

**TOWN OF LYME  
TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 9, 2004**

The Moderator, William Waste called this meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. at the Lyme School Community Gymnasium. Polls were opened for voting on Articles 1-7 at 7:00 A.M. and closed at 7:00 P.M.

An invocation was offered by Rev. Mary Conant.

The third and fourth graders of Lyme School and members of the Boy Scouts presented The Colors, led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and sang “My Country ‘Tis of Thee”.

The Moderator offered general community and procedural announcements.

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

One Town Moderator for a term of 2 years:	William Waste
One Selectman for a term of 3 years:	Judith Lee Shelnutt Brotman
One Town Treasurer for a term of 3 years:	Luane Cole
One Tax Collector for a term of 3 years:	Joanne Coburn
One Overseer of Public Welfare for a term of 1 year:	Nancy Elizabeth Grandine
One Road Agent for a term of 1 year:	Fred O. Stearns III
One Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of 6 years:	Katherine P. Larson
One Trustee of Trust Funds for a term of 3 years:	Carl O. Larson
One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of 3 years:	Jean A. Smith
One Sexton for a term of 1 year:	William H. LaBombard
Three Budget Committee Members for a term of 3 years:	Barney Brannen Joshua Kilham Freda Swan
One Budget Committee Member for a term of 2 years:	Stuart V. Smith, Jr.
Three Library Trustees for a term of 3 years:	Anne Hartmann Judy Thrasher Judith G. Russell
Two Planning Board Members for a term of 3 years:	Jack Elliott Freda Swan

**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:

The names and definitions of “Single Family Dwelling” and “Multi-Family Dwelling” will be changed to exclude “family” and to clarify that a Single Dwelling may include a second dwelling unit. A multi-family dwelling will now be a building with three or more units rather than two. The new names will be provided throughout the ordinance.

*History: There has been some confusion as to when section 4.42 Accessory Uses applies.*

(Majority non-partisan official ballot required.) (Recommended by the Planning Board.)

**YES 294**

**NO 36**

**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:

The measurement of gross floor area will be from the interior where there is a 5’ vertical height rather than from the exterior walls. This excludes much unusable space from the gross floor area calculation.

*History: Applicants desiring to build a detached accessory dwelling in the upper level of a building with sloping walls have been restricted to very little useable floor area due to the current measurement from the exterior walls.*

(Majority non-partisan official ballot required) (Recommended by the Planning Board.)

**YES 306**

**NO 24**

**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:

Delete footnotes to Table 5.1 and refer to new sections containing information previously held in the footnotes. Change section 5.21 to 5.11 Lot Size and amend as follows. Move “Lot Size Averaging” from section 4.46 to section 5.11 under “Lot Size,” and reword for clarity but not change in intent except delete requirement that any lot size averaging subdivision cannot rely on special exceptions. Delete language throughout ordinance referring to “economically feasible subdivision” and “front yard.” Require special exception for parking areas in road setback.

(Majority non-partisan official ballot required.) (Recommended by the Planning Board.)

**YES 288**

**NO 37**

**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:

Section 8.31 Vacant Lot will be amended to allow the enlargement of a vacant lot by up to one acre without losing the “lot of record” status since this improves the lot by reducing its non-conformity.

*History: In a couple of cases, applicants wished to build upon their vacant non-conforming lots after enlarging them by annexation. The current zoning is not clear on this instance, and the “lot of record” status might be lost due to annexation, rendering the lot unbuildable. Intuitively, this does not make sense, so the ordinance will be changed. Also gives the Planning Board the right to establish a development area.*

(Majority non-partisan official ballot required.) (Recommended by the Planning Board.)

**YES 306**

**NO 31**

**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:

Article XI. Affordable Housing will be amended to allow greater ease at providing affordable housing. Also gives the Planning Board review control rather than the ZBA.

*History: The Affordable Housing section has not been reviewed in some time and new State guidelines have been added.*

(Majority non-partisan official ballot required.) (Recommended by the Planning Board.)

**YES 311**

**NO 29**

**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 definition of "Cottage Industry," "Lot," "Lot Size," and "Lot Size Averaging," and sections 4.50 Planned Development and 8.24 Expansion of Existing Structures... as "housekeeping" changes. Amend definition of "Setback" to clarify setbacks from roads (previously front setbacks). Add definitions for "Conservation Easement" and "Zoning Easement" since these terms are used in the ordinance. Revise Article VI "Sign Regulations" for clarity and update list of wetlands vegetation in appendices.

(Majority non-partisan official ballot required.) (Recommended by the Planning Board.)

