

Town of Lyme
June 11, 2008
Public Hearing – Veterans Exemption Increase
6:15 P.M.
Regular Town Board Meeting
6:30 P.M.

Supervisor Aubertine called the Public Hearing to order at 6:15 P.M. Those in attendance: Supervisor Aubertine, Councilmen Johnson, Madill and Schreib, Assessor's Cornell, Barton and Gotham and three others.

The Public Hearing was held to consider a Local Law to increase the exemption for Veterans from its current levels.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Madill to close the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

Supervisor Aubertine called the regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and opened it with a Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were those named above and also Councilman Countryman, Superintendent Parker, Deputy Superintendent Price and approximately 15 others.

Motion by Supervisor Aubertine and seconded by Councilman Countryman to move into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.

The Meeting was called back to order at 6:50 p.m.

Privilege of the Floor

Judy Tyndall - There was an advertisement posted in the Watertown Daily Times for the Garden Club position and there were no applications other than Melanie Southwell. Judy asked the Town Board for the approval appointing Melanie as the Garden Club Beautification Employee.

Judy also asked that the Town would see to it that the trash that seems to accumulate around the sign on the Town line be picked up at least once a week.

Kathy Carr – Introduced herself as the founding member of the Lyme Garden Club and past President for several years. She thanked the Town Board for their continued support of the beautification program for the past ten years. The Garden Club has worked very hard to improve all of the public areas in the Town as well as several which are privately owned. She sincerely hopes that these enhancements are enjoyed and appreciated by the residents.

In her duties last weekend, while watering the pots outside the building. She noticed that the Town is getting ready to pave the side area. Kathie commended the efforts to mitigate the surface runoff problem generated by the storage of the road salt and sand near the Town offices. Her

understanding is that in order to correct the problem of the soil contamination caused by salt leaching into the ground of the Town Office Site and surrounding properties, the Town has decided to pave over the formerly contaminated area.

The Lyme Garden Club would like to see a small area next to the building landscaped in grass. The green area around the entry would soften the impact of the industrial feel of the building, which is located in a residential area. It would significantly improve the appearance of the site and would be a welcoming entrance to the Town and Village Offices for the public.

In her opinion since the Town Office is located in a residential area it would be more in character with the neighboring properties to have some sort of vegetation around the building.

The inclusion of a “green” space should have no negative impact on the parking lot plan. The existing parking lot has all the cars facing away from the building. This arrangement should be continued along the new area with the space near the new entry door left open and unblocked by cars and other hindrances.

Kathie gave the Board a copy of a map showing the area to be addressed and included the parking layout for handicap space.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 81: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Schreib to appoint Melanie Southwell as the Lyme Garden Club Beautification Employee. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Supervisor’s Report

Attorney fees are over budget, in large, due to the windmill situation. There will need to be some adjustments.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 82 Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Madill for the transfer of \$14,168.95 from the Water District # 4 Account into the General Fund. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 83: Motion by Councilman Madill and seconded by Councilman Schreib accepting the May 2008 Supervisor’s Report. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Clerk’s Report

Total State, County and Local Revenues: \$15,703.32

Superintendent Report

RESOLUTION 2008 – 84: Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Countryman to pave from the entrance of the side parking

lot for the sum of \$13,044.46 with the funds coming out of the Town CHIPS. Five ayes. Motion carried.

The shot has been done and there is 15,000 yards of shot rock available to the Town.

The tops of the fire road signs are here and there are 20 posts and steaks. Marsha and Warren will go out with Tommy to help designate the roads. The Fire Departments will get copies of maps when the work is completed.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 85: Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Countryman amending a previous resolution for the purchase of the shot rock for \$15,000.00. The Town would like to purchase 15,000 yards of shot rock for the price of \$23,000.00. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Superintendent Parker would like to purchase a gas pickup truck rather than a diesel. He is waiting for the 2009 bids to come out at the end of the month. He is most interested in the Chevy.

Jim Lawrence said that the County would take care of the shoulders on 125 at the Morris Track Field. The Town should proceed with the transfer.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 86: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Schreib authorizing Supervisor Aubertine to sign the County Route 125 Transfer Agreement. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Councilman Madill once again stated his concern with the condition in which County Route 125 is in. Superintendent Parker stated that he could do the clean up work and the County would pay the Town.

Councilman Schreib asked that the Highway Department order gasoline as needed for the bulk tanks at the Highway Garage. The majority of the time the Highway should use the fuel at the School Depot. It is more cost effective to use the Depot.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 87: Motion by Councilman Madill and seconded by Councilman Johnson accepting Abstract # 11 in the amount of \$1,041.50. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 88: Motion by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Madill accepting Abstract # 12 in the amount of \$43,928.14. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 89: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Madill accepting the May 14, 2008 Meeting Minutes as written. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 90: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Schreib accepting the Special Meeting Minutes of June 4, 200 as written. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Transfer Site Committee – Councilman Schreib reported that with the new recycling program the Town is benefiting well.

Residents are stopping and dumping their trash after hours. The Town has purchased some cattle gates in hopes to detour intruders.

There have also been some thefts at the Transfer Site resulting in approximately \$200.00 worth of materials taken from the premises. Locks will be changed and there will be only three people who will have keys.

Tim Claflin will be working on the compactor.

