

June 14, 2023
Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Meeting 6:30 P.M.

Call to Order:

Supervisor Countryman called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present included Supervisor Countryman, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilmember Farrell, Councilmember Villa, Town Clerk Ariana Henderson, Highway Superintendent Patrick Weston, Mary Catherine White, Tina Fahringer, William Johnson, Kasey Gray, William Pfaff, Ken Petrones, Jennifer Kingsley, Bruce Kingsley and Alec Wendell.

Privilege of the Floor

Legislator William Johnson: Mr. William Johnson reported that the County passed the Real Property tax exemption law for volunteer EMS and Fire services. It will allow them up to a 10% exemption. There are a few State Bills that haven't been signed yet but the Board may be interested in. One Bill includes a PILOT and property tax cap. The state is going to allow a property under a PILOT can be used in the tax levy growth factor. This will help the schools tax cap issue some. It passed by both houses. Another bill passed is a change in the election years for legislators to be even years. National Grid is doing major renovations and upgrades. They are building a substation in Brownville, upgrades to the Watertown substation and upgrades the transmission lines. This is all got to do with the Governors renewable energy plan.

Interim Assessor Marlene Norfolk: Ms. Norfolk wanted to update the Town Board on the equalization rate for the Town of Lyme. There was a reduction in the equalization rate from 94% to 82.7% in 2023. Her concern was that the Town was experiencing a reduction. Marlene explained how the equalization rate is calculated. She predicts that our rate will continue to go down. This may not be in our favor for taxes but in the Town's favor for sales tax. She is hoping that the Town will do a reval in the future. There hasn't been one completed since 2013. She spoke with the County to get their timelines and cost for a reval. The Town of Lyme has 3,339 Parcels. It will cost \$17.00 per parcel. It would be at least 2-3 years before the County would fit us into their schedule.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution 2023-64: Councilmember Farrell made the motion to approve the May Supervisor's Monthly Financial report; Councilmember Villa seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Resolution 2023-65: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to accept the resignation of Andrew Quencer; seconded by Councilmember Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2023-66: Councilmember Villa made the motion to advertise for a Full MEO position; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Pat stated that they are waiting on elevations from BCA to finish the work on the park. He hasn't heard anything more on paving. He stated that the F-550 truck has been delivered. He would like to put the old F-550 out to bid.

Resolution 2023-67: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to put the old F-550 out to bid; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Clerk's Report

Monthly Receipts were as follow: Total Local Shares Remitted: \$6,722.25; Total State County & Local Revenues: \$6,804.75 Total Non – Local Revenues: \$82.50

Councilmember Villa asked why there were only fees for 5 Seasonal Mobile Residency Permits and there were 6 registered. Clerk Henderson stated that one permit was paid for last year and was not approved because they were trying to put two campers on one property which violates the Zoning Law. The Town carried the permit fee over to this year instead of refunding the funds.

Supervisor Countryman stated that the Special Election for Point Salubrious Water District#6 will be held on June 21, 2023, from Noon to 8:00 p.m.

Audit of the Bills (Abstracts #9 +10)

Resolution 2023-68: Councilmember Villa made the motion to approve Abstract #9 in the amount of \$151,040.43; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2023-69: Councilmember Villa made the motion to approve Abstract #10 in the amount of \$334,164.78; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Resolution 2021-70: Councilmember Villa made a motion to approve the May 10, 2023, Minutes with the amendment to fix Councilmember Countryman to Councilmember Farrell; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Old Business:

Prepayments for Veterans Memorial Park:

Resolution 2023-71: Councilmember Villa made a motion to submit the payment for Powis for \$152,625.31 to DASNY; seconded by Deputy Supervisor Bourquin; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Councilmember Villa stated that he is not happy with the speed at which Veteran's Park is being completed. The Park should have been done in April and it is now being dragged into July. Councilmember Farrell said we need to include an end construction date for future contracts, so this doesn't happen again. There is another construction meeting June 22nd to receive updates. Supervisor Countryman spoke with BCA and there is terminology in the contract that if the project wasn't finished by a specific date action can take place.

