

Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 10, 2019 6:30 P.M.

Call to Order:

Supervisor Aubertine called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., opening the meeting with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present included Supervisor Aubertine, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilwoman Gosier, Councilman Villa, Councilman Jones, Deputy Town Clerk Tara VanAlstyne, Zoning Officer James Millington, Highway Superintendent Pat Weston, Clerk to the Supervisor Robin Grovesteen, Legislator Bill Johnson, Geronimo Energy Representative Derek Hasek, Terry Countryman, Thomas Strejlau and David Bourquin.

Privilege of the Floor:

Jefferson County Legislator, Bill Johnson: Mr. Johnson has no new business.

Derek Hasek, Geronimo Energy: Mr. Hasek is here as the Senior Developer, Market Lead for Geronimo Energy, and would like to present the board and community with information about Geronimo Energy and their intentions. Mr. Hasek also recognizes that the company is primarily in the Mid-West now with that focus being on wind development, but the focus for New York is solar; they do however have a few offices within the state, one being in Syracuse and one in Albany. Lake Ontario is a key factor for their project; as well as claiming that the company is environmentally sound and that it believes that they will be a great fit in our community and the Town of Brownville as well.

Legislator Johnson asked if there was a tax abatement involved for this project and Mr. Hasek stated that the company “cannot support full taxation” and that they would be looking to pursue a pilot program with the town, school, and county, he also said they have used the “487 Process” with their other projects. Mr. Johnson stated that the local school has opted out of the “487 Process,” which Mr. Hasek is aware of and said that that is something that they have to figure out.

When asked if a substation is required the answer was “Yes, there is a need for a sub-station and it will be built by the Forester Corp. and screened.” Mr. Johnson also inquired about battery storage for the project with which Mr. Hasek replied “Wow! Yes, I’m impressed,” although “all projects are not a guarantee.” When asked if this was a “community project,” the response was “no.” The question also came up about National Grid being the owner of Geronimo Energy with the answer being “a deregulated arm of National Grid, National Grid Ventures, just purchased the company and made the announcement about 30 days ago.”

Deputy Supervisor Bourquin asked how much the “per acre” was for this project with which Mr. Hasek replied “No specifics as of yet,” he said that they take a 5 year period and by the 4th year they will know if it will happen or not. He also said that the goal is to “take no trees” with this project. Mr. Bourquin also ask about a “Good Neighbor Agreement.” Mr. Hasek said that they are open to many concepts and have an interconnection application, but it has not been set yet due to the project being in the preliminary stages. Once the project is more involved the company will be able to speak with the neighbors.

Mr. Hasek states that the company is “Farmer Friendly” and that they seek feedback from the community as a whole, not just the individuals in which they are contracting. He also stated that the company has realistic expectations with the landowners and the tax value of said landowners’ property will increase with the solar project. According to Mr. Hasek the solar project will bring a recurring revenue stream over a twenty year period, which will also include a “community fund” that can be used for a variety of things such as; a new playground, scholarships, or whatever the town as a whole chooses to use it for. He also makes the claim that this project will have “no maintenance costs for the towns,” and when the project is over Geronimo Energy will put the land back to its original state with no damage.

Supervisor’s Report

Resolution 2019-37: Councilman Villa made the motion to approve the Supervisor’s Monthly Financial report; Councilwoman Gosier seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Highway Superintendent’s Report:

Pat Weston stated that he wants uniforms back, “We look unprofessional.” Mr. Weston says that it’s “virtually impossible” to get the uniforms at Herb Philipson’s because no one matches. Pat has been in contact with UniFirst and that it will be \$8 per person per week for providing uniforms and laundering them; bringing the yearly cost to \$3,000. The board is reviewing the matter.

Pat also proposed to the board that the town buys a new snowplow truck to replace the 2007 Mack Truck that they have which has cost them \$70,000 in repairs over the last 4 years and is still in need of repairs which are approximately \$8700. The new truck will cost \$205,011 which includes winter equipment, and the stainless steel box. Pat states that there is already \$180,000 in the Reserve fund for this purchase.