**YES 299**

**NO 35**

**ARTICLE 8. Judy Brotman made the motion** that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$555,000) to rebuild the Lyme Highway Maintenance Facility, and to authorize the issuance of not more than five hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$530,000) of bonds and notes in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33) and to authorize the selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from the Public Works Facilities Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-one thousand eight hundred thirty-three dollars (\$21,833) for the payment of this year's principal and interest.

(These appropriations are **NOT** included in the total operating budget warrant article (Article 14) as approved by the Budget Committee.)

(Two thirds (2/3rds) paper ballot vote required. Polls must be open for a minimum of one hour for voting on this issue.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

*Note: The interest is figured for ½ year at 4.625% based on drawing down the note on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The principal is based on a thirty year amortization schedule with the first payment for ½ a year being made in December of 2004.*

**SECONDED**

Judy Brotman, as Chair of the Highway Garage Facilities Committee spoke to this article, explaining history and proposed plans. She also introduced representatives from the firm of CCI, Inc. who has been working on the plans with the committee. The Highway crew, including Road Agent Fred Stearns, Mark Hewes, Russell Stearns, Steve Williams, Scott Bailey and Bill LaBombard were acknowledged as were members of the Highway Garage Facility Committee. Tony Ryan, having participated in detail with the building committee also provided information about the project.

Following the presentations, questions were addressed concerning financing options. Mike Smith explained various financing/bond options.

Other financing savings options, including the possible use of conservation funds and Land Use Change Tax proceeds were discussed with the Selectmen. It was the Selectmen’s opinion that using the Land Use Change Tax funds would require a separate warrant article and the use of Conservation funds should be kept for other land acquisition needs i.e.: Transfer Station, Municipal Offices, Fire & Police Offices. The Selectmen felt that this would also require a warned article.

Alfred Balch read a prepared statement in favor of Article 8. His statement included historical information relevant to the Highway Department. (See attached statement) He included an informal request to the Board of Selectmen that they consider dedicating the new Highway Garage (in the event the vote passes), “to past and present Road Agents and Crews”. Alfred’s statement received applause and support from attendees.

Road Agent Fred Stearns spoke in favor of Article 8, describing operational and logistical issues the road crew deals with in managing multiple pieces of heavy equipment and trucks in the present work area.

There being no further discussion regarding Article 8 the Moderator proceeded to the voting stage of this article. At 9:42 paper ballots were made available to all registered voters in the Town of Lyme attending this meeting. The polls would be open for voting on Article 8 for at least one hour. Voters checked in with the Ballots Clerks, being checked off on a checklist established specifically for this purpose. After they voted, they were checked off on another checklist with the Town Clerk and the ballot deposited in a ballot box provided specifically for this purpose.

After a short period of organizing the voting for Article 8, the Moderator proceeded with the meeting, moving on to Article 9.

**ARTICLE 9. Alfred Balch made the motion** that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$181,000 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:

<b>Capital Reserve Funds:</b>	
Bridge Capital Reserve Fund	\$1,000
Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund	\$95,000
Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$27,500
Property Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,000
Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000
Computer System Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund	\$13,000
Fire Fighting Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$4,500

**Trust Funds:**

Emergency Major Equipment Rebuilding Trust Fund	\$10,000
Total:	\$181,000

(These appropriations are **not** included in the total operating budget warrant article (Article 14) as approved by the Budget Committee.)

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

**SECONDED**

Selectmen Dick Jones provided explanation for this Article and offered the following Amendment to Article 9:  
“The Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund has a 1/1/04 balance of \$104,313 and with the proposed \$95,000 deposit it will not have enough money in it to purchase the new fire engine. By increasing the deposit by \$25,500 (from \$95,000 to \$120,500) it will have sufficient funds. The Board of Selectmen proposes amending Article 9 to permit this and leave the total appropriation unchanged.”

<b>Capital Reserve Funds:</b>	
Bridge Capital Reserve Fund	\$1,000 stay at \$1,000
Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund	\$95,000 change to \$120,500
Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$27,500 change to \$7,500
Property Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,000 stay at \$10,000
Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000 stay at \$20,000
Computer System Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund	\$13,000 change to \$8,000
Fire Fighting Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$4,500 change to \$4,000

<b>Trust Funds:</b>	
Emergency Major Equipment Rebuilding Trust Fund	\$10,000 stay at \$10,000
Total: \$181,000	

**AMENDMENT SECONDED**

Mike Smith explained the implication of the reallocation of these funds.

