

Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
September 13, 2017
6:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Supervisor Aubertine called the 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 Bouquin, Councilwomen Gosier and Harris, Councilman Villa, Robin Grovesteen, Marsha Barton, Roz Gotham, Pat Weston, Gunther Schaller, Melanie Curley, Mike Bohm, Keith Lawrence, Jon Koffs, Amanda Miller

Privilege of the Floor

Supervisor Aubertine announced that County Legislator William Johnson was unable to attend due to another commitment, then invited other comment from the floor. Melanie Curley, of Weichert Realty, rose to discuss the recent sign ban. Supervisor Aubertine asked that she delay her concerns until the sign issue was raised under New Business. There was no other public comment.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Aubertine asked about the \$8,964 balance in acct # 8810.4- Three Mile Bay Cemetery, noting that the amount budgeted was to be only \$5,000. Councilwoman Gosier offered the explanation that the surplus over budget was due to the improper deposit of funds intended for the Fox Creek Cemetery Savings account. Aubertine mentioned that he and Cathy Satterly had identified a few other small issues that were being addressed.

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

Highway Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Weston reported that the highway department had completed work for Jefferson County for which a bill for \$12,000 had been submitted for reimbursement; he stated that additional revenue will be forthcoming when work in Clayton is performed for the County.

Weston informed the Board that the work on South Shore Road was now complete and described other work accomplished, including the removal of a number of dead trees.

Weston then discussed the condition of certain highway equipment, specifically calling attention to the poor condition of the tractor trailer truck, low boy and excavator. He had obtained estimates to repair the excavator for approximately \$12,000. Because the estimate was so high, he intends to attempt the repairs in-house. Weston and Bourquin explained the problems with both the tractor trailer truck and lowboy, agreeing that the lowboy repair could

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be delayed until spring 2018. However, repairs to the tractor trailer truck could not be postponed, citing the loss of nearly \$20,000 should the County assume the job of hauling trash from the transfer site.

Clerk's Report

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

Audit of Bills

Supervisor Aubertine explained that he had not put the bills into the Abstracts. He stated that he had reviewed the bills and asked for a motion to approve their payment.

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Councilwoman Harris moved to approve the payment of the bills; Councilwoman Gosier 2nded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Supervisor Aubertine stated that he had reviewed the budget transfers and had questions regarding Highway DB and Water District 5. He planned to discuss with Cathy Satterley these issues.

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Councilman Villa moved to approve the budget transfers, Councilwoman Harris 2nded; all in favor; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the August Regular Meeting were not available due to the Clerk's absence. Aubertine informed the Board members of his inquiry to the NYS Association of Towns regarding the propriety of tabling agenda items. He learned that Town Law allows for each municipality to adopt its own specific parliamentary procedure and that no motion was required to table an item. That said, he tabled to next month the reading of the minutes. Bourquin asked whether or not minutes of the August 28th Special Meeting were available. They were not, and the reading of those, too, was tabled.

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report

Assessor Barton reported that she had not yet learned the results of the four small claims hearings but felt confident that the outcomes would be favorable.

She then stated that she had a request: that the Board appoint Angela Kriigel to a part-time position to assist the assessors in completing the volume of file maintenance. The position would entail 12 hours per week at a rate of pay of \$10/hour, not to exceed @\$1500, to be paid from funds remaining in the Contractual part of the budget. She stated that since Kriigel would most likely be elected to the position, she could also receive training as a result of this appointment, and remarked that she was already on the town payroll.

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Councilwoman Harris made the motion to allow the hiring of Angela Kriigel to the part-time position with the Assessment Department; Councilman Villa 2nded; A Roll Call Vote was taken as follows:

Gosier: Aye; Harris: Aye; Bourquin: Nay; Villa: Aye; Aubertine: Aye

Motion carried.

Municipal Water Board

As the Water Board Report (attached) had not been disseminated, Water Board Chair Barton read from the report and answered questions from members of the Board. Among them was a general concern regarding the high cost of the proposed Engineering Agreement from Bernier & Carr for the water tower repair and repainting. The \$12,800 fee would be for the preparation and advertising for competitive bidding, collecting and analyzing paint samples, observation of the project and attendant expenses.

