

TOWN OF LYME  
Select Board Meeting  
Thursday, December 14th, 2023  
Public Session 1:00 PM  
Public Hearing: 1:15 PM  
Approved: December 28, 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, Emergency Management Director Michael Hinsley and Road Agent Scott Bailey.

Public: Michael Whitman, Jeff Twarog of R&D Paving, Rich Brown. Public on Zoom: Jan Williams, Jill from Construction Summary

At 1:00 PM Mrs. Brotman opened the public meeting.

1. Public Comment:

Mr. Whitman requested an update on the negotiation for clean-up of a property in Lyme. Mrs. Brotman advised Mr. Whitman that the Board has no public comment at this time on this matter. The Board is speaking with the Town Counsel and will give an update when it is appropriate to do so. Mr. Whitman continued to ask questions about the situation and Mr. Kilham explained that the Board is taking action, but things like this need to go through the legal system. Mr. Kahn stated that he understands the concern and curiosity, but this is a legal dispute between the Select Board and an individual resident, and that privacy concerns prevent the Select Board from addressing details of the matter. Mr. Kahn explained that just because public statements have not been made does not mean the Board is not taking action on the matter. Mr. Whitman asked if there is any way to speak about the general topic of junk yards in Lyme. Mrs. Brotman explained that junk yards are more on the Planning and Zoning side of things, so Mr. Whitman is welcome to speak with Planning and Zoning about general questions but no further information on this specific situation will be released at this time.

Mr. Brown thanked the Board for the amount of information the Board gave on the issue and for their continuing efforts on the matter.

Ms. Williams expressed her concern for the number of non-public sessions the Board has been entering and wanted to make sure the regulations were being followed. Mrs. Brotman thanked Ms. Williams for her comment.

3. Mr. Kahn moved to approve the minutes of Thursday, November 30, 2023. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

4. The Board reviewed two manifests. Manifest number one totals \$990,398.47, with \$950,000 of that total going to the school. The second manifest totals \$27,077.20. Mr. Kahn moved to approve both manifests. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

5. Public Hearing:

At 1:15 AM Mrs. Brotman opened the Public Hearing for the WorkinvestNH-EMT grant: Emergency Technician Training.

Mrs. Cutting gave a brief explanation of the grant. This grant was received from the State of New Hampshire Labor Department an incentive to get more EMT's qualified. Our Fire Station held a course

that the grant covered. The grant funds are covering the cost of the course and items that go along with it. Those expenses totaled \$10,500.00.

The public present at this public hearing were in support of accepting this revenue.

Mrs. Brotman moved to accept the grant funds totaling \$10,500.00. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

At 1:17 PM Mrs. Brotman closed the Public Hearing.

6. Mrs. Brotman gave a brief budget review. The library has taken another look at their budget and it has decreased by \$5,000. The library budget increase is now 2.3%. With additional cuts by the Select Board, the overall operating budget now reflects a 3.7% increase. The Board reviewed the Capital Reserve Fund spreadsheet. Last years' deposits into the Capital Reserve Funds totaled \$390,000.00. This year the Board will be proposing \$405,000.00. This is mostly due to the increase in vehicle costs.

7. Mrs. Cutting opened the sealed paving bids for the two projects for 2024 (Grafton Turnpike and Acorn Hill Road).

**Blacktop:** Acorn Hill Road = \$102,508.00; Grafton Turnpike = \$56,538.00

**R & D Paving:** Acorn Hill Road = \$93,185.00; Grafton Turnpike = \$56,810.00

The Board and Road Agent Scott Bailey will take a closer look at these bids and make a decision at a later meeting.

8. Mrs. Brotman gave an update on the proposed School Budget from the Budget Committee meeting. The total budget for the 2024 - 2025 school year shows a 6.01% overall increase (operating budget and warrant articles).

9. Road Agent Mr. Bailey explained that the backhoe had been taken off the replacement list due to the purchase of the excavator. Mr. Bailey feels a backhoe is an important piece of equipment for the Highway Department and suggests that we look into replacing the backhoe, which is near the end of its useful life. Mr. Bailey feels that a used backhoe may be sufficient to be effective for the Highway Department. Mr. Bailey is gathering an estimate for a used backhoe. For now, we are estimating a purchase price of \$100,000.00 but suspect it will be less. Mr. Kahn brought up the point that the Board should consider purchasing a new backhoe since it is such an important piece of equipment. Mr. Bailey is going to gather information on both new and used backhoes and the Board will make a decision at the next meeting so a warrant article can be finalized.

10. The Board reviewed 14 appointments for ballot clerks. Mrs. Brotman moved all 14 appointments for ballot clerks. Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. The Board signed the 14 appointment slips.

11. At 1:43 PM Mrs. Brotman moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation. Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. The following individuals were present for the non-public session: Select Board members Judith Brotman, Benjamin Kilham and David Kahn; Administrator Dina Cutting, Emergency Management Director Michael Hinsley and Road Agent Scott Bailey. At 2:26 PM Mrs. Brotman moved to return to public session, Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. The motion voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. The Board did not take any action. Mr. Hinsley is continuing to investigate and will report back to the Board when he has information.

12. At 2:28 PM Mrs. Brotman moved to enter non public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. The following

individuals were present for the non-public session Select Board members Judith Brotman, Benjamin Kilham and David Kahn; Administrator Dina Cutting. Various personnel matters were discussed.

At 2:32 PM Mrs. Brotman moved to return to public session, Mr. Kahn seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. The Select Board approved the carry-over of vacation time for 3 employees.

13. At 2:32 PM Mr. Kahn moved to enter nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (I) Legal. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote. The following individuals were present for the non-public session Select Board members Judith Brotman, Benjamin Kilham and David Kahn; Administrator Dina Cutting. Mr. Kahn reviewed some information he received from legal counsel. Mrs. Cutting will communicate with Town Counsel concerning this matter and will copy Mr. Kahn. At 2:37 PM Mrs. Brotman moved to return to public session, Mr. Kilham seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

14. Following a short discussion Mrs. Brotman moved to authorize Mrs. Cutting to contract with Stan Graton, 3 G Construction Inc, for the Edgell Bridge repair estimate of \$690,000. This amount is to start the engineering for an amount not greater than \$90,000. Seconded by Mr. Kahn. Voted unanimously in favor.

At 2:37 PM Mr. Kilham move to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Kahn. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Toland