

May 11, 2022
Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Meeting 6:30 P.M.

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, Councilmember Villa, Highway Superintendent Pat Weston, CEO Jim Millington, Town Clerk Ariana Henderson (remote), Peter Rogers, Catherine Ward, Robert Ward, and Franklin Hirrill.

Privilege of the Floor

Peter Rogers: Mr. Rogers spoke with Terry last month regarding properties that need to be cleaned up in the Town. He specifically spoke about the property located on the corner of Three Mile Point and 12E and the house across Three Mile Point Road. He would like the Board to drive by and consider the situation. There was a question to whether the house on Three Mile Point Road has a building permit for the work they are completing. Jim Millington stated that he left a card for them a few weeks ago and has heard nothing back. Richard Ingerson and he are going to make a plan to tackle these problem properties. Supervisor Countryman asked what their recourse would be. Millington replied that intimidation is the only thing that works. The other option is to send the property owner to Supreme Court, which would cost the Town a lot of money. There was further discussion regarding the unkempt properties in the Town of Lyme.

Catherine and Robert Ward: Catherine Ward stated her and her husband built their house on Ryan's Way off Old Town Springs Road in 2017. They were recently approached by a Solar Company and told they could receive a sum of money if they allowed the solar company if they were to sign an easement allowing the company to put power lines across their property line from the other side of the River. They received a contract to look over which they presented to their attorney who said absolutely do not sign for many reasons. A few weeks later the solar agent returned to state that none of the neighbors agreed to sign the agreement and now they were looking at putting the power lines underground. She spoke with Supervisor Countryman who stated that in November they were approached as a Board and gave her the information he knew. They are very nervous about the Solar Farm coming into the Town. She was concerned about the wild life and farms in the rural neighborhood being diminished. One of her questions was what are the tax benefits for the Town residents? Supervisor Countryman stated the Town would have to negotiate a PILOT but based on the size of the project the siting committee in Albany would manage project. They would dictate what is acceptable to them. Robert Ward asked if there is anything the Town can do? He also asked why this is different from when the Wind Turban situation? Supervisor Countryman responded that there is new rules in place and a new Office of Renewable Energy that has been created since wind turbans. Solar Companies

know they are unwanted which is why they offer so many benefits for the Town. We may be able to set designated areas in the zoning law where solar farms can and can't be. Robert and Catherine expressed their concerns about trying to get the word out to neighbors and Boards so that they are aware of upcoming solar projects. They are not against solar but also don't want to see it in residential rural areas. There was further discussion regarding Solar Farms in the Town of Lyme.

Franklin Hirrill: Mr. Hirrill just moved to the Town from Arizona. He is retired from the Army and part of the American Legion. He informed the Board about Red Friday. This is a movement created by a Veteran where everyone wears a red shirt on Friday to remember everyone deployed. It is a way to say thank you and appreciate the members of our military that are deployed. He was looking for permission to fly a red flag to honor those fighting for our freedom. He saw that there are poles that have nothing on them in the off season and he would like to hang his veteran flag and maintain the flags. Councilmember Gosier stated that the Lyme Heritage Center honors the Veteran's every year on Memorial Day by lacing flags on Veteran's graves. She asked Pat Weston what the regulations were regarding placing the flags on poles. Pat stated that he would have to check with National Grid for permission and there is a height requirement. He doesn't see that there will be an issue. Councilmember Villa stated that Mr. Hirrill should work with Pat Weston to coordinate the flags.

Zoning Complaint: Supervisor Countryman stated that he received a call about residents that share a backyard and their animals are constantly coming into their yard. Jim stated that if someone complains he will address it. Animals have to be enclosed. Supervisor Countryman will get Jim the name of the individual that complained so he can address it.