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Councilman Villa made a motion to accept the engineering proposal of Bernier & Carr in the amount of \$12,800 for the maintenance and painting of the water tank. Following his motion, much discussion ensued regarding the costs, the specifics of the project, the possible delay of the decision to afford adequate time for review and consideration of the terms of the Agreement, the possibility of the Town's own preparation and publication of the bid, requesting an appearance by Gregor Smith at the following month's meeting to provide additional information and explain the fee and more. After much discussion, Supervisor Aubertine stated his intention to provide a second on Villa's motion and a roll call vote was taken, the results of which were:

Gosier: Aye; Harris; recused; Bourquin: Aye. Motion carried

Planning Board

There was no Planning Board Report this month.

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Youth Commission

Supervisor Aubertine stated that the agenda, minutes and notes had been sent previously. The annual request was made for approval for the use the 12E fields for fall soccer. Councilwoman Harris moved to approve the use of the 12E fields for fall soccer; Councilman Villa 2nded; all others were in favor and the motion carried.

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The Commission also recommended the appointment to fall soccer coaching positions of the following individuals: Adam Linkroum, Jen & Jamie Alberry, Scott Radley and Heather O'Brien, all of whom had served the previous year. Councilwoman Harris moved to approve the recommendation of the Youth Commission to appoint the coaches for fall soccer.; Councilman Villa 2nded; all others were in favor and the motion carried.

Supervisor Aubertine will notify the Youth Commission.

ZEO/CEO

Jim Millington was unable to attend the meeting but provided a report which was reviewed. There were no questions posed.

New Business

Sign Ordinance

Supervisor Aubertine introduced the issue by citing the unusual increase in the number of signs posted along roadways in the Town of Lyme, stating that they were in violation of the zoning law. As a result, the Zoning Officer of the Town of Lyme, Jim Millington, was directed to remove all signs. Local real estate agents/brokers were present to discuss the issue and to bring to the Board's attention the importance of signage to the success of both their businesses and their customers.

For more than half an hour, the tenets of the local law were discussed. Much give and take occurred between the Board members and public resulting in a motion by Councilman Villa to direct the Planning Board to review the current law and to gather information so that this issue can be resolved as soon as possible. In the meantime, the decision was made to allow real estate signs to be placed as before as long as they are not in the right of way.

Barnes Cove Cemetery

It had come to the Board's attention that people were driving across the old section of Wilson Lane through the parking area of the Village Beach and continuing on to cottages beyond. Supervisor Aubertine asked Highway Supervisor Weston to erect a gate at either end of that section of the road adjacent to the cemetery to prevent further thru traffic. There was also discussion of the distinction in ownership of the beach and the adjacent park.

Permissive Referendum

Councilwoman Gosier reported the results of her inquiry to the County Board of Elections regarding the conduct of a public referendum. She was informed that the voting could be held at the Town office without the use of voting machines, utilizing only paper ballots and ballot boxes.

Old Business

Penalty for No Permit

Discussion occurred regarding the imposition of a penalty for individuals who begin/construct buildings without first obtaining a permit. The matter was tabled and the suggestion made to direct the Planning Board to investigate the issue.

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Flooring Quotes

Bids submitted in July were again discussed as were the options for moving the office furniture before and after the painting. Supervisor Aubertine made a motion to accept the bid from Bill's Painting of Gouverneur in the amount of \$1,750; Councilwoman Harris 2nded the motion; all others were in favor and the motion carried.

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Councilman Bourquin introduced the issue of the removal and disposition of the two Monitor propane heaters in the office. The inoperable one was to be disposed of and the other was to be advertised for sale in the Lyme Light with sealed bids accepted until 3:00 p.m. on October 11, 2017 to be opened at the October regular meeting at 6:30 p.m..

Motion was made by Councilman Villa to advertise the Monitor heater in the Lyme Light; Councilwoman Gosier seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Privilege of the Floor

Gunther Schaller spoke to thank the Board for their efforts to "bend over backwards" to satisfy the residents of the Town of Lyme and commended them for the accommodations made to address their concerns.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session convened.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Harris moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Villa provided a second to her motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Grovesteen

Executive Assistant to the Supervisor