

TOWN OF LYME
Select Board Meeting
Thursday April 7th, 2022
9:00 AM

The following people were present for part or all of the meeting: Select Board members Judith Brotman, Benjamin Kilham and David Kahn; Administrator Dina Cutting, Police Chief Shaun O'Keefe, Tax Collector Marci O'Keefe, Michael Evans, and Camden Elliott.

Public: Hebe Quinton, Rich Brown, Michael Whitman, Sue Mackenzie, Mark Sunderwith, Jan Williams, Hoyt Alverson

The Board is meeting via zoom and in person. The location of the meeting is at the Town Offices located at 1 High Street.

At 8:50AM Ms. Brotman moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.

Present for the session were Ms. Brotman, Mr. Kilham, Mr. Kahn and Ms. Cutting
Personnel matters were discussed.

At 8:59AM Mr. Kahn moved to close this non-public session. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Brotman moved to seal these minutes. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor by a roll call vote.

1. At 8:59 AM Ms. Brotman opened the regular Select Board meeting to public comment:
 - Ms. Quinton thanked Ms. Brotman for always welcoming the public and expressed the view that Mr. Kahn had been unwelcoming and sexist in his prior interactions with her.
 - Ms. Mackenzie asked if the Board would be addressing the bridge infrastructure funding. Ms. Brotman assured Ms. Mackenzie that she would be addressing this.
2. Ms. Brotman researched the NH Live Free Grant opportunity funding for the Edgell Bridge repair. At this moment Ms. Brotman does not believe the Town of Lyme is eligible for this because Lyme is not classified as a Town in need. This is a project that is not in an isolated area of distress, and it would not give benefit to a class.
3. The Board responded to Mr. Whitman's questions:
 - Mr. Whitman asked for clarification on previous minutes. In a previous meeting Mr. Kahn moved to continue with the same appointments and roles. That entails Ms. Brotman as Chair and Mr. Kilham as Vice Chair. Mr. Kahn serves on the Energy Committee and Planning Board. Mr. Kilham serves on the Historic Commission and Conservation Commission. Ms. Brotman serves on the Recreation Commission and Budget Committee.
 - Mr. Whitman also asked for draft minutes to be posted online before approved minutes are available. Ms. Brotman explained that it is best practice to only post approved minutes online. Draft minutes are available for reviewing in the Select

Board office, but since changes are frequently made to the draft minutes they will not be posted until they are finalized.

- Ms. Brotman also advised the public that the Select Board meeting recording is usually posted within two to three days after the meeting (depending on what we have going on in the office), so that is available for the public to review and know what occurred in the meeting.
4. The Board responded to Ms. Quinton's questions: Please see attached document for questions and response to questions.
 - Ms. Quinton also asked to view the final settlement decision with Great River Hydro. Ms. Cutting will provide her with a copy to review.
 5. Tax Collector, Marci O'Keefe, asked the Board to support her recommended change in the Tax Collector hours to Tuesday from 4:00PM – 6:00PM. The Board supports this and the Tax Collector new office hours will be put in place immediately. Debra Kilham has shown interest in being the Deputy Tax Collector Ms. O'Keefe recommended Debra Kilham to the Board for appointment to the Deputy Tax Collector.
Mr. Kahn moved to appoint Ms. Kilham as Deputy Tax Collector. Ms. Brotman seconded the motion. Voted in favor by roll call vote. Two in favor, one abstention (Mr. Kilham).
 6. NH the Beautiful registration form for Green Up day. The Board signed the registration form and will pass this on to the Conservation Commission.
 7. The Board is working on a response to the Lyme Heritage Commission.
 8. Mr. Kilham moved to approve Ernst Kling as Forest Fire Warden and sign his appointment. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. This appointment was recommended by Don Elder, former Forest Fire Warden, and Aaron Rich, Fire Chief. Voted unanimously in favor.
 9. Mr. Kilham moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of Thursday March 24th, 2022. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.
 10. The Board reviewed an abatement. A lot merger was not processed and not classified correctly as Current Use. The property owners paid \$5,338.73 and the abated amount is \$5,191.89. Mr. Kilham moved to approve this abatement. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.
 11. Oath of Officers:
 - Mr. Kilham moved to reappoint Scott Bailey as Road Agent. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.
 - Ms. Brotman moved to reappoint Dina Cutting and Chris Pratt as members of the Recreation Commission. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.
 - The Board signed an oath of office for Debra Kilham, Deputy Tax Collector.
 12. Equalization data certificate:
 - Ms. Cutting suggested that the Board wait for this agenda item. There is some data from the Department of Revenue that she has not received yet that would be helpful.
 13. Permit by Vegetation Control Service, Inc. for NH Electric Cooperative:

- Herbicide is being sprayed along the side of the road. Notices have been sent from NH Electric Cooperative to homeowners that this affects. Residents should contact the company if they have any concerns. Maps of the properties affected by this will be posted on the Town website.

