

Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
September 12, 2018
6:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Deputy Supervisor Bourquin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present included Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilwoman Gosier, Councilman Villa, Councilman Jones, Legislator William Johnson, Marsha Barton, Pete Rogers, Matt Biondolillo, Kate Wehrle, Suzanne Cornell, Gunther Schaller, Paula Borden. Deanna Lothrop, Tammy Sharlow Supervisor Aubertine is absent this evening.

Privilege of Floor

Pete Rogers: I'm here this evening regarding concerns relative to properties in the Town of Lyme in residential areas being rented out through programs or companies such as Airbnb's or similar companies.

This week, I discovered, residential properties within the Town possibly being rented out through these companies. This has caused some concern for myself and my neighbors on Three Mile Point in which such properties would be rented out on a daily, weekly or longer term basis.

I am concerned, as are my neighbors, to this new way of renting of residential properties. Most rentals are through on-line companies with little or no contact with the prospective tenants, even throughout periods of the actual rental.

All the homes in the Herrick Cove area are privately owned and occupied by the owners with one exception. I am providing a copy of issues that have arisen and problems being encountered by the property owners and residents. Issues include crime to house parties and more.

I, along with some of my neighbors are requesting that this issue be reviewed and appropriate regulations or zoning laws be considered to prevent the loss of our peace, security and safety.

I spoke to the Town of Lyme Planning Board. They stated I needed to approach the Town Board. Due to the large number of parcels in the Town of Lyme and the possible lack of knowledge by most of our home owners of short term rentals, I would strongly urge the board to address this issue with a degree of urgency. Thank you for permitting me to address the Town Board this evening.

(See attached Letter)

Deanna Lothrop- Lyme Community Foundation: I'm the president of the Lyme Community Foundation. The Town Board raised the questions if the Community Foundation is continuing to follow the contract as agreed? We the Community Foundation believe we are. The Foundation continues to provide the Copley House as a place to be used for cultural, educational and recreational uses. We provide yoga, club meetings, school meetings, social gatherings and more. We provide services to the community, including a print and online of the Lyme Light, which keeps our community informed of events at the library, the chamber and other organizations. We also provide a 501(c) (3) umbrella which provides organizations, such as the Garden Club, Lyme Improvement League, the Bicentennial and others to function. Currently we are preparing to host our 3rd annual haunted house. We hope the Town of Lyme will continue to support the Community Foundation. Thank you.

Councilman Villa: I have just a couple comments. Some of the events you've mentioned cost ¾ of the people money to attend. Also the articles submitted by Supervisor Aubertine does not take a political stance. If you felt it did, you could ask for the submission to be changed.

Councilman Bourquin inquired if you can tell how many people are reading the Lyme Light online. Terry Brennan stated yes you can track how many people are reading the Lyme Light online. A brief discussion continued between the Town Board and the Lyme Community Foundation on what could be funded by the Town and what could not be funded. Councilman Villa gave a list of documents he would like to see submitted by the Foundation for the next budget work session.

Kate Wehrle: Mrs. Wehrle attended tonight's meeting at the request of Supervisor Aubertine to explain the grant funding of \$125,000.00 attained by Assemblywoman Addie Jenne for the Magee property. She explained that the process could take up to two years to receive the funds. She was unsure if there are restrictions associated with using the funds for pay down of the bond, however assured the Board that she would find out that information. She was confident however, that the funds could be used for improvements to the property.

Mrs. Wehrle also stated that Assemblywoman Jenne has been focused on growing the maritime and tourism related sectors of the North Country economy. Kate encouraged attendance of the trustees to a stakeholders meeting on November 5, 2018 at the Clayton Antique Museum to get more information regarding this.

County Legislator William Johnson: Two quick things to discuss. There's been a lot of PR today about Jefferson County dog control, I know the Town of Lyme is no longer apart of that. Sent letters a couple of months ago to the remaining fourteen towns and the City of Watertown it appears Jefferson County Dog Control will remain open. Fire radio project: building been delivered, generators been delivered, nine towers are up. Still are schedule to go live this time next year.

Councilman Villa we have until the end of the year to buy radios? Joe Plummer stated use the date of Dec 1, 2018.

A brief Discussion ensued about when the Town should purchases the radios.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution 2018-98 Councilman Villa made the motion to approve the Supervisor's Monthly Financial report; Councilwoman Gosier seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Highway Superintendents Report

Superintendent Pat Weston: Pretty much wrapped up all the road work for this year. I have some patching to complete. Salt and Sand Barn is complete just have to put the electrical in. I've been looking over the winter equipment. Need a new sander. I have quotes for a steel versus a stainless steel. Steel is \$8,400. Stainless steel is 13,950. There is a 5,500 hundred dollar difference. Stainless steel would hold up longer. Less likely to break down. Councilman Villa stated he is in favor of buying a stainless steel sander. Councilwoman Gosier stated it seemed most cost effective.