**Article 9, as amended was voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote.**

**ARTICLE 10. Fred Phillips made the motion** that the Town vote to raise and appropriate three hundred thirty-five thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$335,750) and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the Selectmen, 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:

<b>Machinery, Vehicles &amp; Equipment:</b>	
Emergency Major Equipment Rebuilding Trust Fund	\$13,750
Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund (Fire Truck)	\$225,000
Bessie M. Hall Trust (Fire Department) (Fire Fighter Equipment)	\$1,500
<b>Improvements Other Than Buildings:</b>	
Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund (Transfer Station)	\$10,000
Emergency Highway Repair Capital Reserve Fund	\$73,000
Bridge Capital Reserve Fund (Edgell Covered Bridge)	\$12,500
Total:	\$335,750

(These appropriations are **not** included in the total operating budget warrant article (Article 14) as approved by the Budget Committee.)

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

## **SECONDED**

Selectman Dick Jones offered an explanation for this article.

Fire Chief Michael Hinsley described the proposed new fire engine, providing comparative figures on the different trucks considered for purchase.

**Judy Brotman offered Amendment #1 to Article 10:** To include \$24,000 under Public Works Capital Reserve Fund (Highway Facility) to allow the addition of a mezzanine storage area conditional upon passage of Article 8.

## **SECONDED**

Judy Brotman and Tony Ryan provided information supporting this amendment.

**Amendment #1 was voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote.**

**Claudia Kern offered Amendment #2 to Article 10:** To add a line item to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw and expend up to \$29,000 from the Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund (Highway) for the purpose of installing a wood pellet boiler system in the new highway garage. This amendment is conditional upon passage of Article 8.

## **SECONDED**

Claudia Kern, for the Lyme Energy Committee, explained her recommendation of this amendment.

Carola Lea, speaking on behalf of Lyme Foundation indicated that Lyme Foundation had been approached about assisting with this particular expense, and while they had not had the opportunity to discuss and vote on the request, she was hopeful they would be able to help.

Michael Hinsley offered a FRIENDLY AMENDMENT, revising the figure from \$29,000 to \$2,697, adding this amount to the \$24,000 earmarked for the propane furnace from the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund (Highway), with the remaining to be privately funded. This amount (\$26,697) is approximately half the amount needed to obtain the wood pellet system.

Claudia Kern, as maker of Amendment #2 (Article 10) agreed to this Friendly Amendment, as did the Second (Matt Brown).

Matt Brown suggested and it was agreed that Amendment #2 be revised to include “and its use be contingent upon gifts and matching funds received from other sources in a timeframe consistent with the building project.”

**Amendment #2 Voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote.**

**Moderator clarified the end result (bottom line) of amendments made to Article 10: Raises the bottom line of Article 10 from \$335,750 to \$362,447.**

**ARTICLE 10 as Amended was voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote.**

**Having closed voting on Article 8 at 10:52 A.M., the Moderator provided the results from the counting of ballots cast on this article.**

197 Ballots cast

YES 169

NO 26

BLANK 2

**Article 8 was passed in the AFFIRMATIVE by Paper Ballot (2/3 majority)-86%**

**ARTICLE 11. Freda Swan made the motion** that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500) 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 from the **Independence Day Celebration Special Revenue Fund** established for this purpose at the 2003 town meeting.

(This is an “individual” warrant article. These appropriations are not included in the total operating budget warrant article (Article 14) as approved by the Budget Committee.)

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

**SECONDED**

**Article 11 was voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**

**ARTICLE 12. Sue Ryan made the motion** that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred nineteen thousand three hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$119,328) to cover the library operating expenses. The sum of ten thousand five hundred sixty-five dollars (\$10,565) to come from Library Trustees’ accounts (accrued from donations received in prior years as well as interest income), the balance of one hundred eight thousand seven hundred sixty-three dollars (\$108,763) to be raised by taxes.

(These appropriations are not included in the total operating budget warrant article (Article 14) as approved by the Budget Committee.)

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

*Note: The sum of \$10,565 will come from donations the library received prior to 2004 as well as interest from the Town Trustees of the Trust Funds (an as yet unknown amount which the library should receive this month); this amount is always reported in the town report under Trustees of the Trust Funds. The library does NOT need town meeting’s authorization to spend the donations it receives this year; the library only needs to have town meeting authorization to spend donations from prior calendar years.*

*The line items the Library Trustees will pay directly are telecommunications, videos, magazines, and children’s books and other operating expenses in excess of expenses covered by tax appropriations.*

**SECONDED**

**Article 12 was voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**

**ARTICLE 13. Gerry Clancy made the motion** that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) for the expansion of the Lyme Library/Town Offices parking lot. This will be a non-

lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the expansion of the parking lot is completed or by December 31, 2006, whichever is sooner.

