

November 7, 2019

Town of Lyme

Budget Meeting 6:30 P.M.

Water Rates Hearing Following

Supervisor Aubertine opened the 2020 Budget Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Those present included Supervisor Aubertine, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilwoman Gosier, Councilman Villa, and Town Clerk Ariana Henderson, there were no guests present.

The public notice wasn't read due to no residents in attendance.

Councilman Villa had a few questions on the budget figures. His first concern was why the engineer contractual fund was raised. The response was that we would need the money for engineered drawings for new buildings such as the highway garage and projects related to the REDI funds. Councilman Villa wasn't aware of the approval for the engineered drawing by Fourth Coast for a new highway garage. He requested the Clerk send him the minutes from the budget work session.

Another question Councilman Villa asked was why the Transfer Site Contractual account was raised. This was because of the new \$50 fee that the County Transfer Site is going to charge to haul the Town's garbage.

A third concern was that the ZBA Alternate didn't receive a 2% raise. This was an overlook in the budget. It can be fixed in the 2021 budget or we could do an amendment if an Alternate ZBA member is hired.

Supervisor Aubertine's main concern was to stay under the 2% tax cap and the residents still get their property tax credit check. Our budget was at 1.9%.

Councilman Villa's last concern was with the grant writer budget line. He believes that it is inappropriate to spend \$17,250.00 on a grant writer for a Town our size.

Resolution 2019-137 Councilman Bourquin made the motion to close the 2020 Budget Public Hearing; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Aubertine opened the 2020 Water Rates Hearing at 6:55 P.M.

There was no public present to ask questions.

Resolution 2019-138 Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to close the 2020 Water Rates Hearing; seconded by Councilman Bourquin; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2019-139 Councilman Bourquin made the motion to adopt the 2020 Budget; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; Aubertine, Bourquin, and Gosier AYE; Villa NAY; Motion carried.

Councilman Villa stated he voted against the 2020 Budget because it is inappropriate for a Town our size to have a line item for \$17,250.00 for a Grant Writer.

Resolution 2019-140 Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to pass the 2020 Water Rates schedule; seconded by Councilman Bourquin; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Aubertine asked which engineer the Board would like to use when creating a plan for the REDI funds money the Town of Lyme will receive. Councilwoman Gosier stated that O'Brien and Gere may have more knowledge on resiliency. They are a large firm that has dealt directly with New York State and we should consider using the firm. Councilman Villa stated he likes the idea to use Bernier and Carr who we know and trust and will look out for us. Supervisor Aubertine agrees with Councilman Villa and trusts Gregor Smith from Bernier and Carr.

There was also a discussion on the Vacancy the Board has due to the resignation of Board Member Alan Jones.

Resolution 2019-141 Supervisor Aubertine made the motion to end the 2020 Budget Hearing and 2020 Water Rates Meeting at 7:45 P.M.; seconded by Councilman Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Henderson

Town Clerk