

March 9, 2022
 Town of Lyme
 Public Hearing 6:25 P.M.
 Regular Monthly Meeting 6:30 P.M.

Public Hearing for 2022 Water Rates Hearing:

Supervisor Countryman called the 2022 Water Rates Public Hearing to order at 6:25 P.M.

Town of Lyme
Public Hearing Notice
2020 Water Rates

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Lyme Board shall conduct a Public Hearing on Thursday November 7, 2019 directly following the 6:30 p.m. Preliminary 2020 Budget Hearing at the Town Municipal Offices located at 12175 NYS RT 12E, Chaumont, NY to consider the adoption of the 2020 Water Rates for the Town’s Water Districts #1 thru #5.

| <u>Bi-monthly Rates Per EDU</u> | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|---------|-----------------------|--------|
| WD # 1 | Debt | \$15.00 | Water Reserve O&M | \$9.00 |
| | O&M | \$20.00 | Water Reserve Capital | \$3.00 |
| WD# 2 | Debt | \$36.00 | Water Reserve O&M | \$9.00 |
| | O&M | \$28.00 | Water Reserve Capital | \$3.00 |
| WD# 3 | O&M | \$16.00 | Water Reserve O&M | \$9.00 |
| | | | Water Reserve Capital | \$3.00 |
| WD# 4 | Debt | \$27.00 | Water Reserve O&M | \$9.00 |
| | O&M | \$20.00 | Water Reserve Capital | \$3.00 |
| WD# 5 | Debt | \$59.00 | Water Reserve O&M | \$9.00 |
| | O&M | \$20.00 | Water Reserve Capital | \$3.00 |

A full text of the above referenced law are on file with the Town Clerk and may be inspected during normal business hours. All persons wishing to be heard on the issue should be present at the time and place set forth or have written comments submitted to the Town Board or Clerk prior to that date and time. Any person requiring special accommodations to participate in such Public Hearing should notify the Town Clerk at 315-649-2788 or email lymetownclerk@townoflyme.com at least 3 business days prior to the hearing.

There was no public comments.

Resolution 2022-37: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to close the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.; Councilmember Farrell seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Call to Order:

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

Those present included Supervisor Countryman, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilmember Gosier, Councilmember Farrell, Town Clerk Ariana Henderson, Highway Superintendent Weston, Bruce Kingsley, Jennifer Kingsley, Ethan Brown, Gregor Smith and McKenzie Lehman.

Privilege of the Floor

Ethan Brown Youth & Young Adult Employment Program Coordinator: Mr. Brown was present to discuss the details about the Youth and Young Adult program. It is a free program funded by the State of NY and Federal Government. This is usually the individual's first job. Anyone can apply and the qualifications are based on the household's income. They can work for 6 weeks or longer if requested. They receive minimum wage and can work up to 40 hours a week. It is up to the Town to determine their schedule. NYS labor laws do restrict what work they can perform based on their age. Supervision also varies based on age. The program begins July 11th and ends August 19th. Councilmember Gosier asked if the Town could request Lyme students. Mr. Brown responded absolutely. If the Town is interested they should apply by April 29th. There is another program available for individuals 18 and older that is a year round program. Charles Kingsley asked if the program was available for farms and how transportation worked. Mr. Brown responded that they can work on farms and the transportation is up to the individual.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution 2022-38: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve the February Supervisor's Monthly Financial report; Councilmember Farrell seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Pat Weston stated that they have been patching pot holes and chasing snow and ice. He emailed the board a quote for a new mower. He found one through Cazenovia Equipment. They are hard to find in today's market. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin agreed. The mower is under state bid and is high quality commercial grade. The current mower is very old and needs to be replaced.

Resolution 2022-39: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to purchase the 2022 John Deere Z960M Z-Trak from Cazenovia Equipment co., Inc. for \$12,617.22; Councilmember Gosier seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Clerk's Report

Monthly Receipts were as follow: Total Local Shares Remitted: \$3,401.65; Total State County & Local Revenues: \$3,442.65 Total Non – Local Revenues: \$41.00

Audit of the Bills (Abstracts #3 & #4)

Resolution 2022-40: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve Abstract #5 in the amount of \$82,050.62; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2022-41: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve Abstract #6 in the amount of \$207,966.03; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Resolution 2022-42: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to approve January 4, 2022 Minutes; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2022-43: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to approve January 26, 2022 Minutes; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2022-44: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to approve February 9, 2022 Minutes; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report:

Marsha emailed the following report for the month of March:

2022 Assessment Roll

We are busy finishing up the paperwork for the 2022 Assessment Roll.

Equalization Rate

I believe the equalization rate for 2022 will be 94%.

US District Court Order

We had a Court Order to remove a property from the tax rolls as the property has been seized by the Federal Government due to a tax lien. The Federal Government does not pay property taxes.

Solar Farm Assessments

Still waiting for help from Jefferson County on the Solar Farm assessments.

There is a meeting with JCIDA on Monday, March 7th to discuss possible pilots.

The Solar Farm has filed exemptions for their properties, which makes the parcels tax exempt for 15 years. If a pilot agreement isn't worked out the Town of Lyme and Village of Chaumont will not receive any revenues for the 15 year period.

Deputy Supervisor Bourquin questioned why the equalization rate was only 94% when the assessors have worked so hard to keep it at 100%.