Department Reports

Youth Committee – Mike Nichols has resigned as the Recreation Director, he has another job and scheduling would be a problem. The Youth Committee would like to have Stephanie Rust Doney appointed as the new Director.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 91: Motion by Councilman Madill and seconded by Councilman Schreib to hire Stephanie Rust Doney as the Summer Recreation and Youth Director. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 92: Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Madill to appoint Cathy Munger as Secretary for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Charlie Mount – There are 110 children playing softball and baseball this year for the summer programs.

Assessors – There were nine grievances filed on Grievance Day. Of those nine, the Board of Assessment Review lowered five. They don't have the figure yet for the final roll.

The assessor's have started their fieldwork for next year.

They are also updating all of their Veteran Exemption folders.

Municipal Water Board – Point Salubrious Proposed Water District – the study has just been started.

Old Town Springs Water District # 5 – Nothing new to report.

Three Mile Point Proposed Water District – Mary and Tom Humiston hosted a meeting on Saturday May 24th at the Chaumont Fire Hall. About 50 residents attended. There was a lot of good information exchanged. Some of the people signed the petition asking for a study to begin. They are continuing to get signatures. The Water Board will be creating a database of the entire proposed district.

Fern Comins – The work has not been completed as of yet. Tim Mason has agreed to do the job. Guy Gosier will be contacting him again to see if he will be able to do it.

The Municipal Water Board is continuing to work on the Water Use Law Update.

Three Mile Bay Cemetery – Joe Repp dug a grave for a burial on May 17th.

Joe is unable to continue the Three Mile Bay Cemetery Caretaker job, due to the fact he has taken on too much work.

They have hired Terra House to replace him, with Board approval. This is going very well, but she and Julie have agreed that she needs more than 45 hours per month to do the job properly. She will roll over excess hours into the next month. If the latter part of the summer is rainy, they may need to add hours. The community is anxious to see it well taken care of. They will meet before budget time next year to discuss other options for next year.

With the purchase of a new weed eater before Memorial Day, the Cemetery is in pretty good shape for equipment now.

Julie is getting estimates for a roof on the vault. It will need to be done by next summer. She is also looking into putting rain gutters on the vault and the shed for water collection so the public can use the collected water for the use of watering flowers and plants in the Cemetery. This would be an inexpensive way of supplying a little water to the cemetery.

There is another burial this Friday. The grave digging is being done by Pat Weston. With the help of Tom Parker and the Highway Department, everything is running smoothly.

Planning Board – the Planning Board has been directed to continue the revisions and updating of the Zoning Law. In discussions with Boo Harris, Harry Staudenmayer, Norm Schreib and Jim Madill, they feel that in order to obtain a working document in a reasonable length of time they should have an advisory committee formed to handle the re-write. They feel that a small committee can be more productive than the large group. They would then work on the revised “Town Plan”, which is also outdated.

ZEO – Deputy Zoning Officer Jim Millington - was present: The Zoning Enforcement Officer provided a written report. There were 11 Zoning Permits issued from May 11 – June 10. Four complaints were filed and 16 site visits made. There were two Special Permits addressed and one stop work order.

Resolutions and Motions

RESOLUTION 2008 – 93: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Madill to purchase two bicycles and two helmets in the amount of \$200.00 (two hundred dollars) for the Willie Putnam Tournament. Funds will be withdrawn from the Town Development Fund. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 94: Motion by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Countryman accepting Local Law # 4 to adopt an exemption for Veterans at the same level as the County’s exemption.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Lyme as follows:

Article 1 Statement of Authority. The Town Board of the Town of Lyme pursuant to the authority granted under Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York and sections 10 and 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law hereby enacts as follows:

Article 2 Statement of Purpose and Findings. The Town Board of the Town of Lyme hereby finds that it has the ability to increase the exemption for Veterans from its current levels. The County of Jefferson has already increased its exemption. It is the purpose of this Local Law to adopt an exemption at the same level of the County.

Article 3 Enactments. The Town Board of the Town of Lyme hereby repeals all prior laws, resolutions or ordinances enacted by it to exercise the option to reduce the Veteran’s Exemptions pursuant to Section 458-a Real Property Tax Law. The Town Board does hereby adopt Real Property Tax Exemption for qualified veterans of the United States Armed Forces as provided by Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a.

Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 95: Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Madill to form a Zoning Advisory Committee. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 96: Motion by Councilman Madill and seconded by Councilman Countryman accepting the painting quote provided by Gary Welch for the painting in the Assessors Office, kitchen area, bathroom and new entry areas. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Attorney Gebo – Feels that it is not necessary for him to continue attending the Town Board Meetings now that the Wind Local Law has been addressed. He attended very few meetings prior to the wind situation. If he were going to be present he would like to be busy and serve a purpose. He can prepare any necessary paperwork prior to the meetings from his own office. For his attendance at these meetings he charges only for his first hour, nothing after that, it is a substantial charge to have him present at the meetings. It would be financially beneficial to us not to have him here.

Supervisor Aubertine thanked Mark for being here and helping him through his first six months in office.

Privilege of the Floor

Lois Lang – Asked why her assessment has been raised and changed to a Resort District. She is looking for a definition of Resort District. She owns

several hundred acres, wondering why the change. Jim Millington addressed the matter with her after the meeting.

David Bates – Point Peninsula – He is gone for four or five months of the year and would like to see the Web Site continue to be updated.

Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Madill to adjourn the Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by

**Kim Wallace
Town of Lyme Clerk**