

**Regular Monthly Meeting
Town of Lyme
March 14, 2007
6:30 P.M.**

Supervisor Jim Golden called the Town of Lyme Regular Monthly Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present: Councilmen Mike Countryman, Jim Madill, Norm Schreib, and Warren A. Johnson, Deputy Clerk Suzann Cornell, Bookkeeper Roswell Gotham, Attorney Mark Gebo, Superintendent Tom Parker (who left early due to an emergency in Three Mile Bay regarding an ice jam on the 12E Bridge) and approximately 30 others.

Councilman Schreib had questions regarding a few of the bills for the Highway Department before making approvals. Questions were regarding the waste oil pump installed by Pat Weston in the Highway Garage, 500' of wire cable that is used for the plows and the old wire is recycled, a \$40.00 clock for the Highway Garage and plow shoes. Concerns were addressed to the satisfaction of the Board and they were able to proceed with the approvals of the Abstracts in their entirety.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 23: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Madill to accept Abstract #5 in the amount of \$77,007.58. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 24: Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Countryman to accept Abstract #6 in the amount of \$84,812.41. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Report

Bookkeeper Gotham reported that in February the Town received property tax revenue and the contract money from the County and State. We also transferred the CD from Key Bank into Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent in the amount of \$350,000.00. The Town now holds CD's with the Citizen's Bank totaling \$670,000.00.

RESOLUTION 2007- 25: Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Madill to accept the Supervisor's report as presented. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Youth Committee

Councilman Countryman reported that Colter Whitmore, a new teacher at Lyme, is a certified wrestling coach and he is interested in starting a wrestling program at the school. The Town has looked in to the insurance coverage and will hopefully proceed with this as an added Youth Program.

Councilman Countryman also recently had some alumni suggesting the possible use of the school gymnasium for a few hours on Sundays. The Board directed Mike to contact Superintendent Donnalee Dodson for discussion on this matter.

County Legislator Bob Thomas gave a brief report. He had no information on the natural gas line between here and the General Brown High School, the Town and County road checks need to be scheduled, the work on County Route 125 will start in the Spring, the Labor Contracts with the County are not settled as of yet, he gave us a copy of the Firemen's exemption resolution. He mentioned the possibility of adding to the jail due to the increase in criminal activity and has also requested that the Metro Task Force be doubled in order to keep Jefferson County safe and drug free. Mr. Thomas has some concerns with Volunteer Fire Departments and their volunteers having to raise money, work regular jobs for 40 plus hours a week, take care of families and attend State Mandated Schools. We must look to the future and the probability of paid services.

Transfer Site Committee

Councilman Johnson reported that revenue from the Transfer Site in 2005 was \$51,790.00 and increased to \$60,348.00 in 2006. That is a net increase of \$8558.00 in 2006.

Councilman Schreib gave the Board a copy of the proposed addition to the Transfer Site. The addition would be approximately 1400 square feet and it would house the cardboard compactor and store cardboard bales until they could be picked up. The cardboard compactor is currently in the Highway Building at the transfer site and it is in unheated space. Due to oil and hydraulics it only works in warmer weather. In following the direction of the NYS DERDA Report the Town would like to increase the insulation, put on a metal roof, install better windows, change lights at the Transfer Site Building. The new equipment would protect the equipment, add storage space, and make the Transfer Site more presentable and energy efficient. Councilman Schreib also presented the possibility of heating the building with an outside wood-burning furnace due to the amount of scrap wood that is brought in. Norm will give the Board an approximate cost of the project and a configuration of the floor plan.

Councilman Schreib made a motion that was seconded by Councilman Countryman to go into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Web Site Committee

Charlie Cronkrite is working on it and we have secured a host, inexpensively, at \$42.00 per year.

Cost Effectiveness Committee

They did not meet this month. Superintendent Parker would like to meet one hour before the next Town Board Meeting.

