

Town of Lyme Select Board  
February 24, 2022

Dear Community Members,

2021 has been a challenging year for us all. Although we are cautiously hopeful for an easier year going forward, early on we may continue to be met with a few more unanticipated obstacles, with more social distancing, more mask wearing, and delays in the anticipated vaccination relief.

With COVID-19 still in our lives, albeit somewhat abated due to Lyme's vaccination rate and the thankfully declining level of serious illness, the Town and School district meeting schedules are set and will mostly follow the usual schedule:

- On Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, **Little Town Meeting** will be held at 7pm via Zoom. This will be an opportunity to hear from the candidates running for committee or board positions, and an opportunity to ask questions about the Town and School proposed budgets and warrant articles.
- On Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Lyme School District** will hold its annual meeting at 6 pm in the Lyme School Community Room.
- On Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> the **polls will be open** in the Lyme School Cafeteria from 7am – 7 pm for voting on Warrant Article I (election of committee and board members). There are no proposed zoning amendments this year.
- On Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> the business portion of the **annual Town meeting** will take place at 9am in the Lyme School Community Room. In an effort to limit a lengthy in-person exposure, we anticipate streamlining the meeting by reducing a number of the customary ceremonial events.

***TAX COLLECTOR TO BE APPOINTED***

**ARTICLE 2.** Are you in favor of 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)

***TREASURER TO BE APPOINTED***

**ARTICLE 3.** Are you in favor of 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)

***OVERSEER OF PUBLIC WELFARE TO BE APPOINTED***

**ARTICLE 4.** Are you in favor of 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)

***The Select Board offers this information concerning Articles 5 and 6.***

*Highlights of the Town's proposed 2022 budget: No new vehicles or heavy equipment are requested. The Operating budget is up 4.88% primarily due to cost-of-living payroll increases. There are no new road projects necessitating additional funding this year. We hope to finish up River Road paving and pave Market Street with funds carried over from 2021. Next year, the first half of Phase 3 Goose Pond Road will be undertaken. Warrant Articles are asking for \$410,000 to be put into Capital Reserve and Trust Funds, which is \$5,000 less than last year. No other Warrant Articles will require additional funds raised through taxation.*

***TOWN OPERATING BUDGET***

**ARTICLE 5.** To see if the Town will 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)

#### ***TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND TRUST FUNDS***

**ARTICLE 6.** To see if the Town will 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>
<b>Capital Reserve Funds Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$385,000</b>

##### **Expendable Trust Funds:**

Town Poor Expendable Trust Fund	\$20,000
Annual Leave Trust Fund	<u>\$5,000</u>
<b>Expendable Trust Funds total:</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

<b>Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$410,000</b>
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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)

#### ***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BLOCK GRANT APPROPRIATION***

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will 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.)

#### ***WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND***

**ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will 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 withdrawal 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.)

#### ***WITHDRAWAL FROM VEHICLE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND***

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will 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 withdrawal 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.)

## ***INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION***

### ***SPECIAL REVENUE FUND***

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will 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.)

### ***MILFOIL TREATMENT FOR POST POND***

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will 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.)

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

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will 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.)

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

**ARTICLE 13.** To see if the town will 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.)

### ***PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE***

**ARTICLE 14.** To see if 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)

## ***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.)

## ***OTHER BUSINESS***

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

## **VIRTUAL LITTLE TOWN MEETING – March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 @ 7:00PM**

Although there is no “in person” Little Town Meeting (LTM) this year, the Select Board and Town Moderator will host a Virtual LTM, via Zoom and zoom phone technology, on Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00 pm to allow for candidates to give a brief introduction of themselves, and to address questions and seek clarification on Warrant Articles (no discussion or debate).

Below is the information to join the meeting by telephone and/or zoom link.

Telephone information-Please call in on one of the zoom conference numbers or by the zoom link below: 833 548 0282 US Toll-free/877 853 5247 US Toll-free/888 788 0099 US Toll-free/ 833 548 0276 US Toll-free Meeting ID 875 6876 5978 Access is for voice and zoom.

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87568765978?pwd=dTJlVXRYdHU4VmtMRG41SF14Q3pUUT09>

Meeting ID: 875 6876 5978

Passcode: 686389

### **Information reminders:**

- Once you enter this meeting you will automatically be muted.
- Please use your “raise hand” to notify the Moderator that you wish to speak.
- Once the Moderator informs you of your turn
- We will ask you to unmute yourself.
- Once you are done with your turn please mute yourself

For phone in people: on your telephone you need to follow the below directions.

You must push \* 9 to raise your hand

You must push \* 6 to unmute yourself