Tax Map 409, Lot 52 – now combined with Lot 45 – or formerly 35 Baker Hill Road now part of 216 Dorchester Road) (See Book 3255, Page 709, in the Grafton County Register of Deeds, dated March 1, 2006), and a certain parcel of land now owned by Stuart Karon and Jodi Wenger (known as Tax Map 409, Lot 53.2 or 57 Baker Hill Road) (See Book 2612, Page 667 in the Grafton County

Register of Deeds, dated December 12, 2001), and relinquish all of the Town's right, title and interest therein. By way of explanation, this old portion of Baker Hill Road had a very sharp curve that the town bypassed a number of years ago, following a straighter course.

Abutting Property Owners

Map 409, Lot 52 & 45	David M. Roby, Trustee, Bliss Lane Realty Trust u/d/t dated 2/28/2006
Map 409, Lot 82	Alan R. Greatorex and Sharon D. Greatorex
Map 409 Lot 84	Joan Granlund
Map 409, Lot 51	Philip M. Pochoda
Map 409, Lot 53.2	Stuart Karon & Jodi Wenger

SECONDED

ARTICLE 21 WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE

MAJORITY REPORTING

ARTICLE 22. Scott Steffey made the motion that the Town vote to adopt NH RSA 32:5, V-a to require that all votes by the Town Budget Committee and the Town governing body relative to budget items and warrant articles shall be recorded votes and the numeric tally of any such vote shall be printed in the town warrant next to the affected warrant article.

SECONDED

Selectman Simon Carr explained the reason for this Article.

Bill Grant asked if the Budget Committee supported this Article.

Barney Brannen, Chair of the Budget Committee responded that this was not presented to the Budget Committee for discussion. He first saw it in the Town Report.

Article 22 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

RESOLUTION TO HAVE STATE LEADERS REJECT THE "PLEDGE"

ARTICLE 23. Paul Klee made the motion that the Town vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor:

Resolved: We the citizens of Lyme, NH, believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. State leaders who take a pledge for no new taxes perpetuate higher and higher property taxes. We call on our State Representatives, our State

Senator and our Governor to reject the “Pledge”, have an open discussion covering all options, and adopt a revenue system that lowers property taxes.

SECONDED

Dan O’Hara offered explanation of Petitioned Article 23.

Tom Toner commented that one way to help with high taxes would be to stop spending.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Waste instructed distribution of the pink voting cards for vote on Article 23.

Article 23 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE

YES 117 NO 23

REPORTS OF AGENTS, AUDITORS & COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 24. Moderator Waste asked to hear reports of Agents, Auditors, or Committees or other officers heretofore chosen, and to pass any vote relating thereto.

Kevin Peterson, speaking for the Lyme Fast Squad thanked community members for generous contributions toward fundraising and purchase of the new rescue truck.

Tom Toner thanked the Lyme Fast Squad for their immediate and (what he considers) life-saving help when he was severely injured in a work-related fall last year.

Bill Waste thanked all the volunteers who help in town and the Lyme Highway Department for their great job during this difficult winter. There was a round of applause for the Highway crew.

Bill Waste also pointed out that the School Section of the Town Report was missing information about one of the graduates: William Braasch Jr. graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy with honors.

Geneva Menge commended the Emergency Management Services for their extraordinary efforts following the April 2007 storm (which were noticed and publicly mentioned by the New Hampshire Emergency Management directors in Concord). She specifically noted Lyme Emergency Management Director Wallace Ragan and his considerable contributions to the operations.

Dorf Sears also mentioned that the Fire/Fast Squad now has resuscitation equipment for small animals. Fire Chief Michael Hinsley thanked Miss Sears for her contribution for this equipment.

Martha Smith asked that the Town thank the staff- Mr. Dan Quinn, Jedidiah Smith and Lance Goodrich- at the Transfer Station, for a job well done in a friendly, helpful manner.

ARTICLE 24, AS LISTED WAS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY VOICE VOTE.

OTHER BUSINESS

ARTICLE 25. To transact any other business that may be legally brought before this Town Meeting.

Earl Strout requested that we have a consensus of this body of Lyme Citizens to state our disapproval of the construction of the new Grafton County Jail. The results of this consensus is to be forwarded to those responsible for this project.

Selectman Simon Carr provided the figures on this project indicating the anticipated tax impact to Lyme residents.

Selectman Charles Ragan explained he did not feel that our Grafton County Representatives accurately or adequately conveyed the expressed feelings of concern when deliberating about the project.

MR. STROUT'S REQUEST RESULTED IN AN AFFIRMATIVE VOICE VOTE.

In an additional SENSE OF THE MEETING REQUEST, Moderator Waste moved on to the controversial issue of whether or not to begin Lyme's Town Meeting with an invocation offered by local clergy.

As anticipated, this question brought forth a number of comments both for and against this Lyme tradition.

Moderator Waste thanked everyone for their very thoughtful and respectful comments. He clarified that this vote will enable him to make an informed decision of how to proceed with the opening of future Town Meetings.

Pink voting cards were distributed, as noted would happen in Moderator Waste's opening comments.

THE SENSE OF THE MEETING VOTE TO OPEN TOWN MEETING WITH THE TRADITIONAL PRAYER WAS VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE BY VOTING CARD

YES 59

NO 76

Charles Ragan made the motion to adjourn this Town Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia G. Jenks
Town Clerk