

**May 13, 2020
Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Meeting 6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order:

Supervisor Aubertine called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. opening the meeting with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present included Supervisor Aubertine, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilwoman Gosier, Councilman Terry Countryman, Councilman Villa, and Town Clerk Ariana Henderson (via video).

Privilege of the Floor

There was no privilege of the floor.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution 2020-53: Councilman Villa made the motion to approve the April Supervisor's Monthly Financial report; Councilwoman Gosier seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Councilwoman Gosier asked if the correction had been made to the cemetery account because the amount listed was \$111,150.54 in the Supervisors report was way too high. Supervisor Aubertine responded that it was a typo and Cathy Satterley fixed it to state \$11,150.54.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Pat Weston stated he would like Board approval for the CHIPS expenditure sheet. He also assured the Board that he is doing everything he can not to spend money. He has only been purchasing his necessities.

Resolution 2020-54: Councilman Villa made the motion to accept the CHIPS highway expenditure sheet for the total sum of \$150,000.00 to repair 4.77 miles of Town Highway; Councilman Countryman seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Clerk's Report- April 2020

Monthly Receipts were as follow: Total Local Shares Remitted: \$3,261.65; Total State County & Local Revenues: \$3,274.65, Total Non – Local Revenues: \$13.00.

Audit of the Bills (Abstracts #9 & #10)

Resolution 2020-55: Councilman Countryman made the motion to approve Abstract #9 in the amount of \$67,801.53; seconded by Councilman Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2020-56: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to approve Abstract #10 in the amount of \$61,433.66; seconded by Councilman Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of the April 8, 2020 Minutes

Resolution 2020-57: Councilman Villa made a motion to approve the April 8, 2020 Minutes; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report:

Supervisor Aubertine read Marsha Barton's assessor report as follows:

Supreme Court Stipulation

I am attaching a copy of settlement and order that was prepared by Debra Sullivan from Joe Russel's Office.

She has been negotiating with the property owner's attorney. The property owner was originally asking for \$50,000 assessment. They submitted an appraisal for \$55,000.

The property owner agreed to settle for the \$55,000 assessment and is not requesting a refund. Our assessment was \$93,000.

The Attorney and I both agreed that it is in the best interest of the Town to accept the \$55,000. It would not be worth it to the Town to fight this.

We do need a Town board resolution to proceed with the stipulation.

Tentative Assessment Roll

Our tentative assessment is 424,212,926. This is approximately 3.5 million increase. This figure will change after Grievance.

Change in Procedure-Sitting with the roll and Grievance Day

Because of COVID 19, there are changes to our procedures for sitting with the roll and Grievance day. We will not be meeting with the public in person. We will review properties over the telephone. Robin is working on the procedure for Grievance Day. I believe it will be mail in's only and maybe tele-conferencing. We will be posting the information on the website by May 1st.

Resolution 2020-58: Councilwoman Gosier made a motion to accept the Stipulation of Settlement and Order regarding Assessor, Town of Lyme, and The Board of Assessment Review of the Town of Lyme Tax Year 2019 and James and Tanya Irvin; seconded by Councilman Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Municipal Water Board Report:

There was no Water Board Report.

Planning Board:

There was no Planning Board Report.

Youth Commission:

There was no Youth Commission Report.

ZEO/CEO Report:

There was no report from the ZEO/CEO.

Councilman Villa would like to start seeing a more detailed report from Jim Millington on the zoning/building permits that have been issued for the month. When he drives by new construction, he would like to know if the proper paperwork to receive a permit has been filed with the Town. Councilwoman Gosier agreed with Councilman Villa. He also mentioned that last year some seasonal mobile homes were not removed over the winter. He would like to know why this wasn't taken care of.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

There was no report from the ZBA.

TMB Cemetery:

Councilwoman Gosier reported that there was one lot sold this month. There have been arrangements made for a tentative burial and she has had communications with KLA Property Management, the company hired to mow the cemetery. Due to COVID-19 his insurance company has not provided him with a certificate of liability to give to the Town. Once he receives the certificate of insurance he can start mowing. Until then if the grass gets too long the highway department will have to mow it.

New Business

Youth Commission Events:

Supervisor Aubertine was discussing the sports programs with Heather O'Brien. They were discussing whether it would be possible to hold the programs with COVID-19. Councilman Villa stated that the French Festival and even the Mount Carmel Festival have been cancelled because large gatherings are prohibited by New York State. He would hate to see the events over the summer cancelled because the kids need the interaction with their friends and the education. He believes the Town needs to think differently and try and come up with new ideas to keep the youth programs running. Supervisor Aubertine stated that everyone is waiting to see what the Governor decides. There was a discussion regarding the safety of the children and still holding the Youth Commission programs.