Supervisor's Report

The April Supervisor's report was received just before tonight's meeting and there was no time to review it so it will be approved at the June meeting.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Pat Weston reported that they have been really busy. They had two trucks break down. Both bills will be expensive. They are stocking stone and have the power run from the pole into Bicentennial Park. The inspector is going to come next week and they will finish the project. The CHIPS money has increased because of a pot hole program the State incorporated. Part of the money was approved already to spend on State Park Road.

Clerk's Report

Monthly Receipts were as follow: Total Local Shares Remitted: \$5,883.25; Total State County & Local Revenues: \$5,990.25 Total Non – Local Revenues: \$107.00

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

Resolution 2022-77: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve Abstract #9 in the amount of \$14,288.38; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2022-78: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve Abstract #10 in the amount of \$71,146.48; seconded by Councilmember Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Resolution 2022-79: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to approve April 13, 2022 Regular Minutes; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report:

There was no report. Supervisor Countryman spoke with assessor Susan Locy and Paul Warneck about the changes to the assessment roll. There was 200 assessment changes mailed May 1st.

Municipal Water Board Report:

There was no report. Supervisor Countryman met with Gregor Smith (BCA) and Attorney Joseph Russell about the water district extensions. The Water Board needs to review the information on Water District #2 extension. The cost is still quite high for the users if it were to happen. He would like the Water Board to make a recommendation to the Town Board about how they would like to proceed. There was discussion on how the new debt would affect the overall users or if it would. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin questioned the bill that was charged to Attorney Joseph Russell for Water District #2. Sally Port has to reimburse the Town for those costs. Councilmember Gosier stated that they have already paid the \$5,000.00.

Planning Board:

There was no Planning Board Minutes.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

There was no questions on the ZBA minutes.

Youth Commission:

Jayde Thurston was recommended by Stephanie Doney for the Summer Recreation Assistant position. Jayde went through the program and has continued to help Stephanie.

Resolution 2022-80: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to appoint Jayde Thurston as the Summer Recreation Assistant; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

The Youth Commission is not providing an umpire for the leagues anymore. They have found someone willing to fill the position as the umpire for the year. They have requested that the Town pay the individual. The Board agreed.

ZEO/CEO Report:

Jim Millington stated that he went to Court Monday regarding a septic issue on a property. He is waiting on information from the resident. Sally Port made a few errors on their project. He put a Stop Work Order on the project because the road was impassable. If someone got hurt they need to have an access road for the ambulance. They have fixed the road since.

TMB Cemetery:

Councilmember Gosier flagged four stones that need foundations replaced. Last month there was a suggestion to put the work out to bid. She would like it advertised and she would like to open the bids in June. The mower stated that he was concerned about how wet the cemetery was. He did the best he could with the conditions. The mowing contract will work out fine this year Councilmember Gosier reported.

Cape Vincent Ambulance:

Supervisor Countryman stated that the Cape Vincent Ambulance meeting was postponed until the following Monday.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

Barton and Loguidice

Supervisor Countryman stated that they are waiting to hear from Barton and Loguidice on our amended Zoning/Codes Law. They have only had input from one person. Councilmember Gosier stated that there are too many people on the committee and it is hard to follow when communicating over Zoom. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin asked if Supervisor Countryman reached out to them regarding the Property Maintenance Law. Supervisor Countryman did not. Councilmember Gosier stated that we are bound to enforce State Law, including Property Maintenance. When there is an issue the Town should be sending a letter, giving them a certain amount of days, if we don't get a reply we should take the next step. Supervisor Countryman couldn't find the steps in the State Property Maintenance Law written out. Councilmember Gosier responded that the properties need to be addressed regardless. There was a discussion on incorporating restrictions against solar in our zoning law.

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 2022-81: Councilmember Villa made the motion to enter Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Return to Open Meeting

Resolution 2022-82: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to enter Open Meeting at 8:32 p.m.; seconded by Deputy Supervisor Bourquin; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Adjournment

Resolution 2022-83: Councilmember Villa a made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried; meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Henderson

Ariana Henderson
Town Clerk