

TOWN OF LYME
Select Board Meeting
January 12th, 2017
8:00AM

Town Office conference Room
Approved: January 19, 2017

The following people were present for part or all of the meeting: Select Board members: Susan J. MacKenzie (Chair), Patricia G. Jenks and Jay Smith. Highway Department: Road Agent, Steven Williams. Administrative Assistant, Dina Cutting. Police Chief: Shaun O'Keefe. Community Member Blake Allison, Robert Sweitzer and Lisa Hoffmeister.

1. At 8:00 AM-MacKenzie called the meeting to order
2. Highway: Williams delivered the grader pricing information and indicated to the board the CAT was the model the Highway department would recommend for purchase.
3. Jenks moved to approve the minutes of January 5th, 2017, Select Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Smith. Voted unanimously in favor.
4. Matters arising:
 - The letters for Stella's and Dowd's Inn were signed and MacKenzie will hand deliver these.
5. New Business:
 - Upcoming coffee hour times were reviewed and set
 - The agreements for use of the Pit and the new employee training agreement were noted complete. They will be reviewed by the second parties for any recommendations of change and or further discussion.
6. A manifest: Cutting noted 2 manifests one for 2016 and one for 2017 were being processed. She had run out of time due to the office being busy with patrons and end of the year budget items and would have them completed by Friday. Jenks moved to have board member's review and sign the manifest individually in the office Friday this one time. Seconded by Smith. Voted unanimously in favor.
7. Proposed Warrant Articles:

The board reviewed, discussed and voted the various articles.

 - Article 9- Block Grant Appropriation-\$90,000 Moved by Smith 2nd by Jenks voted 3-0 in favor. This is an in and out money article
 - Article 10-To Capital Reserve Funds-\$489,500 Moved by MacKenzie Second by Smith voted 3-0 in favor
 - Article 11-Withdrawl from CRF and ET-Holding for later discussion concerning the grader
 - Article 12-Lease to Own Roller-\$18,081 Moved by Jenks Second by Smith voted 3-0 in favor
 - Article 13-Appropriation from Unreserved Fund Balance to Re-Route River Road-\$550,000 Moved by Jenks Second by MacKenzie voted 3-0
 - Article 14-Appropriate Funds for River Road North of North Thetford Road intersection-\$70,000 Moved by MacKenzie Seconded by Jenks voted 3-0
 - Article 15-Appropriate Funds for River Road south of Grant Brook-\$100,000 Moved by MacKenzie Seconded by Jenks. Voted 3-0 in favor.
 - Article 16-Soloization of Town Office/Police building-\$35,000 Moved by MacKenzie Seconded by Jenks Voted 2-1 abstention (Smith)
 - Article 17-Land Use Change Tax to General Fund-MacKenzie reviewed an article the Tax Advisory Committee recommended. The 50% of funds would go in to the general fund to lower taxes instead of a Land Use Change Tax Fund. Moved by MacKenzie Seconded by Smith. Voted 3-0 in favor.