Building Committee

Councilman Schreib explained a little bit about the Shared Services Program that the Village and Town are eligible for. We would like to bring the Village Clerk's Office to the Municipal Building, combine services for

water, roads and offices. Once the board makes resolutions we can apply for grants in the amounts of \$200,000.00 for shared Municipal Services and \$300,000.00 for Shared Highway Services. The Town would like to see if we could get the salt pile moved and put a salt barn up at the Fuel Depot site. We would also like to fix up the area in the back of the Municipal Building for additional parking. We need a new roof, lights, heating system, insulation, and expanded truck bay to make room for the new truck.

Assessment

Marsha Barton reported that the changes for 2007-tax roll are nearly complete. The assessors are preparing to print the 2007 Change Book, which details all the changes they have made this year. A copy of each change is mailed to any property owner whose assessment has been changed, along with the county change notice. We are the only Town in Jefferson County that sends the detailed change notice. This added communication with our property owners saves both the assessors and the property owner time, as it answers many of their questions.

Marsha was asked by a Council member to check to see whether or not Jefferson County was considering pictometry. This digital, oblique, aerial imaging would be a great asset to our County. Paul Warneck, Director of Real Property Tax Services informed Marsha that Jefferson County was in no way considering this. He said it is very costly to install and update. He also said the company receives money every time a photo is sold to anyone. It interfaces with the tax maps and you can see details on every property. It works like Google Earth. Marsha has done some research on pictometry and not only would it be very useful in the assessing end of County Government, but it is also being used in Public safety. It can pinpoint a location and has saved numerous lives. It is very interesting, but she is sorry to report that the county doesn't seem interested and apparently there are grants out there to help with the cost.

Historian

Julia Gosier did a one - hour class for the fifth grade at Lyme Central School using local Civil War records. The response from the students was impressive.

Julia found an old survey – type map which further proves the status of Reed Street in Three Mile Bay.

She would like to advertise for bidders for the five abandoned Cemeteries to be mowed.

Cemetery

Julia is continuing to work on reorganizing cemetery records. She has advertised in the Watertown Daily Times for feedback from lot owners who have deeds for the Three Mile Bay Cemetery and has received good responses.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 26: Motion by Councilman Madill and seconded by Councilman Johnson to proceed with the advertisement in the Watertown Daily Times for the part time Three Mile Bay Cemetery Employee. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 27: Motion by Councilman Madill and seconded by Councilman Countryman to advertise in the Watertown Daily times for bids for the six Abandoned Cemeteries six mowing and 2 trimmings. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Planning Board

Joan Mazulewicz reported that the Planning board has begun review of the Clayton Wind Farm Law. She asked the Town Board if they have had an opportunity to review Part One of the Zoning Law Revisions. Councilman Schreib expressed that he had concerns with some of the definitions in the revisions.

Municipal Water Board

Marsha Barton reported that there was no meeting in February due to illness.

Marsha has spoke with Jill Cuppernell from Bernier and Carr regarding the status of the proposed Old Town Springs Water District. The application is being prepared and should go to Rural Development before April 1st. She did say that the applications are going through Rural Development quite fast at this time, so she didn't think it would be too long before we hear from them, after submission.

There are two refresher courses for Class B Water Operators coming up that our certified water operators should attend. We have three certified operators and to keep their certifications, it is mandatory for them to get 20 points every three years. They must have one Lab and one Math course to renew their licenses.

The first one is in Cape Vincent on May 8th, 9th and 10th. The cost per person is \$200.00, plus their wages for the day. Marsha estimated the total cost to the water districts to be \$566.00.

The second class is in Potsdam and the cost is \$25.00 each. The estimated cost to the Water Districts would be \$441.00.

Now that we have three certified water operators, it is important to keep them certified. The three certified operators are Bill Scarpchi, Pat Weston and Michael Allyn. Marsha would like to ask for a resolution tonight to enable them to register for the classes.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 28: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Schreiber to send the Certified Water Operators, Bill Scarpchi, Pat Weston and Mike Allyn to attend the mandatory Water Operations Classes. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 29: Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Johnson to appoint Jo Morrow as the new Zoning board of Appeals Secretary with the hourly rate to be \$10.00 per hour. Five ayes. Motion carried.