(This is an “individual” warrant article. These appropriations are **not** included in the total operating budget warrant article (Article 14) as approved by the Budget Committee.)

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

*Note: There is no offsetting income from capital reserve funds or trust funds. If the project is completed in the 2004 budget year, no further action is required and the balance of the appropriation could lapse into the general fund balance. However, if the project is not completed, the balance could be carried forward into the next budget year. If town meeting does not specify the number of years for the project in the article, town meeting will need to meet and vote to encumber the funds for an additional year. (RSA 37:7, V.) Per RSA 32:10,I(d), any amount appropriated at the meeting under a special warrant article may be used only for the purpose specified in that article and shall not be transferred.*

## **SECONDED**

Discussion followed with comments made by abutters voicing concern that they had not been notified of this proposal, nor had they been included in any planning discussions for this project.

Gerry Clancy indicated that plans are not final for this proposed expansion and there are more details to be worked out.

The comment was made that too many questions remain and further work needed to be done in preparation for this proposed project.

## **Article 13 was voted in the NEGATIVE by Voice Vote**

**ARTICLE 14. Barney Brannen made the motion** that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million, four hundred eighty-five thousand, eight hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$1,485,859) which represents the operating budget as recommended in the budget by the Budget Committee; the Selectmen recommend one million, four hundred seventy-six thousand, six hundred ninety-six dollars (\$1,476,696). Said sum does **not** include special or individual articles addressed in warrant articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

*Note: If the town votes to appropriate the sum of the operating budget plus ALL of the proposed special or individual warrant articles, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million seven hundred nine thousand seven hundred seventy dollars (\$2,709,770) which represents the total appropriations as recommended in the budget by the Budget Committee.*

## **SECONDED**

Barney Brannen as Chair of the Budget Committee made comments concerning this proposed budget.

## **Article 14 voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**



**ARTICLE 15. Lee Larson made the motion** that the Town vote to authorize the selectmen to convey a conservation easement to Upper Valley Land Trust on the 2.5 acre parcel at Trout Pond that the town acquired from William Shelby, on such terms and conditions as determined by the selectmen.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

## **SECONDED**

Lee Larson as Conservation Commission Chair explained this article.

### **Article 15 voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**

**ARTICLE 16. Lee Larson made the motion** that the Town vote to authorize the selectmen to negotiate and execute a multi-year contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service under the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program for the enhancement and maintenance of wildlife habitat in the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

*Note: The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program provides grants to enhance and maintain wildlife habitat. Participation requires a minimum commitment of 5 years and may provide up to 75% of the costs of enhancing and maintaining wildlife habitat. The Conservation Commission unanimously voted to apply to this program for a 10-year period to provide grant funds of \$2,015 to augment existing Conservation Fund monies used for maintenance of the sanctuary. The funds would be used for the removal of non-native species and maintenance of the existing open spaces. A multi-year contract would have to be signed before any grant monies could be received.*

## **SECONDED**

### **Article 16 voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**

## **TAX EXEMPTIONS AND TAX CREDITS**

*Note: Effective April 1, 2003, the New Hampshire State Legislature made a number of changes in the tax exemptions and tax credits available for resident property tax payers. The effective result of voting yes for each of these next four warrant articles is a reduction in the tax base, shifting the tax burden of granting these credits and exemptions to other taxpayers.*

**ARTICLE 17. Matt Brown made the motion** that the Town vote to eliminate the five (5) year New Hampshire residency requirement included in the Exemption for the Disabled approved by Article 20 of the March 12, 2002, Town Meeting because RSA 72:37-b has been amended and no longer authorizes that requirement.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

## **SECONDED**

Clarification by Selectmen that this article reflects an effort to keep the town in compliance due to a law change.

### **Article 17 voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**

**ARTICLE 18. Luane Cole made the motion** that the Town vote to adopt NH RSA 72:38-b Exemption for Deaf or Severely Hearing Impaired Persons which provides

an exemption from property taxation for qualified deaf or severely hearing impaired taxpayers. The first ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) of assessed value of residential real estate shall be exempt from taxation.

To qualify, the person must be eligible under "deaf person or person with severe hearing impairment" means a person who has a 71 Db hearing average hearing loss or greater in the better ear as determined by a licensed audiologist or qualified otolaryngologist, (also known as an Ears, Nose & Throat - ENT Physician) who may rely on a visual means of communication, such as American Sign Language or speech recognition, and whose hearing is so impaired as to substantially limit the person from processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, so as to require the use of an interpreter or auxiliary aid."

