

TOWN OF LYME  
Select Board Meeting  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
8:00AM

Town Office conference Room  
Approved: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 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. Lyme School: Principal, Jeff Valence and School Board member Sam Levey.

1. At 8:00 AM-MacKenzie called the meeting to order
2. Highway: Williams brought a document to have reviewed concerning the grader. Cutting will have the Town attorney review it. Williams informed the board a used plasma cutter is for sale and would like to purchase it for the garage. The board supported this. The bids will go out for gravel and sand. 2000 yds of crushed gravel and 3000 yds of sand. Williams reviewed budgeting for winter events. Green Woodlands and its activity impact on Dorchester Road were briefly discussed. Highway 4<sup>th</sup> employee was discussed. Pros and cons of a 4<sup>th</sup> employee were reviewed. The sense of the board at Williams's encouragement was to not advertise at this time to fill the position. The pellet boiler at the Highway garage needs some work. Challenging to find people to work on this. The water in the highway building is very corrosive and creates problems with the radiant heat. This will be referred to the building committee. Park and Ride plowing complaint: Plowing too early in the morning. It was noted the maintenance and snow clearing must be done early enough to have the lot cleared and safe by 5:00AM. Williams to ask Hanover to use some brine on a section of River Road as a test area.
3. Jenks moved to approve the public and non-public minutes of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Seconded by Smith. Voted unanimously in favor.
4. Matters arising:
  - Mackenzie felt the letters for Dowd's and Stella's regarding lighting issues were written precipitously will not be released pending further investigation. It is unclear if a previous board addressed this issue and Okayed what is in the locations for lighting. To gather more information on this.
5. Jeff Valence & Sam Levey: Valence came to share concerns that members of this group have made comments that were inflammatory and not true regarding school budgetary issues. Mr. Valence stated he felt this was not a path the Select Board wanted to go down. To characterize the School Administration and/or school board in this way is irresponsible. The 2 boards, Select and School have always been able to speak with each other and work as 2 town departments. Hearing that 1 department is saying the other department is not being responsible is disheartening. Valence is happy to sit down and explain how the budget process works. The interpretation of many towns' people is the school is more like a private school and the Administration and board never says NO. Valence noted concerns that board members are suggesting people get out and get involved to say no to the budget.

Smith and MacKenzie both commented they had heard from many concerned citizens about the increase in taxes generated from the school budget increase. This is not sustainable for many residents. MacKenzie apologized if the interpretation of her comments were taken as negative. Her comments were not meant to disparage the school or staff in any way, it was directed to the costs only. She has encouraged residents to go to the meetings prior to the budget being setting.

Valence reviewed the school budgets controllable and non-controllable costs. It was noted the

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School Board could meet with the Select Board anytime to explain the budget setting process, have the 2 boards work more closely to better understand the decisions made and process. After a lengthy discussion, the board thanked Valence and Levey for coming to the meeting.

6. Old business:

- MacKenzie spoke with Ed Gray about the regulations for the Park & Ride and that the overnight ban would not be changing.
- Polly Campion contacted MacKenzie and noted she had been approached about what the State could do, if anything, to help with the Holt's Ledge issue. The board will be reviewing information and considering what is best for the Town as a whole.
- Meeting with new owners of Wilder Dam. The group of concerned people will be asking them to meet soon.
- Representative Patricia Higgins encouraged MacKenzie to have the Town send a letter for bill HB121 to increase the fee for transportation. It would increase the fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Smith and Jenks were concerned about sending a message to increase a mandatory fee on the tax payers when they are trying to hold the budget and keep taxes to a minimum. The sense of the board was to not send this letter at this time.

7. New Business:

- Right Angle Engineering LLC: Frank Bowles would like to come in and discuss this proposal with the board. This proposal concerns Hewes Brook Bridge. The sense of the board was to have Bowles come to a meeting.

