

TOWN OF LYME  
Select Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
8:30 AM Non-Public Session  
9:00 AM Public Session  
Approved: October 26, 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, Road Agent Scott Bailey, Police Chief Shaun O'Keefe, Select Board/Assessing Clerk Jordan Toland via Zoom

Public: Richard Brown, Michael Whitman, Rusty Keith, Sara Vargo, Emily Boren, Susanne Gordon Horrell and Fielding Essensa.

On Zoom: Jan Williams, Hebe Quinton and David Pearlman.

1. At 8:30 AM Mrs. Brotman opened the meeting and moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation. Motion seconded by Mr. Kilham. Present for this session were Board members Mrs. Brotman, Mr. Kilham, Mr. Kahn, Administrator Cutting and Road Agent Bailey. Several issues were discussed, no decisions were made. At 9:08 AM Mrs. Brotman moved to return to Public Session. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Motion voted unanimously in favor.
2. At 9:10 AM Mrs. Brotman opened the public meeting.
3. Public comment:
  - a. Emily Boren wanted to express her support for bringing back lifeguards at Chase Beach. Ms. Boren wanted to make sure lifeguards were still in the budget. She also made a comment about the picking up of Goose droppings. If lifeguards are not going to resume, she would encourage the Town to take down the lifeguard stand. Mr. Kilham explained that we have been searching and advertising for lifeguards for the past few years with no interest. Ms. Boren knows some people who are interested in lifeguarding, she will reach out to those people. Mrs. Brotman expressed her gratitude for Ms. Boren's interest in this topic and encourages her to follow-up on any research on this topic. Research is welcome and can be sent along for Board review. Mrs. Cutting explained that the Recreation Commission meets the fourth Monday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Town Office, anyone with concerns, suggestions or interest is welcome to attend these meetings. The Select Board does the hiring of positions, but the Recreation Commission oversees Chase Beach.
  - b. Mr. Whitman suggests we require our Assessor to submit end of the year documents at an earlier date so the public can review the documents (MS-1, etc.) before the State's final due date.
  - c. Mr. Brown agrees with this comment and would like the ability to review draft documents.
  - d. Mr. Keith had the same concerns as Mr. Whitman and Mr. Brown. Mr. Keith brought a document for the Board's review. This included the cover page from 'Understanding NH Property Taxes, The Official New Hampshire Assessing Reference Manual.' Mr. Keith also included some research he had done on real estate sales in Lyme.
4. Mr. Kilham moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Mrs. Brotman seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

5. Mr. Kilham moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Mrs. Brotman seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
6. The Board had a discussion concerning Lyme Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan. Mr. Graham, LEAC member, presented an updated draft Electric Aggregation Plan. After the LEAC receives support from the Board, the next steps would be to send this draft to the CPCNH for a technical review. After that review the LEAC will schedule two public hearings. Mr. Graham has also sent Mrs. Cutting the draft Warrant Article for Town Meeting consideration, and that will be reviewed by counsel. Mrs. Brotman shared her concern with an the opt-out plan (meaning citizens are automatically enrolled in the program and would need to opt-out if they are not interested.) Mrs. Brotman asked if CPCNH would support doing an opt-in program instead. Mr. Graham thinks CPCNH would support this idea if the Town feels that is best. Mr. Kahn believes he remembers the representative from CPCNH stating an opt-out program is the only economically viable option for this program. Mr. Graham and LEAC have taken the responsibility to get information out to the public. The Board is going to review this draft and revisit this topic at the next meeting.
7. Mrs. Cutting opened and presented the sealed assessing bids. We received one assessing bid from Granite Hill Municipal Services. The contract totals \$24,600.00 for the 2024 year. The years following would increase with social security (COLA) increases. Mr. Haywood included the option for a one year to a five-year contract. The Board will review this document and return to this topic at a later meeting.
8. The Board reviewed the Gandin escrow release. The Board is concerned over the condition/status of the former residence, but agrees in theory to release the escrow contingent on the assessor visiting the property and determining the status of the use of former residence meets the requirement of the Agreement. Mrs. Brotman moved to release contingent on assessor's report on the status, per the condition of the Agreement. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote
9. Mrs. Cutting opened and presented the sealed mowing bids. We received one mowing bid from Lyme Lawn Care. The Cemetery Commission has been very happy with their work in the past and supports continuing with Lyme Lawn Care. Last years' contract totaled \$54,450.00 and this year it has increased to \$58,850.00. Mr. Kilham moved to accept the mowing bid from Lyme Lawn Care totaling \$58,850.00. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
10. The Board reviewed a manifest. Mr. Kahn moved to approved the manifest totaling \$565,677.00, of which \$500,000 is school district expense. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
11. The Board reviewed an Intent to Cut. Mr. Kilham moved to approve an Intent to Cut for Map 406 Lot 31. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
12. Mrs. Cutting gave an update on the Edgell Bridge. Mr. Stan Graton gave his opinion that the condition of this bridge suggests it is in need of an emergency repair, but it is not necessary to close the bridge at this time if close monitoring occurs. Road Agent Scott Bailey, will be in contact with Mr. Graton to discuss the monitoring of the Edgell Bridge. Mr. Graton supports the bridge staying open with Mr. Bailey's monitoring. Mrs. Cutting received a draft letter provided by a citizen that has organized a fundraiser for Edgell Bridge. Mrs. Cutting is going to make some

technical edits and pass it along to the citizen who submitted it to distribute it. The Town will hold the funds in a special designated account.

13. Mrs. Brotman announced that the next Select Board meeting will be on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 8:30AM. This meeting will mostly be focused on budget items, but the Board will also review other time sensitive items as well.
14. At 10:24 AM Mrs. Brotman moved into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. Present for this session were Judy Brotman, David Kahn, Ben Kilham and Dina Cutting. Several issues were reviewed, with final decisions to be made at a future meeting. On a motion by Mrs. Brotman and seconded by Mr. Kahn, the Board voted unanimously to return to public session at 11:15 AM.
15. At 11:15 AM Mr. Kilham moved to adjourn. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Toland