Resolution 2019-38: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to approve the ordering of the 2020 Mack Snowplow Truck; Councilman Villa seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

The new highway garage was also presented, but Pat has not yet received the plans from Fourth Coast- this will be discussed next month.

Clerk's Report- March 2019:

Monthly Receipts were as follow: Total Local Shares Remitted: \$1722.93; Total State, County and Local Revenues: \$1751.93, Total Non-Local Revenues: \$29.00.

Audit of the Bills (Abstracts #7 & #8)

Resolution 2019-39: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to approve Abstract #7; seconded by Councilman Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2019-40: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to approve Abstract #8; seconded by Councilman Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of the March 13, 2019 Minutes:

Resolution 2019-41: Councilwoman Gosier made a motion to approve the March Minutes; seconded by Councilman Jones; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report:

The assessor's report states that they have made 315 changes to value for the 2019 Assessment Roll, with a rough figure of value added is over \$4,000,000. The Tentative Roll and Tax Maps will be received by May 1st, and change notices will be going out at that time. Grievance Day will be Tuesday, May 28th from noon until 8 p.m., by appointment or walk-in. The assessors will be sitting with the roll on the following dates; May 13th 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, May 15th 4:00pm – 8:00 pm, May 16th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, and May 18th 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. The 2019 State Budget has more Star changes included. The major one is for property owners who make \$250,000 - \$500,000; if they make over \$250,000, they will be removed from the exemption. They will however be eligible for a Star Check which will be processed by the state.

Municipal Water Board Report:

The board will be meeting with Gregor Smith again soon regarding the new proposed Water District 12E. It has to be decided whether or not Bourcy Shores will be included in the study, as well as deciding on just installing the main or installing the line directly to homes. No new reports on the Lance Shores Project and the Cheever Road Project is on hold at this time.

Planning Board:

There are no minutes to report.

Youth Commission:

There was no Youth Commission Report this month. Supervisor Aubertine stated that they are appointing coaches for softball and baseball; and that they have joined the South Jeff league for softball.

ZEO/CEO Report:

Total Permit Receipts in March: \$50.00. Total RV Permits: YTD: \$300.00, Total Permit Receipts YTD- \$2266.00.

Zoning Officer Jim Millington reported that he had been away at training with the state; the costs were shared with the Village of Dexter. He also stated that he would like to work a half day more in the Town of Lyme; Supervisor Aubertine said that he will check to see what we can do to compensate him for that extra time. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin questioned if Jim could be paid out of the Deputy Zoning fund, which he also stated was only budgeted for \$500. Supervisor Aubertine will check with Cathy Satterley to see if that is possible.

TMB Cemetery:

Councilwoman Gosier questioned if there had been an advertisement for mowing bids considering the Three Mile Bay Cemetery is year to year. This needs to be advertised and bids need to be in for the May meeting.

New Business

Proposed Sub Division Law:

Supervisor Aubertine stated that this was requested by the Zoning Officer, reviewed by the lawyers and approved. The lawyers said that this was a "Good Law!"

Proposed Short Term Rental Unit Law:

Supervisor Aubertine would like concerns about the revised law emailed to him.

Parks Grant Availability:

Robin Grovesteen is looking into a grant that will provide 75% reimbursement for the piece of land which was bought by the town. She said that we will need a real appraisal and a current survey at some point due to the fact that the process asks for 2 "windshield appraisals" first. The board gave Robin the "go ahead" to apply for said grant. Supervisor Aubertine will contact Mike Battista for a quote on surveys of the necessary pieces of land because we used him before and it will be more cost effective.