8. Manifest: 2016 and 2017 manifests were reviewed and signed.

9. Public Comments: none at this time

10. Proposed Warrant Articles:

- Solar: Cutting reviewed recent changes to this article. Total project \$45,750. Must list in article total cost, 2017 payments, even if the town ends up not paying this because of electric generated to pay it. The town must vote on the total amounts. This article has been reviewed by town council, not the DRA. MacKenzie moved to put this article on the warrant. Seconded by Smith. Voted unanimously in favor.
- Advisory Board of Assessing: The Tax Committee recommended this be an advisory committee, not a Board of Assessing. This article has not been submitted as of today. Concerns of what authority this group would have had been noted. Cutting informed the board Town council encourages and recommends this board make clear guidelines for this advisory committee to avoid any future misunderstanding of authority.

11. Budget Committee Public Hearing:

- The board reviewed the budget committee public hearing. Concern was noted at the lack of Budget Committee attendance. Some members have missed key meetings. It was the sense of the board to send out committee descriptions and expectations when advertising for open committee seats for all boards and committees this year. The board discussed the disappointment in the budget committee cutting the maintenance positions. It is felt this is a key position. The town has many buildings and the need for general maintenance, tracking of issues and maintenance is key to keeping the costs down and the buildings

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cared for. The board will ask the Building Committee to recommend these funds be reinstated at Town Meeting. Original line was \$18,304 the Budget Committee cut this line to \$10,000. Highway administrative support position was also changed. Originally the budget committee added \$15,000 to this line. \$7,000 was cut at the last budget meeting. The Select Board feels they can make this new figure work. Support rate was discussed. MacKenzie moved to pay \$15.50 per hour to this support position. Seconded by Smith. Jenks abstained. Jenks has been doing this job and will continue. The logistics of the Town Clerk and highway support were briefly discussed. Motion voted unanimously in favor. MacKenzie noted frustration in the budget committee debating over a few thousand dollars in the town budget but passing the school budget with little or no discussion.

- Holts Ledge Public Hearing: The board reviewed comments made and information from the Public Hearing last week. Further information concerning endangered species has come in and the Board will be reviewing this. The original goal was to try and come up with a compromise and be able to have the climbers and homeowners have a compatible solution. The first draft document was written and reviewed. Smith held informational gathering meetings for people to come with concerns. Very few residents from the Canaan Ledge Lane area showed up but had relayed concerns to him in a confidential manner prior to this last Public Hearing. The second draft was developed and released. The public hearing was held, at which many residents living in that area did attend and/or provide communication for voicing considerable concerns and details about what has transpired in the last few years with the significantly increased climbing traffic. The board is very concerned that this new form of climbing is compromising the quality of life for home owners in this area. Further review needs to be done in light of this new information.

12. Willis proposal: Some boring needs to be done for the area south of Grant Brook. The board reviewed this proposal. MacKenzie moved to accept the proposal for \$4,500 from Willis Engineering. Seconded by Jenks. Voted unanimously in favor. Jenks moved to have MacKenzie sign this document. Seconded by Smith. Voted unanimously in favor.

13. Committees & Commissions:

- Planning Board: They worked on the Warrant Articles.
- Coffee Hour: Jenks had resident from Canaan Ledge Lane who could not make the Public Hearing- Concerns the board does not have all the information needed to address this. A petitioned WA may be coming concerning President Trump. School budget concerns, impact on taxes.
- Roads Committee: Working on their presentation for Town Meeting. Bridges information from Frank Bowles and Kevin Sahr, they will share with the board.

14. Ongoing business:

- Cutting reviewed issues with heat and lack of thermostats in the vault area. The building committee has recommended this be addressed. Smith moved to give Cutting the authority to move ahead with repairs up to \$1,500 after discussion with Mike Woodard from the Building Committee. Seconded by MacKenzie. Voted unanimously in favor.
- Check the date for the eminent domain to go to the BTLA concerning the River Road

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15. There being no further business Smith moved to adjourn at 10:55AM. Seconded by Jenks. Voted unanimously if favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dina Cutting