

TOWN OF LYME SELECTBOARD
4TH QUARTER REPORT
December 31st, 2016

Much of the fourth quarter was taken up with budget preparations for 2017. Each department has worked hard to provide the necessary services and keep budget increases at an absolute minimum. Our insurance company is no longer providing the Health Plans we were using. We have selected a new plan which slightly increase deductibles for our employees but also provides slightly lower costs. While several deficiencies were noted in preparing the budget, by prioritizing what we considered the necessities and deleting costs where we could the Operating Budget increase was held to 1.8%.

You may see the old police cruiser about town. We decided to keep it and have it used for Town business such as traveling to meetings, conferences and to pick up smaller parts for the highway department. This should save in mileage reimbursement as well as saving wear and tear on the trucks.

At our last meeting we discussed the crucial need for updating the Capital Improvement Plan. This plan studies the future infrastructure needs and will provide a comprehensive plan for the Board to work from.

The Police Department and the Select Board have begun the process of recruiting and selecting a new officer for Lyme. We did receive several promising applications.

We have received two bids for a new grader and are studying/comparing specifications to decide on the best option for the Town. Our old John Deere 772 was purchased in 1996 and has been rebuilt once. It has essentially served us for two lifespans and has some serious mechanical deficiencies. This is the workhorse for maintenance of gravel roads and is one of the most heavily used pieces of equipment in town. Since, through proper planning, sufficient funds are available in the Capitol Reserve Fund this will not affect taxes.

After a great deal of research and learning the ins and outs of the rock climbing world and discussions with abutters, climbers and others an Ordinance for use and monitoring of the Holt's Ledge climbing area has been drafted and a public hearing will be held January 12th. Once the Ordinance is adopted the posters will be removed.

We continue to work to get River Road reopened as well as stabilize two other areas where River Road is threatened. While we would like to move faster, permitting, procedures dictated by State Law and looking at ways to hold down costs as much as possible take time. Some of the major work we had planned to rehabilitate sections of the gravel roads has been delayed another year due to concerns about costs and the potential tax increase. The Highway Department has been working hard to stay within the budget and still get excellent results.

As we head into 2017 we are very much aware of and concerned about the taxes in Lyme. We worked diligently to provide the services needed while looking to creative ways to fund these projects where possible and keep Lyme the wonderful and desirable community we all want to live in without becoming so burdensome that we cannot afford to live here.

Happy 2017
Your Select Board.