Advertise for & Survey Town Lands:

Resolution 2019-42: Councilman Villa made a motion to survey the necessary pieces of land (property) that the town owns e.g. Bicentennial Park, the new park, the old cemetery; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2019-43: Councilwoman Gosier made the motion for the advertisement of the proposed public hearing for the subdivision law and the short term rental law before the start of the June 12, 2019 board meeting with a start time for the hearing being 6:15 p.m., seconded by Councilman Jones; all in favor and the motion was carried.

DOT Emergency Services Agreement:

Resolution 2019-44: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to approve the DOT Emergency Services Agreement; seconded by Councilman Villa; all in favor and the motion was carried.

LYC By-laws Amendment:

Youth commission by-laws were asked to be reviewed; Supervisor Aubertine said that the current law states that the members are supposed to be two from the town, two from the village and two from the school. At the last youth commission meeting, Mr. Aubertine said that Jim Morrow volunteered along with Mike Nichols from the village, and Terry Countryman from the school. Supervisor Aubertine's questions to the board are; "Do we want just one town member there for meetings?" and "Is it okay to have two students, Seniors- one male and one female on the board?" Councilman Villa said that he thinks that having two students on the board is an excellent idea, but that the by-laws should be left "as-is" so you can have more than one person on the board from the town if it is needed or wanted. Councilwoman Gosier agreed with having the students on the board, stating that it makes sense. Supervisor Aubertine questioned if the term of the members should be change or left as-is, with current/active members being Heather O'Brien, Charlie Mount, Rebecca Krohn, Laura Williams, and Scott Radley.

Resolution 2019-45: Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to reappoint the "at large" members; seconded by Councilman Jones; all in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2019-46: Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to approve the two youths to the board and to change the reappointment of members to annually; seconded by Councilman Jones; all in favor and the motion was carried.

Roof Repairs RFP:

Zoning Officer, Jim Millington, states that he has not heard back from them (FABCO) as of yet.

Suzy Locy Resignation:

Resolution 2019-47: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to accept Suzy Locy's resignation as the Planning Board Secretary; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all in favor and the motion was carried.

Advertise for Planning Board Secretary:

Resolution 2019-48: Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to advertise for Planning Board Secretary; seconded by Councilman Jones; all in favor and the motion was carried.

Attendance at Town Clerk's Association Conference:

Resolution 2019-49: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to approve the attendance for the Town Clerk and the Deputy Clerk at the Town Clerk's Association Conference; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all in favor and the motion was carried.

New Business:

Councilman Villa presented the board with new business that was not on the agenda, due to him being out of town.

First he expressed concern about the two power poles just past the Dollar General that are "tipped," and would like to know which person should be making the call to National Grid in regards to this matter.

Councilman Villa also mentioned signs on the telephone poles within the town and suggested that the individual that placed the signs on the poles should be called personally to take them down; they are in violation of our zoning laws.

He also made mention of the "For Sale" sign across the street; requesting that it be taken down because it is already purchased.

The board was also presented with a copy of the Town of Queensbury's Town Code for septic systems along the shoreline; Queensbury is located in Warren County on the shores of Lake George. Councilman Villa provided the information so that it can be looked over and to possibly have something similar implemented for the Town of Lyme to protect our water and to reduce shoreline pollution. The law for the septic inspection (in Queensbury) only occurs with the transfer of property. Code Enforcement Officer Jim Millington was asked to call the Town of Queensbury and inquire how they are making this work for their town.

Resolution 2019-50: Supervisor Aubertine made the motion to adjourn the open meeting and take a five minute recess and return for an executive session regarding a personnel matter at 8:45 p.m.; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier.

Resolution 2019-51: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to open the executive session at 8:50 p.m.; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier.

Resolution 2019-52: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to appoint Anthony DiBella as a part-time transfer site employee on an “as-needed” basis; seconded by Councilman Jones.

Resolution 2019-53: Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to adjourn the executive session at 8:55 p.m.; seconded by Councilman Jones.

Respectfully Submitted

Tara VanAlstyne

Deputy Town Clerk