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- Article 18-Board of Assessing-article is coming from the Tax Advisory Committee.
 - Article 19-Withdrawal from the Cemetery Maintenance Gifts and Donations Fund-\$16,486. Moved by Jenks Seconded by MacKenzie. Voted 3-0 in favor.
 - Article 20-Transfer funds from Cemetery Special Reserve Fund to New Cemetery CRF-\$850.00. Moved by MacKenzie seconded by Smith. Voted 3-0 in favor.
 - Article 21 Independence Day-\$7,328.00. Moved by Jenks Seconded by MacKenzie. Voted 3-0 in favor.
 - Article 22-Establish a CRF for Municipal Transportation Improvements-Moved by MacKenzie. Seconded by Jenks. Voted 2 in favor-1 against (Smith). Feels this is another cost to tax payers.
 - Article 23-Mulch Treatment-\$28,841 Moved by MacKenzie Seconded by Smith. Voted 3-0 in favor.
 - Article 24 Semi-annual tax collection-Moved by MacKenzie. Seconded by Jenks. Voted 3-0 in favor.
8. Cutting noted the grant associated with Article 23 requires a public hearing. Also, article 24 requires a Public Hearing. February 16th, 2017 at 9:00AM was determined to be the date for these Public Hearings.
9. The board reviewed the Household Hazardous Waste Collection commitment: Smith moved to have the Chair sign this commitment. Seconded by Jenks voted unanimously in favor.
10. Public Comments: Mr. Sweitzer made a statement concerning past and present problems with climbers and hikers in the Grafton Turnpike area. Problems with vehicle parking, noise and sanitation issues all negatively impacts the value of property in this area. If hikers & climbers continue to have access to the area, there needs to be a way to manage these issues to be fair to the residents and property owners living in the area.
11. Grader: Article 11- The board reviewed the CAT grader pricing and discussed the various options on this piece of equipment. The additional items will be confirmed with Road Agent Williams. MacKenzie moved to recommend the CAT grader be placed on the warrant for Town approval. Seconded by Jenks. The board voted unanimously in favor.
12. 9:00AM- Public Hearing- Holt's Ledge Management Plan-23 public members attended the Public Hearing with 15 being Lyme residents and 8 being from out of town.
The public hearing was opened by Chair MacKenzie at 9:00AM.
- MacKenzie informed the public that comments and conduct would remain civil and respectful and that no decision would be made at this meeting. The board would take all the comments and discussions into consideration and will be making a decision at a later date.
- Comments, concerns or questions about the following topics were heard:
- It was noted that some individuals were feeling intimidated by people who wish to continue climbing at the Holt's Ledge area.
 - Not only climbers use the Holt's Ledge area.
 - Requested explanation of what exactly the vandalism issues are.
 - Concerns about obvious property damage and the accountability of how it was damaged, by whom and why.
 - Concerns about where people would park.

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- People trespassing on others land without permission.
- Various climbing techniques were reviewed and discussed.
- The draft Holts Ledge Management Plan was discussed. It was noted by some of the attending climbers to be a good document. The board was encouraged to move ahead with it by some attendees. Others noted they would like revisions made to include having the fixed bolts disabled and to not allow any routes and or bolted routes left. Some had the opinion that the climbing that has gone on out at Holts for years has always been free climbing and what's happening now is a different kind of climbing bringing in many more people from all over.
- Others noted the safety of bolted route for the climbers.
- Past problems with high numbers of climbers using the Pickledish Hollow Ledge area were noted. (parking on private property, sanitation issues-people & pets, noise and foul language. Up to 81 climbers were noted in that area at one time.)
- Concerns from residents on Canaan Ledge Lane that the dramatic increase in climbers has affected their quality of life. (noises, trespassers, intimidation)
- There are 26 different routes on Holt's ledge for climbers. The majority of them are on the town portion of Holt's ledge. The various degree and classification of routes was discussed.
- This area has been used by climbers for a long time mostly by Dartmouth climbers and a small group of locals. They want to keep it small.
- Now that this area and the climbing routes have been advertised on the internet, many more people are coming to climb, creating a negative impact.
- The enforcement of the draft management plan was discussed.
- Having a formal group of climbers get organized and oversee and regulate this area was offered. The *Access Group* offered to help with this.
- Concerns about the climbing group self-policing were noted.
- Enforcement of the management plan will be discussed at a later date. The board will take back all the information and then decide where and what needs to be done next.
- There was the opinion that the town is rewarding vandalism by not prosecuting the people responsible for property damage.
- It was suggested that finding out what is acceptable to residents there is important. Create parameters (organize climbing group which could be formalized and creates a statement of responsibility)
- It was noted that the board should consider the negative impact of removing the bolts, disabling them would be better. Request to have the bolts counted.
- The board noted they would need to consider the ramifications of enforcement and consider the cost associated with this.

The board thank all for coming and sharing their opinions. All information will be carefully considered. It's possible another Public Hearing will be held. The public will be notified. At 10:05 am the public hearing was closed.

13. The building maintenance position (B&G) and Highway administrative position: The Town Building Maintenance Committee voted to request the board go to the Budget Committee

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hearing and request the funds be put back into the budget for the B&G position. It is a valuable position to fund. The town has many buildings that need to be taken care of and preventative maintenance is one of the best cost saving functions of this position. The sense of the board was to make this request at the Public Hearing on January 18th, 2017. The board also reviewed the Administrative role for the highway department. It was the sense of the board to support the fund the budget committee added to the proposed budget for this.

