

Town of Lyme
August 24, 2011
Public Hearing – Sole Appointed Assessor
Followed by Special Meeting of the Town Board
6:30 P.M.

Supervisor Aubertine called tonight's meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

Present at tonight's meeting:

Clerk Wallace read the Public Hearing notice as posted in the Watertown Daily Times on August 17, 2011 as follows:

Please Take Notice that the Town Board of the Town of Lyme, shall conduct a Public Hearing at a Special Meeting on Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Town Offices to consider a Local Law to abolish the elected Board of Assessors and replace it instead with a Sole Appointed Assessor.

Article 1. – Authority. The Town Board of the Town of Lyme, pursuant to the authority granted to it under Section 328 of the Real Property Tax Law and the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, hereby enacts as follows:

Article 2. – Statement of Purpose and Findings. The Town Board of the Town of Lyme has determined that although it had formerly exercised the option to retain elected assessors in accordance with the provisions of former Section 1556 of the Real Property Tax Law, it now wishes to exercise its option to change to a single Appointed Assessor, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law, Section 328. The Town Board finds that with the increasing complexity of the real property tax assessment and the training required, it is difficult for elected officers to keep current on all necessary training. It is believed that a single Appointed Assessor will have a higher degree of training and education consistent with the needs of the position.

Article 3. – Enactment. The Town Board of the Town of Lyme hereby declares that from and after December 31st, 2011, there shall be but a single Appointed Assessor for the Town of Lyme, who shall be appointed as provided in Section 310 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York.

Articles 4. – Severability. If any part of this Chapter shall be found to be void, voidable, or unenforceable for any reason whatsoever, it shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any remaining section or provision of this Chapter.

Article 5. – Effective Date. This Local Law shall become effective after mandatory referendum at the 2011 November election and become affective only after approved by the voters of the Town of Lyme and filed with the Secretary Of State.

Supervisor Aubertine opened the floor for Public Comment.

Charlie Mount – Is not in favor of having a Sole Appointed Assessor. He feels it will be a significant change and to no advantage to the tax payers of this Town.

Julia Gosier - Is in favor of the Town having a Sole Appointed Assessor's position. She feels that a Sole Appointed Assessor can do a more efficient job for the same amount of money or less. The Town Board would also have more ability to enforce the need for training. Julie feels that this person would be able to give a more skilled performance. The job of Assessor has become very complicated. Sole Appointed is a better plan for the Town at this point in time.

A Motion was made By Councilman Bourquin and seconded by Councilman Villa to close the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Supervisor Aubertine called the Special Meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2011 –141: Motion by Councilman Villa and seconded by Councilwoman Harris approving Churchill and Son, the low bidder, for the Water Storage Tank Painting Project for the Three Mile Bay Water Tower in the amount of \$28,145.00. Five ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2011 - 142: Motion by Councilwoman Harris and seconded by Councilman Johnson approving the idea of the Sole Appointed Assessor position be put to mandatory referendum on the November 2011 ballot. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Councilman Johnson and Julia Gosier each stated that it is important to maintain “home rule”.

A Motion was made by Councilman Villa and seconded by Councilwoman Harris to adjourn tonight’s meeting at 7:15 p.m. Five ayes. Motion carried.

The Minutes of tonight’s Meeting are Respectfully Submitted by,

*Kim Wallace
Town Clerk*