

April 12, 2023
Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Board Meeting 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Those present included Supervisor Countryman, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilwoman Gosier, Councilman Villa, Councilman Farrell and Legislator William Johnson. Residents who attended were Lynda Wendall, Tammy Castor, Douglas Welbourne, Jr., Ralph Eastman, Anne Marie DeGroff, Cathy Stone, Cathy Ward, Jen Kingsley, C Bruce Kingsley, Kevin Kingsley, and Ed Sterth (?)

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jefferson County Legislator Chair Bill Johnson: Mr. Johnson reported that there was nothing new from the County to report.

Mrs. Linda Wendall and Tammy Castor; New York Citizens Audit: Mrs. Wendall made a brief introduction to their organization and Ms. Caster read from a prepared statement regarding perceived irregularities in voting records- namely discrepancies between County and State voter rolls. She distributed copies of their study as well as a sample Resolution that they hope all localities will endorse in order to further the organization's cause. Supervisor Countryman responded by providing a rebuttal document prepared by NY State, of which members of the Citizens group were unaware. The Board agreed to consider the resolution at some future date.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Countryman explained that there had been a few issues with misallocation of funds that had since been rectified.

Resolution 2023-36: Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to approve the March Supervisor's Report; Councilman Farrell seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Countryman also noted that his monthly report would include the Clerk to the Supervisor's Report going forward.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

In the absence of Highway Superintendent Pat Weston, Councilwoman Gosier delivered his report which was centered on his request that a new truck be ordered. It was explained that because of a 2-year wait for its acquisition, it was important to get it ordered as soon as possible. He had provided bids for 2 different trucks that were then the subject of a protracted discussion

on the merits of each. Councilman Villa moved to approve the vehicle that was Pat's preference; Councilman Farrell made the second; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Councilwoman Gosier also reported that Bill Scarpocchi had expressed a need to obtain supplies for the water department at a cost of \$2,481.84, due to the depletion of the on-hand stock.

Resolution 2023-37: Councilman Bourquin made the motion to approve the purchase for Water Supplies from Core and Main in the amount of \$2,481.84; Councilwoman Gosier provided the second; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

CLERK'S REPORT

Supervisor Countryman asked if all members had reviewed the report and whether or not anyone had any questions. No questions were asked.

AUDIT OF THE BILLS (Abstracts #5 +#6)

Resolution 2023-38: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to approve Abstract #5 in the amount of \$164,441.48; seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried. (Supervisor Countryman explained the specific expenditures causing the unusually high amount.)

Resolution 2023-39: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to approve Abstract #6 in the amount of \$65,900.13; seconded by Councilman Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

December 2022; Year-End 2023; January 2023; February 2023; March 2023

Resolution 2023-40: Councilman Bourquin moved to approve December 2022; Year-End 2023; January 2023; February 2023; March 2023 Meeting Minutes as set forth above; Seconded by Councilwoman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried, but with the understanding that Supervisor Countryman would correct any grammar, typography or other composition errors.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Park Committee

Supervisor Countryman mentioned the article submitted to the Lyme Light for the next issue, announcing the formation of a committee to assist the Town Board with operational and policy considerations. He also reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee had made a request to stage the Memorial Day 5K Run from the park. He informed them that it was uncertain whether or not the park would be ready by that time and would get back to the committee as progress is

noted. He further stated to the Board that during the most recent construction meeting, the developer stated that construction is “on track” for Memorial Day.

Zoning Update:

Supervisor Countryman explained that John Condino was supposed to provide their recommendations for both the RV and Solar laws by the previous week. It’s now scheduled to be submitted by the week of 4/19, at which time it will be reviewed and, barring any suggested changes, will be moved to the Town Attorney for his review and subsequent filing.

Solar Assessment / Exemption

Supervisor Countryman explained the issues that have arisen as a result of the PILOT entered into by Lyme CSD and Northern NY Foundation. He had met with Lyme School Superintendent Pat Gibbons the previous week. At present, it appears that the other entities have been disenfranchised from any possible benefits from the Convergent solar project. Discussions are continuing among the JCIDA, Jefferson County, Town of Lyme and others to seek some agreement with the developer.