Resolution 2018-99 Councilman Villa made the motion to authorize Superintendent Weston to purchase a stainless steel sander in the amount of \$13,950.00, Councilman Jones seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Clerk's Report- July-August 2018

Resolution 2018-100 Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to approve the July and August Clerk's report monthly financial report; Council Villa seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Audit of the Bills (Abstract #17 & 18)

Resolution 2018-101 Councilman Villa made the motion to Approve Abstract #17 in the amount of \$209,980.62; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2018-102 Councilman Villa made the motion to Approve Abstract #18 in the amount of \$207,642.33; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 2018-103 Councilman Villa made the motion to approve the Minutes of the July 11, 2018 Board Meeting, Seconded by Councilman Jones; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2018-104 Councilman Villa made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 8, 2018 Board Meeting, Seconded by Councilman Jones; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Report's

Assessor's Report

There was no comments on the assessors report.

Municipal Water Board

Marsha Barton: Status on the painting of the water tank is coming to an end. Bernier and Carr has to come and inspect the repair. Need to notify DANC going back off line. Department of Health gets the results from that reading after they clean the tank. I'm concerned they didn't meet completion date. Gregor from Bernier and Carr feels we should work with them. Bernier and Carr feels we should go ahead and approve payment. Pittsburgh Tank and Tower has submitted one certified payroll. Department of Labor has a payroll withholding on Pittsburgh Tank and Tower in the amount of \$ 18,797.50. The amount to approve for a payment is \$40,758.00. Withheld ten percent for completion of job. Plus other two withholdings. Councilman Villa stated he would approve payment if all documentation was submitted. Certified payroll was in place.

Approve Final Payment for Pittsburgh Tank and Tower

Resolution 2018 – 105 Councilman Villa made the motion to approve the final payment in the amount of \$40,758.00 to Pittsburgh Tank and Tower. As long as all conditions were followed. The remaining certified payroll is to be submitted, and original invoice is submitted. Councilwoman Gosier seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Planning Board

There was no Planning Board Report this month.

Youth Commission

There was no Youth Commission Report this month.

ZEO/CEO Report

Jim Millington was absent from the meeting but submitted a report, reporting the month's receipts as follows: total permits for August: \$1,605.00; Total RV permits YTD-\$1,700.00; Total Permit Receipts YTD: \$10,632.00, Total #Zoning & Building Permits Issued in August: 13

TMB Cemetery Report

Councilwoman Gosier: I meet with Harry Wilson a couple of weeks ago. Spent two to three hours going through the cemetery looking at headstones. Trying to come up with most cost effective way to repair the stones. Harry Wilson is working up an estimate for me. Most likely we will use the TMB Cemetery Savings to fund the repairs. Pat Weston and I went through and flagged bushes and trees that needed to be dealt with. The Highway department has done a great job of clearing the trees and brush. Fox Creek Cemetery work is complete.

New Business

Jennifer Sosa Resignation Letter

Resolution 2018-106 Councilman Villa made the motion to accept the Resignation letter of Jennifer Sosa as the Municipal Office Cleaning person, seconded by Councilman Jones; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

After a short discussion it was decided Councilman Villa and Councilman Jones would interview the four (4) applicants that have applied for the vacant cleaning position.

Appointment for Fair Housing Officer

Resolution 2018-107 WHEREAS, the Town of Lyme is in need of a Fair Housing Officer, and WHEREAS, Melinda Gault, Executive Director of CAPC is qualified to perform the duties required of said position, be it:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board designates Melinda Gault to serve in the capacity of Fair Housing Officer for the Town of Lyme.

Councilman Villa made the motion to approve the Appointment of Melinda Gault to serve as Fair Housing Officer for the Town of Lyme, seconded by Councilman Jones; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Set Budget Work Sessions

After a short discussion it was decided to set the date of Monday, October 1, 2018 at 6:30 for the Budget Work Session. This meeting will need to be advertised five days in advance.

Councilwoman Gosier made the motion, seconded by Councilman Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Old Business

Rescind Motion to Advertise for Clerk/Receptionist

Councilman Villa made the motion to rescind the motion to advertise the vacant positions of the Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Receptionist. Seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Appointment of Certifying Officer

Resolution 2018-108 WHEREAS, the Town of is in need of a Certifying Officer, and WHEREAS, James Millington, Town of Lyme Code and Zoning Officer is qualified to perform the duties required of said position, be it:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Lyme Board designates James Millington, as the "Certifying Officer" responsible for all activities associated with the environmental review process to be completed in conjunction with NYS CDBG project # 673IT221-17 awarded to the Town of Lyme.

Councilman Villa made the motion to designate James Millington as Certifying Officer for the Town of Lyme, Seconded by Councilman Jones; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Privilege of Floor

No one spoke for privilege of Floor.

Online Privilege of Floor

No one spoke for online privilege of floor.

Adjournment

Resolution 2018-109 Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Villa, All were in favor and the motion carries; Meeting adourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Paula Borden
Interim Town Clerk