

TOWN OF LYME
Select Board Meeting
Thursday, October 26th, 2023
8:30 AM Public Session
Approved: November 2, 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

Public: Rich Brown

On Zoom: Jim Nourse, James Graham, Jan Williams

1. At 8:30 AM Mrs. Brotman opened to the meeting.
2. Mrs. Brotman explained that the Board is not prepared to approve the Lyme Electric Aggregation Plan today, but will revisit this topic at the next meeting November 2nd, 2023.
3. The Board reviewed and discussed the preliminary tax rate. The state set the Tax Rate at \$26.20. The Board has the ability to take some funds from the fund balance to reduce the tax rate. The fund balance is made up of any unexpended funds from the operating budget at the end of the year. If the Board uses \$300,000 of the fund balance that will reduce the Tax Rate to \$25.47. If the Board uses \$350,000 of the fund balance that will reduce the Tax Rate to \$25.35. Mr. Kahn moved to approve using \$350,000 of the fund balance to reduce the Tax Rate to \$25.35. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
4. The Board reviewed and discussed offering Granite Hill Municipal Services a 3-year contract. Mr. Kilham moved to offer Granite Hill Municipal Service a 3-year contract for assessing services. Mrs. Brotman seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. A contact will be sent to Town Council to be reviewed and approved with the proper language needed.
5. At 9:01AM Mrs. Brotman opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment at this time.
6. Mr. Kahn moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of Thursday, October 19, 2023. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.
7. The Board reviewed a spreadsheet tracking highway vehicles repair costs for the F550 trucks. The F550 trucks are on a 10-year replacement cycle and Mr. Bailey is hoping to change to a 7-year replacement cycle. Mr. Bailey would then purchase a 7-year warranty with a new truck and this would alleviate most of the repair costs on the spreadsheet. The Board asked Mr. Bailey to refine the spreadsheet to show repairs that would be covered under warranty. The Board also questioned what other Towns have for a warranty package.
8. The Board had a brief budget review discussion, and hopes to have another budget workshop session before presenting to the Budget Committee. The Board discussed the cost of living increase for employees. Mrs. Brotman expressed her concern that 3% increase may not be a fair reflection of the market and living costs. The Board will consider a 5% increase. As an alternative, Mr. Kahn was wondering if the Town is able to give a bonus to Town employees. Mrs. Cutting is going to ask Town Counsel and bring the information to the Board.
9. Mrs. Cutting gave an update on Edgell Bridge. Mrs. Cutting spoke with Mr. Graton. Mr. Graton spoke with the engineer (Eckman Engineering LLC) for his company about this project. A tentative engineering cost for total engineering of the project is estimated at \$44,000.00. Mr.

Kilham moved to approve to expend the funds for engineering (\$44,000) pending town counsels' approval of the contract. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

10. At 9:42 AM Mrs. Brotman moved into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(c) Reputation, and RSA 91-A3: II(a) personnel. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. Present for this session were Mrs. Brotman, Mr. Kahn, Mr. Kilham and Mrs. Cutting. Three reputational issues and a personnel issue were discussed.

At 10:06 AM Mrs. Brotman moved to return to public session. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. The Board voted to take action to reopen a past court case and send a letter of notice to the individuals involved. Two property owners were granted forgiveness of interest on their past due taxes. A new-hire employee was granted a raise at the completion of the 60-day period.

11. On a motion by Mr. Kilham, seconded by Mr. Kahn, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Toland