NEW BUSINESS

Mowing Bids- Ballfields & Abandoned Cemeteries:

Bids were received from 6 businesses as follow:

Limitless Landscape: cemeteries \$405/mow; \$805 spring cleanup
ballfields \$425/service

1000 Islands: \$2,100 /mow

Danford: \$18,500 for season

Lawn Barbers: \$20,000 for season

Blue Sky: \$19,500 for season

Ricky’s: \$18,500 for season

JW Enterprises: \$13,800 for season

Resolution 2023-41: Councilman Bourquin made the motion to award the bid to JW Enterprises; Councilman Villa 2nd; all in favor, motion carried

Mowing Bids- Three Mile Bay Cemetery:

Bids were received from 4 businesses:

Limitless: \$500/mow; \$600 / 1st mow and spring cleanup

Ultra: \$450/mow

Lawn Doctors: \$550/mow

Blue Sky: \$600/mow

Resolution 2023-42: Councilwoman Gosier moved to award the bid to UltraCut; Councilman Farrell 2nd; all in favor; motion carried.

Website Proposals:

Supervisor Countryman reported the results of his meetings with both Ben Rubacha and Matt Turcotte of Northshore Solutions regarding redevelopment, maintenance and hosting of the Town website; proposals as follow: Rubacha- \$1,675; Northshore- \$4,200.

Resolution 2023-43: Councilman Bourquin moved to choose the services of Ben Rubacha; Councilwoman Gosier made the second; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

There was also discussion on Rubacha's bid of \$775 to provide a laptop and docking station for the Town Clerk's use from home. A number of questions were raised by members of the Board and it was decided to table the issue until more information is received.

Sole Appointed Assessor:

Supervisor Countryman explained that it had been determined by NY State that Assessor Locy was ineligible for appointment to the Sole Assessor Position. With input and assistance from a number of parties, a temporary solution has been arranged. Marleen Norfolk, an assessor for many years, has agreed to be appointed as an assessor on an interim basis to solve the immediate problem at this critical time for assessing staff. The Board determined the length of the interim assignment should be for a period of 4 months at an hourly rate of \$40.

Resolution 2023-44: Councilwoman Gosier made the motion to immediately advertise to fill the position of Sole Appointed Assessor; Councilman Farrell seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Part-time Summer Worker-Athletic Fields:

In conversation with his predecessor, former Supervisor Scott Aubertine, Supervisor Countryman learned that there had been established a never before utilized budget line item that would fund a part-time summer worker to perform necessary operational tasks and upkeep for the various recreation fields and parks. Mr. Aubertine also offered to train said employee for a few weeks should one be hired. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea and that a 25-hour per week schedule, paid at minimum wage, would be a tremendous asset to the individuals and teams who use these facilities. Supervisor Countryman and Robin Grovesteen are to develop a job description as soon as possible.

Resolution 2023-45: Councilman Farrell made the motion to advertise and Councilwoman Gosier seconded his motion; all were in favor- motion carried.

Independence Point Water:

Correspondence had been received from residents of Hart Road on Independence Point, referencing a historical review of documentation regarding the extension of Water District # 1 to

include properties located at the end of the Point. The Board discussed certain legal prohibitions as well as the impossibility to connect directly to water district #1. The Supervisor stated his intention to investigate further with the Village Mayor and others.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assessor's Report

There were no questions on the assessors report.

Municipal Water Board

Supervisor Countryman has been attending the regular meetings of this board. He noted that a representative from DANC is scheduled to attend the next meeting and, also informed the Board that the individual assigned to attend the DANC meetings had not yet been participating.

Planning Board

There was no Planning Board Report this month.

Youth Commission

The Youth Commission has been busy scheduling events for the spring season.

ZEO/CEO Report

There were no questions on the ZEO/CEO report this month.

ZBA:

The ZBA conducted 3 hearings this month as follow:

1. RV variance request was tabled
2. Setback variance request, from 30' to 25', was granted
3. Proposed Solar Development on Old Town Springs Road: Variance request was tabled pending receipt of recommendations from Jefferson County Planning Department.

TMB Cemetery Report

Councilwoman Gosier stated that the cemetery appears to have fared well over the winter as compared to recent years. She plans to schedule a meeting soon with Highway Superintendent Weston to discuss various tasks that may be assigned to the summer helpers.

Cape Vincent Ambulance Squad

Supervisor Countryman attended their meeting on 4/11. The purchase of the building is now complete and they are working on renovations. Until made habitable, the crew is lodging nearby. They reported 40 calls, 29 transports, 4-5 mutual aid responses, and 2 calls to which they were unable to respond; once due to engagement on another call; the other because of a staffing issue. Chaumont first responders covered that situation. The Supervisor also stated that the financials of the organization look strong.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

No one spoke for either the in-person or online privilege of the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2023-46: Councilman Villa moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:02 pm. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Gosier.

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

Resolution 2023-47: Councilman Villa moved to return to the regular session at 10:13 pm; Councilman Farrell seconded the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 2023-48: Councilman Farrell made the motion to adjourn; Deputy Supervisor Bourquin seconded the motion; meeting was adjourned at 10:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Grovesteen

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Clerk to the Supervisor