Letter to Federal Representatives:

Supervisor Aubertine asked the Board if we would like to send a letter to the Federal Representatives regarding funding for local governments in the next federal stimulus package.

Resolution 2020-59: Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to send a letter to our representatives regarding funding for local governments in the next federal stimulus package; seconded by Councilman Countryman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Dissolution Study Resolution:

Supervisor Aubertine stated that the Board needs to pass a resolution to endorse the Chaumont Dissolution Study. Councilman Villa asked why the Town Board had to endorse the Chaumont Dissolution study if the Town had no say in the matter. Supervisor Aubertine responded that the Town Board endorses the plan that the committee developed. Councilman Villa stated that one of the DANC representatives was inputting their opinion at the meeting he attended, and it was inappropriate. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin stated that nothing is set in stone and if we endorse the Dissolution study. The Board can still make changes when the Village dissolves and becomes part of the Town of Lyme for example change the zoning law.

Resolution 2020-60: Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to endorse the Chaumont Dissolution Study and implementation Plan; seconded by Councilman Countryman; Councilwoman Gosier, Councilman Countryman, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Supervisor Aubertine AYE; Councilman Villa NAY. Motion carried.

Jefferson County Board of Elections:

The Board of Elections would like to hold the elections at the Town Office with our approval. Supervisor Aubertine read the email from Town Clerk Henderson "I had a call from Jefferson County Board of Elections and they stated they are going to have one poll site instead of two and they would like it to be our office. Jefferson County is in the process of hiring a cleaning crew to come in after the elections and clean the office preventing the spread of COVID. I wanted to update you prior to the meeting. They also stated they were trying to get the proper PPE for us. One thing we should think about is how we will handle people waiting, should we require them to wait outdoors six feet apart?" There was discussion on whether it was safe for our residents to hold the elections at the Town office. Supervisor Aubertine stated that he would reply to the Board of Elections email and let them use our building but the building needs to be cleaned and disinfected after the elections and the Board of Elections needs to figure out the details such as social distancing.

Old Business:

Signs:

Councilman Villa would like ZEO/CEO Jim Millington to remove the signs that have been placed on the sides of the roads for lawn care, jacking camps, property management, etc. because it violates our zoning law.

Planning Board:

Councilman Villa would also like the planning board to come up with a property maintenance law and septic law. There are several houses in the Town that are starting to look terrible. Councilwoman Gosier stated that there is a NYS Property Maintenance Law that Jim Millington should be following. Supervisor Aubertine sent Jim the law on April 29th and has not gotten a response. According to Councilman Villa there should be a septic law to prevent the pollution of our great lakes. Councilwoman Gosier also agrees with Councilman Villa. Our waterways can't continue to be polluted and we need to enforce this. Councilman Countryman stated he would

play devils advocate to say that it would be hard for seasonal properties to update their entire septic system and it would cost thousands of dollars.

Resolution 2020-61: Councilman Villa made the motion to ask the planning board to look into our sign law, write a property maintenance law, and a septic law that requires properties to have their septic inspected when sold; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Supervisor Aubertine stated that Town Clerk Henderson may have to set up a Zoom meeting for a few months so all the Boards can start meeting. Supervisor Aubertine also asked Steve Weed if he would be available for Grievance Day May 26th if they needed him. Mr. Weed stated he would be available and discussed options that would be available and work best for the Board of Assessment Review and our residents.

Census:

Councilman Villa stated Supervisor Aubertine sent an email regarding the census. He received a post card about the Census. He believes that it is so important for our residents to fill out the census information. He believes we should reach out to residents through the Lyme Light. When Supervisor Aubertine spoke with the Town Clerk the Census office wanted a notice to go with the tax bill which won't be until 2021. Supervisor Aubertine said that when he read the email from the Census Office, he was a little upset because it read as if they wanted us to do their job. We can reach out to our residents but that's all we can do. He will add information about the census to our website. Councilwoman Gosier stated that it is up to the census office to reach out to every household. That is the job of the census office. She stated that if a household doesn't fill out their paperwork that is when they would get a visit from a census employee.

Online Privilege of the Floor

There was no online privilege of the floor.

Privilege of the Floor

There was no privilege of the floor.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Return to Open Meeting

N/A

Adjournment

Resolution 2020-62: Councilman Villa made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried; meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Ariana Henderson
Town Clerk