

Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
October 11, 2017
6:30 PM

Call to Order

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

Those present included Supervisor Aubertine, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilwoman Harris, Councilman Villa, Legislator William Johnson, Robin Grovesteen, James Millington, Marsha Barton, Dwight Goutremout, Randy Gardner, Chris Henderson & Chris Mensinga of Core & Main, LP, David Bourquin, Charle Mount

Privilege of the Floor

County Legislator William Johnson stated that he had nothing new to report other than that he was busy working on the County budget. There were no questions posed to him. There was no other public comment.

Supervisor's Report

Motion was made by Councilman Villa to approve the Supervisor's Report; Councilwoman Harris 2nded; all were in favor and the motion carried.

There was discussion of the Town's current financial standing, including Councilman Villa's comment that despite the usual weak 3rd quarter sales tax revenue, the Town was currently on budget. He stated that the next budget year should be based on the final quarter's sales tax numbers. Supervisor Aubertine aired his concerns about the probable detrimental impact on sales tax due to the consequences of the Lake Ontario flooding and advised caution in future spending in light of these concerns.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Weston was excused from the meeting and there was no official Highway Superintendent's report. Supervisor Aubertine mentioned a letter received from Mrs. Clark regarding necessary repairs to a fence at the Point Salubrious Cemetery. He has passed this request on to Superintendent Weston who will investigate and repair as needed.

Clerk's Report

There was no Clerk's Report due to the absence of the Town Clerk.

Audit of Bills

Councilman Villa made the motion to approve Abstract # 19 in the amount of \$102,348.95; second made by Councilwoman Harris; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Councilman Bourquin made the motion to approve Abstract # 20 in the amount of \$4,921.30; second made by Councilwoman Harris; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 13, 2017 Regular Meeting were presented. **Motion was made by Councilwoman Harris to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilman Villa; all were in favor and the motion carried.**

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report

Assessor Barton read the Assessor's report which included the results of the small claims matters as follow: 2 matters filed on behalf of the Georgia Inglehart Borden Cox Trust were dismissed due to filing errors; the remaining grievances seeking reductions were adjudicated as follow: Yassir and Dojana Salama- reduced from \$153,400 to \$148,900; Jon and Donna Podeszek-reduced from \$203,400 to \$190,000 along with an award of costs of \$30 for which a resolution must be passed allowing payment.

Councilman Bourquin made a motion to pay the Podeszek's costs of \$30; Councilman Villa seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Municipal Water Board- Radio Read Recommendation

The Water Board requested approval to purchase a new reader for the water meters, capable of reading both old and new meters. Two representatives from Core & Main were in attendance to answer any questions, though none were posed. The transaction would also include 35 new meters and 15 MXUs as well as the cleaning and refreshing of the current system.

Councilman Villa made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Water Board to purchase the new reader, meters and MXUs in the amount of \$18,500. Councilman Bourquin provided a second on the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Planning Board

There was no Planning Board Report this month, but Planning Board Chair Schweitzer had sent an email to Supervisor Aubertine who was able to speak with him just before the meeting. Councilman Villa asked that a review of past minutes or other research be performed in order to determine with precision what parameters had originally been set for the Planned Development District. Supervisor Aubertine agreed and stated that this will be done in time for discussion at the next regular meeting in November.

-

Youth Commission

Supervisor Aubertine stated that the agenda, minutes and notes had been sent previously. There were no questions posed.

ZEO/CEO

Jim Millington stated that it had been a very busy month and provided a report outlining his activities. Councilman Bourquin inquired as to the status of the issue on Lotts Grove. Millington reported that a letter directing the removal of a fence had been sent to one of the parties involved in the ongoing boundary dispute.

New Business

Request for Appointed Marriage Officer

A request had been received from Rachel Gaudet for the Board to appoint as marriage officiant her uncle Douglas Smith to perform her marriage ceremony in August, 2018 as provided by NYS Dept of Health regulations. Councilman Villa asked if the appointment was to be limited to that date only and Supervisor Aubertine replied in the affirmative.

Councilwoman Harris moved to approve her request to appoint Douglas Smith as marriage officer; Councilman Villa provided a second; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Supervisor Aubertine will provide Robin Grovesteen the necessary information for notification to Ms. Gaudet as required.

Live Video Online Questions

There was much discussion on this topic raised the previous month, regarding the propriety of accepting +/or responding to questions posed through the live-streaming video process. Concerns were raised about such things as identity verification and decorum, among other issues. Charle Mount stated that he was aware of a requirement to allow public access to any location where the broadcast of a meeting was available. Other opinions expressed included Deputy Bourquin's assertion that this practice could potentially spark increased public interest and awareness of the workings of Town government. After a discussion of the pros and cons, the decision was made to table the matter until the November meeting. Steve Weed offered to research any other issues that the Board may forward to him before the next meeting.

Schedule Budget Work Sessions

Supervisor Aubertine asked the Board if there was interest in inviting any of the organizations that had submitted funding requests to attend. It was decided that this was not necessary.

Councilman Villa moved to schedule the budget work sessions at 6:30 PM on 10/18/17, 10/25/17, 10/26/17 and to advertise same in the Watertown Daily Times. Councilwoman Harris provided a second; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Opening Of Monitor Heater Bids

Two sealed bids had been received as follow: Ray Cooley-\$25; Alan Crouse-\$100.

Councilwoman Harris moved to accept the bid of Alan Crouse for \$100. Councilman Bourquin seconded the motion and all were in favor; motion carried.

Robin Grovesteen was directed to notify Mr. Crouse and to arrange for pickup.

2018/19 NYS DOT Snow & Ice Extension

Councilman Villa asked if Highway Superintendent Weston was in support of the contract. Supervisor Aubertine did not know. C. Villa stated for the record his long-standing concern regarding being held hostage by the State every year by its threat to delay payments until receipt of the signed contract.

Councilman Villa moved to renew the Snow & Ice Agreement; Councilman Bourquin seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business

Penalty for No Permit

The Town Planning Board had conveyed its recommendation that the penalty for performing work without a permit should be set at double the cost of said permit. The Planning Board further stated that this was already covered in the law, therefore the only action necessary was to add this penalty to the fee schedule. ZEO/CEO Millington stated his support of this initiative.

Councilman Villa moved to institute a penalty doubling the required permit fee for not acquiring the proper permit for either building or zoning activities; Councilwoman Harris seconded his motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments from the floor. Hearing no comment from the floor, Supervisor Aubertine thanked everyone for their attendance.

Executive Session

Supervisor Aubertine made the motion to go into Executive Session, referencing Public Officers Law, items #4 & #5, further stating that no motions would be made at the conclusion of the Executive Session. Councilwoman Harris provided a second, all others were in favor and the motion carried.

A motion was made at 8:35 pm by Councilman Villa and seconded by Councilwoman Harris to enter back into the Open Meeting. All were in favor; motion carried.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Harris made the motion to adjourn at 8:36 pm; seconded by Councilman Bourquin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Grovesteen
Executive Assistant to the Supervisor