

Questions from Ms. Hebe Quinton

Hi,

I plan to attend on Thursday morning and will be asking these questions during public time:

- 1) who reads the sb email?
- 2) who is responsible for the updates on the website
- 3) did the sb discuss warrants 2,3,4 - when? What minutes of the discussion
- 4) did sb vote for David to be spokesperson? What was the vote.
- 5) when did sb discuss warrant 14? Minutes don't show plans to consider updates mentioned in town meeting
- 6) town attorney is incorrect about elected vs appointed position residence. Will sb correct their understanding, reprove the attorney?
- 7) great river hydro has dropped off the tax rolls to the tune of about \$30k in tax revenue. When did that happen? Minutes of the discussion?

Response to Ms. Hebie Quinton

April 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

The Select Board email is received in the Town offices, and forwarded to all members of the Select Board. The Administrator and the Select Board read the emails.

The Town website is updated by several staff individuals, but it is not the sole responsibility of any one individual.

The Board, Town Clerk and Town Moderator reviewed the posted Warrant for Town Meeting, and discussed which Board member would speak to which Article, at a noticed Board meeting prior to Town Meeting. No votes were taken, but a consensus of the Board agreed to the assignments.

Many questions addressed during Board meetings are discussed and a decision is reached by consensus. Few items need or receive a formal "vote".

With regard to Articles 2, 3 and 4, the Board supported and continues to support Mr. Kahn's presentation to the Town at Town Meeting. He spoke with candor about the challenges that motivated the Board to ask the Town to approve appointment of the three elected positions

The Board discussed Warrant Article 14 on several occasions, and had begun working on reviewing existing data, as we stated, to have a proposal that is supported by documentation at next year's Town Meeting.

The Board respectfully disagrees with your reading of State law concerning residency requirements. However, that conversation is moot given the vote to retain the Tax Collector as an elected position. Should the proposal come forward again, we will include a list of proposed minimum requirements for the position that will address residency.

Great River Hydro initiated a series of lawsuits to obtain refunds of taxes paid to the Town of Lyme and various other municipalities. Unfortunately, from the Town's perspective, Great River Hydro has so far generally prevailed in court on these disputes. After considerable thought and discussion, including multiple discussions with the Town's attorneys, the Select Board believed it was in the Town's best interest to avoid additional losses and attorneys' fees by entering into a settlement agreement with Great River Hydro. These legal discussions were necessarily conducted by the Board in Non-Public Session. Going forward, Great River Hydro will continue to pay property tax to the Town of Lyme.