Municipal Water Board Report:

Marsha emailed the following report for the month of March:

Resolution Needed

We need a resolution to deduct \$22,335.01 from the General Fund and deposited into Water Reserve O&M account at Watertown Savings Bank. See calculation sheets attached.

Pt. Salubrious Proposed Water District

We have been providing information to Bernier & Carr for the update on the study for Pt. Salubrious.

Vendor for NYS Low Income Water Assistance Program

The Town of Lyme is now a vendor to accept payments from the NYS Low Income Water Assistance Program. This program is for customers who cannot pay their water bills. Attached is the program information.

Resolution 2022-45: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to approve the 2022 water rates as listed above; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2022-46: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made a motion to deduct \$22,335.01 from the General Fund Checking into the Watertown Savings Bank Water Reserve O & M account; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Planning Board:

There was no report.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

There was no ZBA Report.

Youth Commission:

Stephanie Doney requested the Town advertise for her Summer Recreational Assistant for this summer. There was discussion on having an individual from the Youth workplace program work at Summer Rec.

Resolution 2022-47: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to advertise for the Summer Recreational Assistant position; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

ZEO/CEO Report:

There was no report.

TMB Cemetery:

Councilmember Gosier stated we needed to advertise for the Three Mile Bay Mowing bid along with the ball fields and abandoned cemeteries. The bids will be opened at the April meeting.

Resolution 2022-48: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to advertise for the Three Mile Bay cemetery, seven abandoned cemeteries and Town of Lyme Ballfields mowing bids; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Cape Vincent Ambulance:

Supervisor Countryman reported that the Cape Vincent Ambulance is being lettered. They're waiting on their drug license. They are hoping by April they hope to be manning the Ambulance and be stationed in the Town of Lyme.

New Business:

Chaumont Fire Department:

Supervisor Countryman met with Heather Lipczynski regarding the Fire Departments main fire truck. They have spent at least \$18,000.00 from their replacement fund to repair the truck. Supervisor Countryman said the Town hasn't increased the apportionment amount for the fire department in a few years. Councilmember Gosier stated that it is a drastic step to hand out more money to the fire departments. This is one situation and we need more information. The Three Mile Bay Fire Hall also needs a new roof. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin mentioned that the ARPA funds can be used for fire departments. Councilmember Farrell asked if he could go look at the truck to see what is wrong with it and look over the bills. The board agreed that it was a great idea. Supervisor Countryman reminded the board that the fire department was not looking for anything from the Board but making them aware of their situation. They will discuss this matter again in April.

Resolution to Retain Kendall, Walton and Burrows:

Supervisor Countryman stated that we need to obtain Kendall, Walton and Burrows for our current litigation. They have branched off from their law firm.

Resolution 2022-49: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to obtain Kendall, Walton and Burrows and their rates and billing process; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution to Declare PILOT:

The Town of Lyme and Village of Chaumont both missed the 60 day deadline to reply to the notification from Norbut Solar Farms. The solar farm is now exempt from Town and Village taxes for 15 years. The letter did not clearly state that the Town/Village had to respond to the letter. There is now a law that when a solar company sends a letter of interconnect it states that "you are required to respond within 60 days." Supervisor Countryman suggested passing a resolution following the County which indicates Town of Lyme intent to require a contract for payments in

lieu of taxes (PILOT) for wind Solar, and other renewable energy system. If we pass this resolution it goes to NYSERTA. The County passed the resolution at their last meeting. If the Town opts out of Article 487 we never can negotiate pilots and solar farms would be at full taxation.

Resolution 2022-50: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to motion to adopt a resolution indicating the Town of Lyme intent to require a contract for payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for wind Solar, and other renewable energy system; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Judge Audit:

Resolution 2022-51: Supervisor Countryman made the motion to approve the 2022 Judges Audit performed by Councilmember Gosier and Farrell; seconded by Deputy Supervisor Bourquin; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Maintenance Law:

There have been two complaints and pictures given to Supervisor Countryman regarding property maintenance. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin stated that the same locations have been problems in the past. Councilmember Farrell stated that there are several properties that need to be addressed. The Board agreed. There was further discussion regarding property maintenance and the code enforcement in the Town of Lyme.

SEQR:

Supervisor Countryman stated that the SEQR for the Sally Port Project has begun. The Town will now wait 30 days to hear back from involved agencies to proceed as the lead agency. The Veteran's Memorial Park Bid Opening will be held Tuesday March 15, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. There has been a lot of interest in the project but the contractors were requesting more time to bid. This is why the bid opening was postponed for the 5 days.

BAR Appointments:

There were three applicants that applied for the vacant BAR appointments.

Angela Kriigel

Jennifer Kingsley

Tina Fahringer

Councilmember Gosier stated that Jennifer Kingsley is a conflict of interest due to current assessment litigation occurring with the Town. Deputy Bourquin believed that Angela Kriigel would be a conflict of interest because she was an assessor for the last three years for the Town.

Resolution 2022-52: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to appoint Tina Fahringer to the Board of Assessment Review Board for the vacant five year term; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2022-53: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to appoint Jennifer Kingsley to the Board of Assessment Review Board for the vacant one year term; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; Countryman, Farrell, Bourquin AYE; Gosier NAY and the motion was carried.

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

Resolution 2022-54: Supervisor Countryman made the motion to enter Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Return to Open Meeting

Resolution 2022-55: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to enter Open Meeting at 8:43 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Adjournment

Resolution 2022-56: Councilmember Gosier a made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried; meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Henderson

Ariana Henderson
Town Clerk