

February 14, 2024
Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Meeting

Call to Order:

Supervisor Millington called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present included Supervisor Millington, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilmember Farrell, Councilmember Donovan, Councilmember Gosier, Town Clerk Ariana Henderson, Highway Superintendent Pat Weston, Justin Bourquin, Jennifer Kingsley, Robin Grovesteen, Ken Kaser, Heather Lipczynski, Kathy Dyer, Susan Locy and Legislator William Johnson.

Privilege of the Floor

Legislator William Johnson: Mr. Johnson said he had nothing to report but is happy to answer any questions.

Robin Grovesteen: There was a letter that Jim Millington wrote on the Town website. She read the letter.

"We initiated a referendum on the New Town garage for two reasons. One so that we have time to work with the engineering company that designed the building to reduce some of its costs. Also, I am currently working with Senator Walczyk's staff and private organizations to seek grant monies that will also reduce the building's cost.

I am also putting together a plan to build our new Town Hall. I have selected a preexisting building that will only cost us site plan engineering fees and save on design expenses."

She stated that his letter and the petition were very different from his original statements the Highway Building. Unless she misunderstood, he wanted to scrap the plan and hire local contractors. This letter is saying he will work with the engineering company and is seeking funds which he should have done from the beginning. She asked Supervisor Millington, so all along he planned to work with Fourth Coast Engineering to make the plans more affordable for the Town. Supervisor Millington responded that he is working on many different options and the ones that will work out the best. He said that he posted his Supervisor Message on the website last week. Councilmember Gosier said that the Town Board was not aware of the Supervisor's message and was not a part of it.

Supervisor's Report

There was no Supervisor Report. Councilmember Gosier asked where the Supervisor Report was. Supervisor Millington explained that there were several issues that held up the report. The Town Board and Pat Weston requested to see the report the Friday before the meeting.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Weston explained to the Town Board that the Water Truck needs to be replaced. He sent the Board a quote from Van Bortel for \$58,000.00. He will be getting a quote from Davidson that he stated should be cheaper than Van Bortel. The turn around is 40 weeks for the

box and 20 weeks for the Truck. There was further discussion regarding the Town Water Truck. Pat will get the quote from Davidson and it can be reviewed at the next meeting.

Clerk's Report

Monthly Receipts were as follow: Total Local Shares Remitted: \$1,931.50; Total State County & Local Revenues: \$1,974.50 Total Non – Local Revenues: \$43.00

Resolution 2024-26: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to accept the Town Clerk's Report for January; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Tax Collector's Report:

We have collected around \$2,568,404.37 in taxes. 2nd tax notices will be going out in the mail tomorrow.

Resolution 2024-27: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report; seconded by Councilmember Donovan; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Audit of the Bills (Abstracts #3 + 4)

Resolution 2024-28: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve Abstract #3 in the amount of \$4,415.33; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2024-29: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve Abstract #4 in the amount of \$174,161.30; seconded by Councilmember Donovan; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Councilmember Farrell scrutinized the attorney bill. The total bill was 6,025.00. Councilmember Gosier said that just under \$1,000.00 was phone calls between the Supervisor and Attorney. Over \$2200.00 was related to the petition and referendum for the Highway Garage. Councilmember Farrell said that this is not a savings for the Town it is an increase.

Approval of the Minutes

Resolution 2024-30: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve January Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Councilmember Donovan; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2024-31: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve 2023 Year End Meeting Minutes; seconded by Councilmember Donovan; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2024-32: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve 2024 Organizational Meeting Minutes; seconded by Councilmember Donovan; all were in favor and the motion was carried

Old Business:

There was no old business discussed.

New Business:

Water Petition:

The Board discussed updating the study for the water line extension from Swamp Road West up to Indian Hill and up to Milens Bay Road, and the cost of this district. The Board will discuss this at a future Board meeting after John Condino from Barton and Logudice meets with the Water Board.

Solar Law:

Councilmember Bourquin would like to get the ball rolling on the Solar Law again. Councilmember Farrell asked if either Fire Department had any input on battery storage. Three Mile Bay Chief Justin Bourquin said that once the battery is on fire the only way for it to stop burning is when it burns out itself. Councilmember Farrell is also concerned about battery storage and resident's houses. We need to have regulations in our zoning law. Councilmember Bourquin would like to meet with Barton and Logudice to discuss the final updates to the Zoning Law including solar.