14. Committee and Commissions:

- Town Building Committee: The Committee feels strongly that the Lyme Center Academy Building should be utilized more. It is better for the building to have someone using it. The downstairs section should be rented out and utilized. The board supported this recommendation.
- Conservation Commission: The commission discussed the Holt's ledge management document and discussed upcoming activities.
- Energy Committee: The committee recommended the solar installations at the Town Office/Police building. The recommendation as to move ahead with the Warrant article for town meeting. Total cost of project is \$45,500. A PUC refund of \$11,375 and a possible grant for \$5,000 were noted. This would bring the cost down to \$29,125. This has a 10-year loan associated with it and the warrant article would be to grant permission to the board to secure this loan. The plan is to have the electricity generated from this solar unit cover any payment amount for the loan but just in case this does not occur the Board needs the yearly loan payment amount for the warrant article.

MacKenzie reviewed the proposal from Fraser for this project. The Energy Committee has recommended the board accept this bid. Mackenzie moved to accept the bid from Fraser contingent on the passing of this article at Town meeting. Seconded by Jenks. Voted unanimously in favor.

- Budget Committee: The board discussed the schools proposed budget and implications this make for the coming tax rate. MacKenzie asked the board how she should proceed concerning this matter. She feels she is representing the board on this committee and should vote as the board wants. After a thoughtful discussion by the board, the sense of the board was to have Mackenzie vote no on this proposed school budget.
- Tax Advisory Committee: 4 Warrant Articles were recommended to the board for inclusion in the warrant article.
 1. Land Use Change Tax 50% to the Town general fund
 2. \$5.00 charge for vehicle registration
 3. Tax Collection be changed to semi annual
 4. Board of Assessor-This would be an advisory board only. Review abatements and work with the Assessor on these abatement applications.

15. Common Use application: Dave Celone for January 28th, 2017 Winter Olympics: It was noted this function is not a Town event and has not been approved by the Select Board and has already been advertised locally and within the Upper Valley. The application for events for the use of

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Common need to be submitted 30 day prior to the event in order for the Town to review and make necessary accommodation if needed. The Common is not for private party use and or a large event advertised publicly. There are other concerns about this particular event the Board needs to address. It appears that an Upper Valley advisory/invitation has been issued for a skating event. In order to host an event of this size there are guidelines. It must be hosted by a town committee/commission in order to fall under the town's insurance policy. One of the reasons the Common Application indicates acknowledgement by the Police Department is to assure they are aware of the function and have adequate time to plan their schedules and provide and/or discuss traffic management. The skating rink was allowed and designed for Lyme people and their guests. Just like the beach area, it is managed by the policies put in place for this purpose. The Board has no choice but to deny this application. Smith moved to deny this application at this time. Seconded by MacKenzie. Voted unanimously in favor. A letter will be sent to Mr. Celone notifying him of this decision.

16. At 11:35AM MacKenzie moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91A: 3 II (c) for the purpose of discussing matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. Seconded by Smith. Voted unanimously by a roll call vote. Present for this non-public was Sue MacKenzie, Patricia Jenks, Jay Smith and Dina Cutting.
17. At 11:45AM Jenks moved to enter public. Seconded by MacKenzie. Voted unanimously in favor. MacKenzie moved to seal the minutes of this non-public session until June 1, 2017. Seconded by Jenks. Voted unanimously in favor.
18. At 11:45AM MacKenzie moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91A: 3 II (c) for the purpose of discussing matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person. Seconded by Smith. Voted unanimously by a roll call vote. Present for this non-public was Sue MacKenzie, Patricia Jenks, Jay Smith and Dina Cutting.
19. At 11:54AM Jenks moved to enter public. Seconded by MacKenzie. Voted unanimously in favor. MacKenzie moved to seal the minutes of this non-public session until June 1, 2017. Seconded by Jenks. Voted unanimously in favor.
20. The Board approved a cemetery lot purchase
21. There being no further business Smith moved to adjourn at 11:55AM. Seconded by Jenks. Voted unanimously if favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dina Cutting