

State of New Hampshire
Town of Lyme – Annual Business Meeting
Saturday, March 14, 2026 9 am
Lyme School Gymnasium
Official Minutes

Lyme's 2026 Town/School Election by Official Ballot was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.
Lyme's 2026 Business Meeting was held on Saturday, March 14, 2026.

Moderator Mark Schiffman started the Business Meeting at 9:06 am.

Mark thanked the townspeople for attending Little Town Meeting on March 3, 2026 at 6 pm, the School District Meeting on March 5, 2026 at 6 pm, and the Town/School Election on March 10, 2026 7 am – 7 pm in which 442 residents voted.

Honoring the past, Patty Jenks presented the names of Lyme residents who passed away in 2025.

Judy Brotman was honored for her many years of service on the Select Board.

5th graders from the Lyme School presented their Buckets of Gratitude project.

With an eye to the future, Judy Russell presented the names of the babies born to Lyme residents in 2025.

Mark reminded the townspeople of civility and the rules governing Town Meeting.

Voice without vote was given to Joseph Driscoll, town counsel.

Mark asked the audience to vote to adopt the stated rules of order as written in the town report.

The rules were adopted.

SEMIANNUAL PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION

ARTICLE 4. Phil Kinsler MADE THE MOTION to see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 76:15-a whereby taxes are collected semi-annually as follows: a partial payment of the taxes assessed on April 1 in any tax year shall be computed by taking the prior year's assessed valuation times 1/2 of the previous year's tax rate; provided, however, that whenever it shall appear to the Select Board or assessors that certain individual properties have physically changed in valuation, they may use the current year's appraisal times 1/2 the previous year's tax rate to compute the partial payment. If adopted, this collection process will begin in tax year 2027. (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

SECONDED by Judy Brotman.

Article 4 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

OVERSEER OF PUBLIC WELFARE TO BE APPOINTED

ARTICLE 5. Jennifer Boylston MADE THE MOTION to ask are you in favor of discontinuing the elected office of Overseer of Public Welfare and instead having the Overseer of Public Welfare who is appointed by the Select Board for 1 year term? If approved and a person is elected to that office this year, they will continue to serve until March 14, 2027. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

SECONDED by Judy Brotman.

Article 5 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

VETERANS TAX CREDIT

ARTICLE 6. Debra Kilham MADE THE MOTION to see if the town will vote to increase the tax credit for veterans with service-connected total disability from \$2,000 to \$2,500 in light of HB 99 which was adopted in 2025 and which prohibits these veterans from also claiming other veterans tax credits and exemptions.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0)

SECONDED by David Kahn.

Article 6 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

AUTHORIZATION TO PUT A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE TOWN FOREST

ARTICLE 7. Blake Allison MADE THE MOTION to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to convey a conservation easement located on the Town of Lyme property maps as Map 406 Lot 30 and Map 407 Lot 77, totaling 425 acres which is considered the Town Forest, to a qualifying organization, on such terms and conditions as the Conservation Commission may deem advisable.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Conservation Commission by a vote of 5-0.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 2-1)

SECONDED by Jennifer Cooke.

Moderator Mark Schiffman declared a secret ballot necessary due to voice vote being too close to call.

Article 7 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by SECRET BALLOT YES-94 NO-61.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE

ARTICLE 8. Hebe Quinton MADE THE MOTION to see if the town will vote to adopt an ordinance defining and regulating conflicts of interest for local officers, committee members and employees pursuant to RSA 31:39-a.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0)

SECONDED by Phil Kinsler.

Article 8 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

ARTICLE 9. Dick Jones MADE THE MOTION to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three million one hundred fifty five thousand five hundred seventy three dollars (**\$3,155,573**) which represents the operating budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. Said sum does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (To be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by JUDY BROTMAN.

Article 9 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

REMOVE MATERIAL FROM PROPERTY

ARTICLE 10. David Kahn MADE THE MOTION to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (**\$100,000**) to continue to remove the materials stored on the property located at 116 Dorchester Road that the Grafton County Superior Court, by its order dated November 25th, 2015, has authorized the Town to remove, and to cover any legal or other related costs associated with such action. These appropriations are **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 8-1) (Majority vote required.) (To be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Judy Brotman.

There was discussion.

A petition was brought before the moderator prior to the meeting requesting a secret ballot vote for Article 10.

Article 10 was VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE by SECRET BALLOT NO-86 YES-64.

EXTERIOR PAINTING OF THE LYME CENTER ACADEMY BUILDING

ARTICLE 11. Brian Rich MADE THE MOTION to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty five thousand dollars (**\$35,000**) for the purpose of painting the exterior of the Lyme Center Academy Building.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote.

of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (To be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by David Kahn.

