

TOWN OF LYME
Select Board Meeting
Thursday June 15th, 2023
9:00 AM
Approved: June 29, 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, Police Chief Shaun O'Keefe
Public: Richard Brown, Michael Whitman, James Graham, Sue MacKenzie, Jan Williams via Zoom.

1. At 9:00 AM Mrs. Brotman opened the meeting.
2. Public comment:
 - Mr. Brown asked if there will be time for landowners to make a statement during the abatement conversation to modify the recommendation of the assessor. Mrs. Brotman explained that the assessor will be on zoom at 10:00 AM to propose his recommendation to the Board. The Board will have time to ask the assessor questions, but they do not plan to have public input on the discussion at this time. If the land owner would like to make a comment, the Board requests they put it in writing and send it to the Select Board email.
 - Mr. Graham (LEAC) inquired about attending a Select Board meeting to speak with the Board about electric aggregation and representation on CPCNH. Mrs. Brotman suggests that Mr. Graham attend the next meeting to address these items.
 - Mr. Whitman read a letter he prepared for this meeting pertaining to junk yard law. Mr. Kilham explained this is a very difficult situation and although this discussion cannot happen in public session it is being addressed. The Board will review the letter and respond to any questions they can.
 - Ms. Williams noticed the abatement review agenda item and wondered if the Board invited the property owner to the meeting. Mrs. Brotman reiterated the abatement review procedure as stated to Mr. Brown. At this point in the abatement procedure the applicant has had time to meet with the assessor or ask assessing staff questions, so at this point a decision will be made and the applicant can appeal that decision at a later date. Ms. Williams then asked when a property becomes assessed for tax purposes once a new structure has been built on it. Mrs. Brotman explained that whatever the status of the property is as of April 1st of any given year, it will be assessed on that condition.
3. At 9:15 AM Mrs. Brotman moved to enter into a public hearing to accept the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Fund second payment totaling \$87,677.00. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. Mrs. Cutting explained that there are stipulations to these funds. The Town must decide what the funds will be used for by December 2024, and the funds must be used by December 2026. Mr. Kilham moved to accept the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Fund second payment totaling \$87,677.00. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. At 9:24 AM Mrs. Brotman moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
4. Mr. Kahn moved to approve and sign the manifest in the amount of \$162,218.39. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
5. The Board reviewed and signed the renewal of the Community Care of Lyme lease at the Lyme Center Academy Building (LCAB). The Select Board noted that next year both the LCAB and the Pike House should be reviewed with respect to an increase in rent. The 8% to 10% increase in costs needs to be covered.
6. Mr. Kahn moved to approve the public and non-public minutes of the June 1st, 2023 meeting. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

7. The Board reviewed the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). It has been reviewed and approved by Town Counsel. The TAN totals \$3.5 million. Mr. Kahn moved to approve the Tax Anticipation Notice. Mrs. Brotman seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
8. The Board reviewed and signed a Report of Woodcut for William Nichols totaling \$1,538.12.
9. Mr. Kahn made a suggestion that we put a working draft of the Committee Handbook on the website to give the public one more chance to give their comments. The Board agreed.
10. A report of all tax exemptions and credits created by Mr. Stern was reviewed. The report noted the Town is very generous in the funding of the exemptions and credits. The Board thanked Mr. Sterns for all his work. This report will be available for public to view.
11. Mr. Kahn suggests that we put a self-addressed return envelope in with the tax bills when they are sent out. This will make sending payments easier. Mrs. Cutting is going to find out how much it would cost for our bill printing company to do this.
12. The Board reviewed an oath of office for a Cemetery Trustee. From March elections: This seat was to be filled by write in votes. Town Clerk notified the residents who received votes. The top 2 vote receivers were not incline to take this seat. Mrs. Cutting received 3 and was next in line- many others received 1 vote. The Cemetery Trustees are in favor of this. Mr. Kahn moved to approve the appointment of Mrs. Cutting as Cemetery Trustee. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously by roll call vote.
13. At 9:48 AM the Town's assessor, Tod Haywood, joined the meeting by zoom. Before hearing from Mr. Haywood, Mr. Brown was invited to briefly present his abatement recommendations. Following Mr. Brown's comments, Mr. Haywood presented his recommendation for the Loch Lyme Lodge abatement request. Mr. Haywood stated that Brian Underwood, Loch Lyme Lodge's tax consultant, brought him around to view the cabins within lot 22.1 (units 1-21). Mr. Haywood and Mr. Underwood reviewed the costs associated with the infrastructure project that was not completed as of April 1, 2022. Mr. Haywood also took into consideration the sale price of the 3 cabins that have been sold recently. Mr. Haywood stated the revised assessments represent quite a significant adjustment to the initial assessment. Mr. Haywood's recommendation to the Select Board is that the combined assessment be revised from \$3,138,000 to \$1,892,600, which is a reduction of \$1,245,400. Once the infrastructure is completed and more sales occur this assessment will change. Mr. Kahn moved to approve Mr. Haywood's recommendation. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
14. Mr. Kilham moved to approve an Intent to Cut for Kathleen Swift Trust, Map 407 Lot 98. Seconded by Mr. Kahn. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
15. At 10:02 AM Mr. Kilham moved to adjourn. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Toland