

TOWN OF LYME  
Select Board Meeting  
Thursday September 29, 2022 9:00 AM  
Approved: Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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; Road Agent Scott Bailey

Public: Karen Keane, John Biglow, Richard Brown, Jan Williams, Carter Vincent, Sue MacKenzie

Public on Zoom: Michael Whitman, Kevin Isette, Liz Ryan Cole

At 9:05 AM Mrs. Brotman opened the meeting.

1. Public Comment:

- Ms. Keane requested that the Lyme/Thetford Bridge closure be put on the agenda. Ms. Keane would like to know the Town's plan for this closure.
  - Mr. Biglow brought to the attention of the Board recent sales in Town. Mr. Biglow asked if Mr. Haywood (assessor) would recommend another revaluation next year? Ms. Cutting reached out to Mr. Haywood for a response to this question. Mr. Haywood responded that he would not be asking the Select Board to perform a town-wide revaluation (as required by New Hampshire statute every 5 years) in the coming year.
  - Ms. Williams would also like to hear the Town's plan for the Lyme/Thetford Bridge closure. Ms. Williams stated how well the Health and Wellness Fair, put on by Community Cares Lyme, went this year.
  - Mr. Brown wanted to know the status of the request for proposal ("RFP") for the assessor contract, as well as make a couple of suggestions of what to include in the RFP.
  - Mr. Whitman would like to know when a discussion will take place about the feedback given at the information gathering meeting concerning the Backside of the Lyme Common. Mrs. Brotman explained that the Board has not discussed a date, but if a date is determined the public will be notified.
  - Ms. Cole wanted to make sure the Board saw the article pertaining to the Lyme/Thetford Bridge. Ms. Cole indicated that she has also been in contact with the State's Executive Councilor, Joe Kenny, sending him information about this project and how it will be detrimental to the Town. She asked that the Board help with the 'bridge issue'.
2. Mr. Kahn moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
3. Mr. Kilham moved to approve a Report of Woodcut for the Gandin property (Map 407-Lot 1). Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
4. At 9:15 AM Mrs. Brotman opened the public informational meeting for Reservoir Pond drawdown. Mr. Carter Vincent spoke about the Reservoir Pond drawdown and answered questions. A second public informational meeting will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Dorchester Town Hall. At 9:26 AM Mrs. Brotman closed the public informational session.
5. At 9:30 AM Ms. MacKenzie gave an update of the Post Pond milfoil situation. Ms. MacKenzie reported that they had two very successful diving outings. The divers pulled 35 plants during the first outing and pulled 500 plants during the second outing. They plan to do two dives next year, one in early June, and then another dive two weeks later. These divers are volunteers, but would

like to be reimbursed for their expenses. The Conservation Commission would like to request up to \$5,000.00 for next season's activities with this project. Mr. Kilham moved to make any efforts the Board can to support the Conservation Commission's volunteer diver program with reimbursement for expenses. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. Mrs. Cutting is going to gather information about finances and grant regulations. The Commission is also asking the Board to reclaim and then maintain a section of land near the boat landing, and remove a pole from this area by the pond so the placement of the new kiosk looks more appealing.

6. There has been one abatement appeal for the year 2021 filed at the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA). Mrs. Cutting and Ms. Toland compiled and sent all documents requested. The Board will likely receive a response from the BTLA in October.
7. Proposed 2023 budget discussions, continued:
  - Scott Bailey, Road Agent, reviewed the Highway budget with the Board. Mr. Bailey increased his budget for gravel because he is unsure of the cost (gravel bids have recently been sent out). Mr. Bailey also increased the electric budget because he is unsure of cost increases. Mr. Bailey expressed the need for a new larger truck for the Highway Department this year. Mr. Bailey is getting estimates on trucks to provide to the Board. The wages and benefits are not included in the spreadsheet yet, these numbers will be added when a cost-of-living adjustment decision is made by the Board. The overall increase for the highway operating budget is around 30%, due to material costs.
8. The Board has spoken with the State several times about the Lyme/Thetford Bridge and the concerns the residents of Lyme have with the project. Mrs. Brotman asked her fellow Board members if they feel the Board should reach out in a letter. Mrs. Brotman reminded the Board and attendees of the meeting that the Board has spoken with the State, specifically about any alternatives besides complete bridge closure. Chief O'Keefe also reminded everyone that on either side of the bridge there are private homeowners and it would be extremely difficult to place a temporary bridge. Chief O'Keefe also explained that constructing a temporary bridge could cost more than just the rehabilitation of the bridge. Mr. Kilham feels it behooves the Board to at least reach out in a letter and take a stance on the matter. Mr. Kahn volunteered to draft a letter for the Board's review at the next meeting.
9. Chief O'Keefe updated the Board on the batteries for the radar speed signs at both ends of Town. The Chief had a phone conversation with the company from which the Town purchased the signs, we bought the batteries from, and they do not manufacture the batteries (they are just re-sellers), so they claim to have no knowledge on how to troubleshoot the signs. Chief O'Keefe and Mr. Thebodo are working to resolve the issue. The Board has asked Chief O'Keefe to find out if there is a company that sells radar signs that has a better maintenance program. The Board would like an estimate of cost if this service is available. The Board also asked Chief O'Keefe to find out if there is a company that manufactures both the light and the battery and which can assist in repairs and maintenance going forward.
10. Proposed 2023 budget discussion, continued:
  - Chief O'Keefe reviewed the Police Department budget with the Board. This budget spreadsheet also does not include wages and benefits. These numbers will be added once a cost-of-living adjustment decision has been made by the Board. The major proposed expenditure is the change in computer software program. The Town of Hanover recently discontinued using the software company we have been using for twenty years. Due to this change in software, the budget for software has doubled. The Chief explained that since Hanover already made this change there is nothing we can really do about this increase. If we do not have the same software that Hanover uses, the Lyme Police Department would not have access to Hanover dispatch administrative support. The prosecution line of the budget will increase slightly due to a contracted attorney being appointed to us, due to Chris O'Connor retiring as the prosecutor of Hanover. Other than

the software system changes and the prosecution change, the Police Department budget has stayed relatively level.

11. At 10:30 AM Mrs. Brotman moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel. Mr. Kahn seconded to motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. The following people were present during the non-public session: Select Board members Judith Brotman, Benjamin Kilham, David Kahn and Board Administrator Dina Cutting. The Board discussed the cost-of-living increase for Town employees and several individual employee's compensation. At 11:05 AM the Board returned to public session having approved a 9.5% cost of living increase at this stage in budget preparation.
12. The Board signed the New Hampshire Association of Assessing Officials ballot.
13. At 11:06 AM Mrs. Brotman moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. Present for this session were Board members Ms. Brotman, Mr. Kilham and Mr. Kahn. The Board discussed a personnel issue. At 11:20 AM the Board returned to public session having decided to continue the discussion at a later date.
14. At 11:21 AM Mr. Kilham moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Kahn. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Toland