Article 11 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND TRUST FUNDS

ARTICLE 12. Phil Kinsler MADE THE MOTION to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate six hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (**\$675,000**) to be added to the following

Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds previously established for the purposes for which they were created.

Capital Reserve Funds:

Bridge Capital Reserve Fund	\$50,000
Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund	\$310,000
Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$100,000
Class V Roads Rehab Capital Reserve Fund	\$50,000
Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund	\$80,000
Computer System Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund	\$5,000
Town Building Major Maintenance and repair CRF	\$20,000
Fire Fighting Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund	\$20,000
Capital Reserve Funds Subtotal:	\$635,000

Expendable Trust Funds:

Emergency Major Equipment rebuilding Trust Fund	\$20,000
Town Poor Expendable Trust Fund	\$5,000
Annual Leave Trust Fund	<u>\$15,000</u>
Expendable Trust Funds total:	\$40,000

Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds Total: \$675,000

These appropriations are **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (To be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Judy Brotman.

Article 12 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

ARTICLE 13. Judy Russell MADE THE MOTION to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate eight hundred fifty dollars (**\$850**) to be added to the Recreation Facility Capital Reserve Fund previously established and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing this amount from the unexpended fund balance. This amount represents the revenue generated from rental of the boat racks in 2025. Said sum does **not** include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Dina Cutting.

Article 13 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BLOCK GRANT APPROPRIATION

ARTICLE 14. Jennifer Prileson MADE THE MOTON to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety-nine thousand dollars (**\$99,000**) for the purpose of maintenance, construction and reconstruction of Class IV & V highways with \$99,000 anticipated to come from the State of New Hampshire Block Grant. Said sum does **not** include

appropriations contained in any other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Judy Brotman.

Article 14 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 15. Aaron Rich **MADE THE MOTION** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty one thousand seven hundred seventeen dollars (**\$81,717**) for the annual payment on the Fire Station, the purchase of which was authorized in 2020; and further to authorize the withdrawal of this amount from the Public Works Facility Capital Reserve Fund.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Tim Williams.

Article 15 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

WITHDRAWAL FROM VEHICLE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND-Maintenance/Highway truck

ARTICLE 16. Bob Thebedo **MADE THE MOTION** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety thousand dollars (**\$90,000.00**) for the purchase of a Maintenance/Highway department truck with plow and sander; and further to authorize the withdrawal of this amount from the Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes for which it was created.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Dick Jones.

Article 16 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

WITHDRAWAL FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

ARTICLE 17. Ben Kilham **MADE THE MOTION** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (**\$10,000**) to fund the purchase of computer equipment by authorizing the withdrawal of such funds from the Computer System Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes for which it was created.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee.) (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Stephanie Clark.

Article 17 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

WITHDRAWAL FROM VEHICLE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND-Fire/EMS truck

ARTICLE 18. Aaron Rich MADE THE MOTION to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety thousand dollars (**\$90,000**), for the purchase of a Fire/EMS truck and further to authorize the withdrawal of this amount from the Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes for which it was created.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Phil Kinsler.

Article 18 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

ARTICLE 19. Laurie Wadsworth MADE THE MOTION to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand seven hundred forty seven dollars (**\$6,747.00**) to sponsor an Independence Day celebration, including but not limited to a parade, picnic, music and family fun and to fund this appropriation by authorizing withdrawal of that sum from the Independence Day Celebration Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose at the 2003 Town Meeting. This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Jennifer Cook.

Article 19 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

MILFOIL TREATMENT FOR POST POND

ARTICLE 20. Judy Brotman MADE THE MOTION to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty six thousand six hundred and twenty dollars (**\$46,620.00**) for milfoil treatment of Post Pond, with twenty three thousand three hundred and ten dollars (**\$23,310.00**) to be funded through a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; fourteen thousand and eighteen dollars (**\$14,018.00**) to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and nine thousand two hundred and ninety two dollars (**\$9,292.00**) to be funded by the withdrawal of this amount from the Conservation Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the milfoil problem is resolved or by December 31, 2027, whichever is sooner.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Conservation commission by a vote of 5-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0.) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

SECONDED by Jim Mason.

Article 20 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

REPORTS OF AGENTS, AUDITORS & COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 21. Stephanie Clark **MADE THE MOTION** to hear reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees or other officers heretofore chosen, and to pass any vote relating thereto. (Majority vote required) **SECONDED** by Michael Whitman.
Article 21 was VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE by VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE 22. To transact any other business that may be legally brought before this Town Meeting.
Townspeople shared various tidbits of news.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.

Respectfully,



Emily Shepard, Town Clerk