The property must be:

- (a) Owned by a resident jointly or in common with the resident's spouse, either of whom meets the requirements for the exemption claimed;
- (b) Owned by a resident jointly or in common with a person not the resident's spouse, if the resident meets the applicable requirements for the exemption claimed;
- (c) Owned by a resident, or the resident's spouse, either of whom meets the requirements for the exemption claimed, and when they have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years.

To qualify the eligible person:

- (a) must occupy the property as his/her principle place of abode;
- (b) had in the calendar year preceding April 1<sup>st</sup> a net income from all sources, of not more than \$22,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$33,000; and
- (c) own net assets not in excess of \$100,000, excluding the value of the person's residence.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

*Note: Prior to April 1, 2003, there was no property tax exemption available for the deaf or the severely hearing impaired person. For many years Lyme has had an exemption available for qualified elderly and since 1997 the town has had an exemption available for the disabled. Both exemptions are based, in part, on a combination of low asset and low income levels. In addition, since 1986 there has been in effect an exemption for the blind. Qualification for the blind exemption is not contingent on the value of the person's assets or income level. If the town adopts this exemption, the amount of the exemption, the maximum level of income and maximum limit of assets for the applicant will be the same as that of a disabled person or an elderly person between the ages of 65 and 75.*

**SECONDED**

**Article 18 voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**

**ARTICLE 19. Elise Garrity made the motion** that the Town vote to increase the amount of the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit under NH RSA 72:28 (**Veteran's Tax Credit**) and RSA 72:29-a (**Surviving Spouse**) from \$100 to \$500.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

**SECONDED**

**Article 19 voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**

**ARTICLE 20. Elsie Garrity made the motion** that the Town vote to increase the amount of the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit under NH RSA 72:35 (**Tax Credit For Service-Connected Total Disability**) from \$1,400 to \$2,000.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

**SECONDED**

**Article 20 voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**

**ARTICLE 21.** To hear reports of Agents, Auditors, or Committees or other officers heretofore chosen, and to pass any vote relating thereto.

(Majority vote required.)

**There being no changes to the report, Mike Smith made the motion to accept the report as printed.**

**SECONDED**

**Article 21 voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**

**ARTICLE 22.** To transact any other business that may be legally brought before this Town Meeting.

--Richard Jones thanked out-going Selectman, Allan Newton for his help and expertise during his term on the Board of Selectmen. Attendees offered a round of applause.

--Andrea Colgan asked the Board of Selectmen about the results of a law suit against the Town of Lyme by Berwyn Field. Dick Jones, speaking for the selectmen said that there was no information available at this time. Andrea indicated she had not been satisfied in her efforts to learn information about this issue, which involves her daughter.

Nancy Grandine pointed out that findings in this suit are confidential. Allan Newton, for Board of Selectmen concurred and added that there add been no monetary settlement.

Andrea Colgan replied that as a taxpayer, information on this settlement remains unavailable. She wishes to express her displeasure.

--Wallace Ragan, Emergency Management Coordinator expressed extreme concerns about the inability to have radio/cell communication with DHMC and/or Hanover Dispatch.

**Wallace Ragan made the motion** to form a committee to pursue improving the communications capability within the Town of Lyme. The proposal addresses both radio and telephone. The committee will consist of representation from each of the Emergency Services, Select Board and other interested entities.

**SECONDED**

Discussion ensued, involving emergency personnel and victims of incidents requiring emergency communication.

Freda Swan called the question.

**Motion made by Wallace Ragan** to form a committee to pursue improving the communications capability within the Town of Lyme was **voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**.

--Cynthia Bognolo reflected back to concerns brought forth by Andrea Colgan. Referencing the issue, she indicated that young people should be shown support and respect in their efforts to be involved in the community. She also indicated interest in moving Town Meeting to Saturday.

Cynthia was reminded that Town and School District meetings had been moved to Saturday a few years ago in an effort to gain better attendance and that it had made no significant difference. In fact it had been noted that attendance was slightly lower at that time.

--**Tom Toner made the motion** that the Selectmen inform its citizens about any pending or completed law suits to the extent that it is legally possible.

## **SECONDED**

**The motion made by Tom Toner that the** Selectmen inform its citizens about any pending or completed law suits to the extent that it is legally possible was **voted in the AFFIRMATIVE by Voice Vote**.

--Ruth Bleyler, Lyme's State Representative would like to hear from Lyme residents if they have any issues she could try to help with on the State level.

There being no other business to bring before this meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia G. Jenks  
Town Clerk