

**Town of Lyme
August 9, 2017
Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board
6:30 P.M.**

Tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Aubertine and opened with a Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at Tonight's Meeting: Supervisor Aubertine, Councilwomen Harris and Gosier, Councilmen Bourquin and Villa, Highway Superintendent Pat Weston, Town Accountant Cathy Satterley, Assessor and Water Board Chairwoman Marsha Barton, Jefferson County Legislator William Johnson and approximately seven others.

Privilege of the Floor

Jefferson County Legislator William Johnson – Sales tax is up approximately two percent, a bid has been awarded to a contractor for the erecting of the new radio towers, the percentage of airline passengers is up at the Watertown Airport.

Bob Gallagher – County Route 57, Three Mile Bay – Concerned with the amount of damage that has been done to properties in the Town due to this year's flooding. Over half of his property is completely destroyed and he would like to know how that might affect his assessment; he feels that he should not have to pay in property taxes what he has in the past.

Officer's Reports

RESOLUTION 2017 – 91: Motion by Councilman Villa and seconded by Councilwoman Gosier approving the July 2017 Supervisor's Report as submitted by Town Accountant Cathy Satterley of Bowers and Company. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent's Report – Pat Weston

The Highway Department has been busy with the County, a lot of work on shorelines.

The excavator is in the shop in need of \$13,000.00 in repairs; Pat feels it is not a good idea to put that much money into it. He has been looking into rental and purchase rates for a replacement.

Clerk's Report – July 2017

Total State County and Local Revenues:	\$6,298.15
Total Local Shares Remitted:	\$6,261.15

Audit of Bills

RESOLUTION 2017 – 92: Motion by Councilman Villa and seconded by Councilwoman Harris approving Abstract #15 in the amount of \$74,991.99. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2017 – 93: Motion by Councilwoman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Gosier approving Abstract #16 in the amount of \$57,379.68. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION 2017 – 94: Motion by Councilwoman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Gosier approving the Minutes of the July 12, 2017 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board as submitted by Clerk Wallace. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Assessors' Report – Marsha Barton

The Assessors have received two small claims filings for this year. A date has not yet been set for the hearings.

Marsha put an article in the Lyme Light informing residents that the Assessors will be out inspecting properties. The Assessors will now have signs on their vehicles and they will also carry identification. They will also be leaving notification that they had been there if they do not find property owners at home.

Municipal Water Board Report – Marsha Barton

Revenues are down approximately \$500.00 less than the same time period last year. It could possibly be due to flooding. Overall things have been running smoothly at the facility.

The Water Board discussed the upgrade to the Radio Read System at length. They are not ready at this time to give the Town Board a recommendation. They are gathering more information and checking to see if the company will possibly offer the Town a better deal. They should have a recommendation for the September meeting.

Water District #4 – Cheever Road Extension is still waiting on approval from the Health Department.

There has been no further information relating to the Lance Development – WD #2.

New Business

Flood Recovery Relief Act

RESOLUTION 2017 – 95: Motion by Councilwoman Harris and seconded by Councilman Villa making the decision to wait for more information from Senator Ritchie and Governor Cuomo before opting in to the Flood Recovery Relief Act. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Ballfields

RESOLUTION 2017 – 96: Motion by Councilwoman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Gosier authorizing Derrick Parker the use of the Morris Tract Ball Field for the Independent Fall League Program. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Summer Rec Assistant Appointment

RESOLUTION 2017 – 97: Motion by Councilman Villa and seconded by Councilwoman Harris approving Abby Hoover to immediately fill the vacant Summer Rec Assistant position. Five ayes. Motion carried.

The Office Floor Renovation Discussion will be TABLED until the September Regular Monthly Meeting.

Zoning Permits for Flood Relief

RESOLUTION 2017 – 98: Motion by Supervisor Aubertine and seconded by Councilwoman Gosier directing Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer Jim Millington to follow the letter of the law for any Town of Lyme residents who apply for permits due damages that occurred from the 2017 Flood. Permits will be required for “paper trail” although any fees associated with damages due to flooding will be waived. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Fox Creek Cemetery Estimate - Councilwoman Gosier

Councilwoman Gosier suggested holding off until 2018 to have Harry Wilson complete the other half of the stone work that is required in the Fox Creek Cemetery. Once that work is finished the Cemetery will be in great shape.

Julie would also like the Town Board to consider having Mr. Wilson take a look at the Three Mile Bay Cemetery and have him recommend which stones require the most attention.

Councilman Villa is extremely supportive of the Cemeteries and stated that the Town is obligated to take care of the Abandoned Cemeteries but he feels we may have to slow down on spending.

Julie understands Councilman Villa’s thought process; she is most concerned with dangerous stones and she will provide a list of them.

Supervisor Aubertine and Councilman Villa suggested we stay within our budget appropriations for the Abandoned Cemeteries and keep “picking away” at them.

Signs

Councilman Villa suggested that something needs to be done with the growing number of signs that are being placed along the roadside throughout the Town. These signs are causing safety issues, problems with mowing and they are in violation of the Town’s Zoning Law.

RESOLUTION 2017 – 99: Motion by Councilman Villa and seconded by Councilwoman Gosier authorizing the Highway Department to remove the signs throughout the Town that are in violation of the Town of Lyme’s Zoning Laws. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Land Acquisition

Councilwoman Harris spoke of the possibility once again, of the Town purchasing the Magee Property for a public park. In hopes of helping the process, two local businessmen have expressed an interest in purchasing a portion of the property themselves; in turn Councilwoman Harris anticipates that this could bring the purchase price to more of a negotiable number for the Town to work with. She is concerned that if the Town does not try to purchase the property now we may not have the opportunity again. This land acquisition has been discussed for the past 15 years. The asking price is generally too much or it’s not for sale at all.

Peggy Putnam – Chaumont stated that this purchase would be a once in a lifetime opportunity. The plans provided look phenomenal and she feels this would improve the quality of life for our citizens.

Supervisor Aubertine stated that the plan for the land is impressive but there is still much work ahead of us. The Town would not qualify for grants if we purchased the property over the appraised value. The Town Board must proceed with the process legally as to not cause any harm to our tax payers.

RESOLUTION 2017 – 100: Motion by Councilman Villa and seconded by Councilwoman Gosier requesting Supervisor Aubertine to set up a meeting

where the Town Board can meet with Attorney Gebo for the purpose of discussing the Land Acquisition of the Geordie Magee Property.

Roll Call Vote As Follows:

<i>Councilwoman Gosier</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Councilwoman Harris</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Councilman Villa</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Councilman Bourquin</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Supervisor Aubertine</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Privilege of the Floor

Deloris Coate – Failing Shores – Thanked the Town for keeping the Isthmus open and roads in good shape. She asked if there would be help with runoff due to what she feels are drainage inefficiencies that are affecting their property. The Town Board responded by stating that the Town cannot work on private property and it is illegal to do so.

A Motion was offered by Councilwoman Harris and seconded by Councilman Bourquin adjourning tonight's meeting at 8:33 p.m.

The minutes of tonight's meeting are respectfully submitted by,

Kim Wallace
Town Clerk