ZEO Appointment

There were three applicants for the Zoning Enforcement Officer, Suzann Cornell, Joe Welch and Ernie Brister. Councilmen Schreib and Countryman did the interviewing for the position; their recommendation for the Appointment of the new Zoning Officer is Suzann Cornell and they are asking Joe Welch if he would be interested in the Deputy position.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 30: Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Johnson to appoint Suzann Cornell as the 2007 Zoning Enforcement Officer for the remainder of the year, with no probationary period. Five ayes. Motion carried.

The Town Board is authorizing Sue to take care of any outstanding violations with Attorney Gebo's council. The Board has asked the ZEO to proceed, with their Blessing.

Local Laws, Resolutions, and Motions

Teen Center

The Board has asked Attorney Gebo to "massage" the lease with the Lodge regarding the Teen Center. Mark will make his recommended changes and send them to the Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 31: Motion by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Madill to approve the Lease between the Town of Lyme's Teen Center and the Chaumont Masonic Lodge with the recommended changes suggested by Attorney Mark Gebo. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Shared Services

RESOLUTION 2007 – 32: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Madill to have the Town of Lyme move forward, so we may get started with the process of obtaining grant money for Shared Services between the Town of Lyme and the Village of Chaumont. Five Ayes. All in Favor: Councilman Countryman, Councilman Madill, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Schreib and Supervisor Golden. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 33: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Johnson naming the appointed Official Contact and Lead Person for the Shared Services Grant Program process to be Supervisor James Golden. Five ayes. All in Favor: Councilman Countryman, Councilman Madill, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Schreib and Supervisor Golden. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2007 – 34: *Motion by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Countryman to apply for \$200,000.00 for the Municipal Shared Services Grant for the Municipalities of Town of Lyme and the Village of Chaumont. Five ayes. All in Favor: Councilman Countryman, Councilman Madill, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Schreib and Supervisor Golden. Motion carried.*

RESOLUTION 2007 – 35: *Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Johnson to apply for \$300,000.00 for the Shared Services Grant for Highway between the Town of Lyme and the Village of Chaumont. Five ayes. All in Favor: Councilman Countryman, Councilman Madill, Councilman Johnson and Supervisor Golden. Motion carried.*

Road Named

RESOLUTION 2007 – 36: *Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Madill answering the request for Jeffrey Cohen, regarding the naming of a road off the Old Town Springs Road, for 911 purposes, naming the Roadway “Ryan’s Way”. Five ayes. Motion carried.*

Old Business

Vote results of the Special Election regarding the surplus property, Reed Street, in Three Mile Bay. 28 to 18 in favor of keeping the Right of Way. Thus, the Town will retain the Right of Way. There is still an ongoing dispute between the Allen and the Heckers, the Town will not get involved in identifying where the Right of Way is, we will let the lawyers work it out. The Town will not spend any money trying to identify where it is and who owns it.

Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Countryman to wait and see the results of the Civil Suit between the Allens and Heckers identifying exactly where the Right of Way is and the Town does not get involved in it. Five ayes. Motion carried.

TABLED – FEE SCHEDULE FOR ZONING PERMITS

New Business

Wind Farms

RESOLUTION 2007 - 37: *Motion by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Schreib to schedule a Public Hearing to consider adopting a six month moratorium on wind generating facilities with a suggested Public Hearing date of March 31, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Five ayes. Motion carried.*

Privilege of the Floor

Julia Gosier regarding the fee changes of Zoning Permits, she asked the Board to consider the fact that they will be recouping money on the assessments of new buildings through tax revenue. She is in favor of

keeping Zoning Permits very reasonable. Julie also asked about the Town having an audit done and Councilman Countryman responded by saying that they have been in touch with some accounting firms and nothing can be done until May, due to tax season.

David Rush, Point Salubrious – Asked the Board how many proposed windmills are sited for the Town. Jim Madden BP Energy, responded by saying, they don't have a final plan but he is guessing between 30 and 60.

Mr. Rush also asked if the Village of Chaumont paid the Town of Lyme to dump at the Transfer Site. The Board responded by saying "no", but they do pay by being Town Tax Payers. The Town Board is looking into this.

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Countryman at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Kim Wallace
Town Clerk