14. Mud season totals:

- To date the town's expenditures total: \$78,639.05.

15. Given there was time to wait until the scheduled non-public session and the Board was done with their agenda items Mr. Kahn suggested they open this meeting back up for public comments.

- Mr. Alverson asked what went into the decision of proposing Warrant Articles 2, 3, and 4. Mr. Kilham informed the public that the Select Board is aware of situations that could put the town at risk. The Board is unable to share some of this information due to reputation. Mr. Kahn explained that all three positions are highly technical and when these positions are elected positions there is no way to monitor the person's skill level. Training is available as is office staff support, but some people are not suited for specific positions and there is no way for the Board to require any training or prerequisites. Chief O'Keefe explained a situation that could shed light on this topic. For many years Police Chiefs were elected officials. Since these were elected officials, the Towns were not able to terminate the officials and many lawsuits came to be because of this. The public does not have access to all the information needed to effectively assess if someone is qualified for a position. Mr. Kahn reassured the public that the Board's intention with these warrant articles was not to imply that anyone that has done these jobs has deliberately done anything wrong. The Board feels to avoid any possible issues in the future it would be beneficial to be able to gather more information on the candidate's qualifications. The only way to do this is to have the position be appointed.
- With an appointed position the Board is able to better vet a person for the position and has more flexibility if something goes wrong. The Board believes this change would be for the betterment of the Town and the operations in Town Office.
- Ms. Brotman asked for the public's comments and opinions on Town Meeting Day. Ms. Brotman has been advised by some people that maybe having Town Meeting on a Saturday would allow more of the public to attend. There are some residents that have jobs they can't take time off from, so a Saturday could eliminate that issue. Mr. Brown suggested having the town portion in the morning, have a lunch break, and then proceed with the school portion in the afternoon. Ms. Mackenzie feels Town Meeting is well attended and should keep to the traditional time and date. One concern about having Town Meeting on a Saturday, is if a family has young children and has no childcare on the weekends, they still would not be able to attend. Mr. Kahn proposed the idea that we could have a Zoom live stream for those to listen who cannot attend. The Board appreciates these opinions and will take them into consideration.

16. At 10:15 AM Ms. Brotman moved to close the public session and take a 10-minute break.
Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor.
17. At 10:30AM the Select Board reconvened.
18. At 10:30AM Ms. Brotman moved to go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.
The following people were present for part or all of the meeting: Select Board members Judith Brotman, Benjamin Kilham and David Kahn; Administrator Dina Cutting, Todd Haywood, Granite Hill Municipal Services.
The Board discussed an issue that would affect a person's reputation. Ms. Cutting will draft a letter and circulate it to the Select Board members for consideration at the next meeting.
At 10:47AM Ms. Brotman moved to return to public session. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor.
Ms. Brotman moved to seal the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Kahn. Voted unanimously in favor by a roll call vote.
19. At 10:47AM Ms. Brotman moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.
Present for the session were Ms. Brotman, Mr. Kilham, Mr. Kahn Ms. Cutting and Mr. Evans.
Personnel matters were discussed.
At 11:09AM Ms. Brotman moved to return to public session. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.
Ms. Brotman moved to seal the minutes of this non-public session. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor by a roll call vote.
20. At 11:10 am Ms. Brotman moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.
Present for the session were Ms. Brotman, Mr. Kilham, Mr. Kahn and Sgt. Elliott.
Personnel matters were discussed.
At 11:33 am Ms. Brotman moved to return to public session. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.
Ms. Brotman moved to seal the minutes of this non-pubic session. Seconded by Mr. Kahn. Voted unanimously in favor by a roll call vote.
21. At 11:34AM Mr. Kilham moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Kahn. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jordan Toland