Groundskeeper Position:

Adam Stevenson worked for the Town last year as the groundskeeper. He weed whacked, mowed, painted, etc. Pat Weston said that he is young and learned and he would be willing to guide him again this year.

Resolution 2024-33: Councilmember Farrell made a motion to hire Adam Stevenson as the 2024 seasonal groundskeeper; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Veterans Memorial Park Committee:

Supervisor Millington questioned who was on the Park Committee. Councilmember Gosier reminded him that he was supposed to get a hold of Boo Harris. Supervisor Millington stated that he would call her after the meeting.

Letter of Recommendation for Jeff Call:

Supervisor Millington said that Jeff Call from the Cape Vincent Ambulance is looking for a letter of recommendation to the vacancy on the New York State Emergency Services Council to represent the Municipal Tax District. Councilmember Donovan said that there has been a vacancy on the board for 9 years. Councilmember Farrell asked how much time he would spend away from this area such as in Albany. Supervisor Millington will ask Jeff Call to email the Board what the commitments and responsibilities of this position would be.

Advertise Mowing Bids:

The Three Mile Bay Cemetery doesn't have to be put to bid this year. Last year we accepted a two-year bid.

Resolution 2024-34: Councilmember Donovan made a motion to advertise the Mowing bids for the Town of Lyme Ballfields and abandon cemeteries; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Clerk to Supervisor Appointment:

Resolution 2024-35: Councilmember Bourquin made a motion to take the Clerk to Supervisor Appointment discussion into executive session; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report:

There were no questions on the November or December assessor report.

Municipal Water Board Report:

There was no report.

Planning Board:

There were no questions on the December Minutes.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

There was no report.

Youth Commission:

Supervisor Millington reviewed the minutes from December. He said there was a discussion for the sheds for storage. They requested the Town purchase AEDs to have for the Youth Commission sports events and practices. Heather Lipczynski said that Jeff Call should be sending the Town a quote for ten AEDs. Councilmember Farrell was concerned about the price of ten AEDS. The Board previously discussed purchasing 4 which would be around \$12,000.00. The Board will wait to see the quote from Jeff Call.

ZEO/CEO Report:

There was no report.

TMB Cemetery:

Councilmember Gosier reported that there is nothing to report.

Cape Vincent Ambulance:

There was no report.

Insurance Policy:

Fullers Insurance Agency sent the Town Board quotes for the 2024 insurance policy.

Trident Insurance: \$66,312.96

NYMIR Insurance: \$41, 455.27

The expiring 2023 plan cost the Town \$49,937.65.

Resolution 2024-36: Councilmember Bourquin made a motion to use NYMIR for our new insurance policy and to exclude the crime portion and include the cyber portion for \$1,425.00; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Phone and Email Accounts:

Supervisor Millington said that he is using the Town email exclusively now. He sent everyone an email except for Councilmember Gosier. She assumes that it wasn't intentional, and Supervisor Millington agreed. Councilmember Farrell stated that he has only received two emails in 44 days of Supervisor Millington being in office. He is receiving no communication, and it is no courteous or professional. He stated that the Supervisor is also not using the Supervisor cell phone (315-767-8814). He is using his Code Enforcement phone (315-777-6115). This number should be eliminated from the Town's phone plan. Councilmember Farrell also stated he wanted answers on where the Supervisor would cut cost of the Highway Garage. There was further discussion regarding the costs of the Highway Garage. Councilmember Gosier asked if he had received the information for the Justice Court Audit. Supervisor Millington stated he would take care of this tomorrow.

Privilege of the Floor

Robin Grovesteen: Ms. Grovesteen has spoken to the Board several times about all the reports being available to the public online prior to the meeting. Also, generally speaking a grant writer will not work for a percentage basis. It will be based on an hourly wage. The fee for a grant writer is also included in the grant in most grants. Councilmember Bourquin responded that Clerk Henderson would have more time to upload documents and information to the website if she wasn't doing the Supervisor's job.

Online Privilege of the Floor

There were several comments read from online privilege of the floor.

Executive Session

Resolution 2024-37: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to go into executive session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss employment matters; Councilmember Farrell; seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Return to Open Meeting

Resolution 2024-38: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to enter the Open Meeting at 8:32 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Donovan; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Adjournment

Resolution 2024-39: Councilmember Donovan a made the motion to adjourn at 8:33 P.M.; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Henderson

Ariana Henderson
Town Clerk