

January 11, 2023
Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Meeting 6:30 P.M.

Call to Order:

Supervisor Countryman 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 Countryman, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilmember Gosier, Councilmember Countryman, Deputy Town Clerk Tara Van Alstyne, Highway Superintendent Pat Weston, Legislator William Johnson, Robert Ward, Jim Kron, and Rebecca Kron.

Privilege of the Floor

Legislator William Johnson: Legislator Johnson stated that he was adjusting to his new chairman position and was being pulled into all different directions. He also stated that there was not \$98 million in the fund balance, but there was actually \$54 million and they made the conscience decision to cut the taxes by \$0.57. Legislator Johnson stated that the fund balance was so high because the sales tax was higher than anticipated last year and again this year. Mr. Johnson inquired about the assessor position and suggested potentially using the County like the Town of Clayton and the Town of Worth are; Supervisor Countryman let him know that the Town made the decision to go with a sole appointed assessor.

Legislator Johnson let the board know that Fort Drum offered their facilities for Fire Training. There was discussion of the hauling fees that were increased by the County transfer site; Councilman Bourquin said that the fees have been raised for a second time and we haven't used it yet. Legislator Johnson let him know that "the only thing we make money on or come out even on is cardboard."

Legislator Johnson inquired about the Riverside Solar Project because he was told that their application had been approved. Supervisor Countryman let him know that the application was approved and that they are moving into the next stage, but that they have eight more steps to go through.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution 2023-10: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to approve the December Supervisor's Monthly Financial report; Councilmember Gosier seconded the motion; all were in favor. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent Weston gave the Board an update on the new Ford 550 that was ordered; the 2022 is no longer available so we have to wait on a new quote for the 2023. Superintendent Weston stated that if we don't like the quote we won't accept it, but if we cancel now then we will be charged a cancelled order fee.

Clerk's Report

There was no Clerk's report.

Audit of the Bills

There is no warrant tonight; Supervisor Countryman said that everything was cleaned up at the end of year meeting on December 28, 2022.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes are behind due to the Town Clerk currently being out on maternity leave; although there are the Organizational Meeting Minutes that Supervisor Countryman provided the board with.

Resolution 2023-11: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to approve the January 4, 2023 Organizational Meeting Minutes; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report:

There was no assessor report. Supervisor Countryman stated that they have been busy.

Municipal Water Board Report:

Water District #2 Extension that is being proposed is an additional 73 people in addition to the current District #2 users. The water board stuffed envelopes with postcards for the mailings of the survey for the extension.

Planning Board:

There were no Planning Board minutes.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

There was no ZBA report.

Youth Commission:

No new business other than the Summer Recreation Director officially retired so we will be looking for a new director.

ZEO/CEO Report:

There was no report.

TMB Cemetery:

Councilmember Gosier said that she is working on price revisions for the cemetery because our prices are so low. She is going to do better research on the other cemeteries around the County and about March will come up with a proposed price list. There was discussion about putting the mowing out to bid and Councilmember Gosier said that it would go out to bid in March and the bids will be opened in April's meeting.

TMB Ambulance Committee:

Supervisor Countryman stated that he went to the meeting, but neither Jeff nor Nick were there. Supervisor Countryman spoke with Jeff and he said that they're in a good place and that their financials are good and that they will be closing on the new building; one individual provided the Cape Vincent Ambulance with 2 checks of \$20,000 each to help with this.

Old Business:

Supervisor Countryman shared an email from McKenzie from BCA and he had also spoken with Tim Maloney about Veteran's Memorial Park. They said that the contractors would be on site soon to start the roof so that's moving forward.

New Business:

Supervisor Countryman stated that under new business is the "resolution for the Records Retention Schedule" because we cannot apply for a grant if the resolution isn't on the books. A Records Management Officer needs to be appointed which is done every year, it is Ariana. Supervisor Countryman asked for a motion.

Resolution 2023-12: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to adopt the Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records for the Town of Lyme, issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all in favor. Motion carried.

The Board called Councilmember Villa about the Records Retention because he is the one that initiated the grant due to our proposed municipal building so that there wouldn't be so much to move when the building is completed. The deadline for this application is March 1, 2023; Councilmember Villa said that it could be discussed later in Executive Session.

The Board said that the money from the grant wouldn't come to light until November because it has to get approved through the state and then through the Comptroller. The grant could be up to \$30,000 in combination with the Village of Chaumont. There is no guarantee that we will get the grant, but the chances go from 30% on our own to 70% with the village. Mike Martin from NYS Records suggested 30 weeks at 2 days per week just for assessment and this does not involve digitizing at all. There was more discussion about digitizing the records and options of how to go about it.

Councilmember Bourquin said that regardless of the grant this process needs to be done anyway.

Supervisor Countryman said that we needed 3 bids and that he was waiting to see the proposals.

Privilege of the Floor

Town of Lyme resident, Robert Ward, asked the board about the zoning regulations in regards to solar. Supervisor Countryman stated that Barton & Loguidice was supposed to be here to present to us what they are proposing, but they've had technical issues and will be at next month's meeting. Mr. Ward asked "So nothing has been done up to that point?" Supervisor

Countryman said that he spoke with the ZBA and the Planning Board to help with it. Mr. Ward inquired about setbacks and questioned if the project has moved forward. Supervisor Countryman stated that there was nothing on setbacks and that the only solar project that has moved forward was Riverside. Mr. Ward inquired about the guy that presented back in August. That was Eric Will, but the board hasn't heard anything since then. Supervisor Countryman said that no one has applied for a permit as of yet. Councilmember Bourquin said that when we originally did the law that it was personal or industrial, not communal like the companies are doing now. Supervisor Countryman said that these companies know that this is a prime area for solar based on sun exposure, snow levels, etc. Councilmember Gosier let Mr. Ward know that it is already in our law that they can't do commercial solar in the waterfront district. Supervisor Countryman asked if there was any executive session needed.

Executive Session

Resolution 2023-13: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Bourquin; all in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution 2023-14: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to close Executive Session at 8:11 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Resolution 2023-15: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Tara Van Alstyne

Tara Van Alstyne
Deputy Town Clerk
Town of Lyme