

TOWN OF LYME
Select Board Meeting
Thursday, February 9th, 2023
9:00 AM
Approved: February 23, 2023

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, Chief Shaun O'Keefe, Town Moderator Keven Peterson, Town Clerk Patty Jenks.

Public: Richard Brown

Public on zoom: Jan Williams, Hebe Quinton

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

1. At 9:06 AM Mrs. Brotman opened the meeting.
2. Mrs. Brotman opened the meeting to public comment:
 - Mr. Brown read a statement noting he felt the Board voted on incorrect pricing information on the petition revaluation article at the Select Board meeting of February 8th, 2023. He will provide a copy to the Board to post along with the minutes.
 - Mr. Kahn responded to Mr. Brown's statement, first clarifying that there was a public comment time at the Select Board meeting on February 8th after this vote was taken that discussed the cost estimate issue. Mr. Kahn stated he would be happy to vote again, but his decision was not based on either one of the cost estimates presented to the Board at the meeting of Wednesday, February 8, 2023.
 - Mr. Kilham and Mrs. Brotman both stated that their decisions were not based on the cost as well.
 - Mr. Kahn moved to confirm the vote that the Select Board made in light of the information brought by Mr. Brown. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
 - Mrs. Brotman also stated cost was not her first concern with this petition warrant article. She believes the Board needs to keep a close eye on the real estate market in the next coming year, but at this time it is not in the best interest of the town to perform a revaluation. We will likely get the same result with a revaluation at this time.
3. Mrs. Brotman moved to readopt the Veterans tax credit per the DRA request. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
4. Board members did not have time to review the draft minutes from Monday January 23rd, 2023 and Thursday January 26th, 2023. The Board will review these minutes and vote on them at the next regular Board meeting.
5. Kevin Peterson, the Town Moderator, joined the board to review the Town Warrant and Town Meeting schedule. Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Jenks will visit the school gym to see the space available (due to school play) for Town Meeting set up. Monday, March 13th, 2023 from 5-6 PM will be the set-up date in preparation for Town Meeting. **Town Meeting is on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023** at 9AM, ballot voting on the candidates and the zoning amendment is open from 7AM – 7PM.
 - Mrs. Russell, Library Director, has shown an interest in hosting a candidate forum again this year. The Board discussed whether or not to hold Little Town Meeting this year. Mr. Peterson is going to speak with Mrs. Russell and have her organize the candidate forum. Office staff will post and circulate the Town Warrant.

6. The Board signed the Town Warrant.
7. Mrs. Cutting is going to make slight word choice changes “full statistical revaluation” to “full revaluation” to the written statement responding to the petitioned warrant article that the Board previously signed. The Board will then sign the document and it will be posted with the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes.
8. Chief O’Keefe wanted to bring to the Board’s attention to the fact that starting on April 1st, 2023 the Lyme/Thetford Bridge will be closed. Chief O’Keefe talked with Road Agent Scott Bailey, and they are both extremely concerned about the covered bridge during this time. Due to the closure of Lyme/Thetford bridge, the covered bridge may experience extra traffic. Chief O’Keefe suggests that we place more signage. A barrier could be placed before the bridge to stop any oversized vehicles from trying to pass. Mrs. Cutting explained the town tried this once before and there were legal issues with a barrier. The Board would like to explore this idea, and asked Mrs. Cutting to look into it. Traffic would still be able to pass, but Chief O’Keefe and Mr. Bailey would like to prevent oversized vehicles from passing and causing more damage to the bridge. Mrs. Brotman suggested that the Board or Chief O’Keefe make a statement at Town Meeting to remind people of the upcoming bridge work, and the concern for the covered bridge.
9. The Board reviewed and approved the manifest.
10. The Board discussed the Community Power Coalition of NH information. Mrs. Cutting is going to coordinate a meeting with the Town’s attorney, Joe Driscoll of Mitchell Municipal, to better understand the Community Power Coalition of NH.
11. The Energy Committee’s solar project has switched from the Fire Station to the Library. Mrs. Cutting spoke with Library Director, Judy Russell. Ms. Russell took this information to the Library Trustees and the Trustees are happy to work with the Select Board on this project. Ms. Russell and Mrs. Cutting will communicate and information will be shared with their respective groups. The Board will sign the necessary documents and accept the RFPs for the project. The consensus of the Board is to support this solar project. Mrs. Cutting will finalize an RFP with legal counsel.
12. Mr. Kilham moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 AM. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Toland