Resolution 2023-72: Councilmember Farrell made a motion to submit the payment for Northern Pioneer for \$3,278.57 to DASNY; seconded by Councilmember Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Lyme Youth Commission Requests:

The Lyme Youth Commission is ready for the Summer Recreation to begin July 11th. The employees are Karley Sherman Director, Jade Thurston as a helper, Reagan Cole as a Student helper and Makenzie Goutremout as assistant director. Stephanie Doney is going to be training Karley and showing her the ropes to get started. They are discussing using the buses for their field trips.

Water District #2:

Supervisor Countryman said that moving forward with the Water District #2 extension is not a viable option. The Water Board would like the Town Board to consider making the extension its own district. Supervisor Countryman believes that this request should come from the people. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin would like to get figures before spending thousands on another water district but is in favor of trying to get more resident's public water.

New Business:

Deputy Town Clerk Resignation:

Resolution 2023-73: Councilmember Farrell made a motion to accept Deputy Clerk Tara VanAlstyne's resignation with regret; seconded by Councilmember Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2023-74: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made a motion to advertise the Deputy Town Clerk position; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Joint Meeting with Village/Chaumont Fire Department:

Supervisor Countryman attended the Chaumont Fire Department Meeting with Councilmember Villa. The fire department had Pinsky Law Firm representing them. The Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department is looking at becoming a Fire District. We need a resolution to have a Joint Meeting with the Chaumont Fire Department, Village of Chaumont, and Town of Lyme Board. The meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Our Town Attorney is familiar with the situation because it has happened in other Towns. The Fire District would have to report to the State Comptroller and do an AUD every year. Councilmember Farrell asked if this would help the department financially. Will Lipczynski Chaumont Fire Chief responded that it would help get equipment, grants, etc.

**RESOLUTION TO HOLD JOINT MEETING
TOWN OF LYME**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Lyme having duly convened this date for the purpose of considering the formation of a joint fire district pursuant to the provisions of section 189-a of the Town Law and section 22-2210 of the Village Law; and

WHEREAS, such joint district would include all of the parcels of land within the incorporated limits of the Village of Chaumont and a portion of the parcels of land in the Town of Lyme which are presently in a fire protection district and served by the Chaumont Fire Department;

WHEREAS, at least the majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Lyme deems it in the public interest to hold a joint meeting with the Village of Chaumont Village Board to consider the question of the formation of a joint fire district for the Village of Chaumont and a portion of the Town of Lyme which is presently served by the Chaumont Fire Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lyme and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont will hold a joint meeting on the 11th day of July, 2023 at the Chaumont Fire Department, 11385 NY-12E, Chaumont, NY at 6:30 p.m. to consider the formation of said joint fire district, and for such other and further action on the part of said Boards with relation thereto as may be authorized and prescribed by law.

Resolution 2023-75: Supervisor Countryman made a motion to hold a Joint Meeting with the Chaumont Fire Department and Village of Chaumont; seconded by Councilmember Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Town Clerk Deputy Registrar:

Clerk Henderson asked the Board to approve Erin Fulton as Deputy Registrar for the Town of Lyme. If Clerk Henderson could not be at the office or available to certify a death Erin would complete the certification as Deputy Registrar.

Resolution 2023-76: Councilmember Farrell made a motion to appoint Erin Fulton as Deputy Registrar for the Town of Lyme; seconded by Councilmember Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report:

Supervisor Countryman stated that this would be discussed in executive session.

Municipal Water Board Report:

There were no questions.

Planning Board:

There was no minutes submitted.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

Supervisor Countryman reported that the meeting will be held July 13th because of the Holiday. Our Town Attorney has been working with the ZBA on the Solar Project Application.

Youth Commission:

The Groundskeeper has a list of duties and is working out well.

ZEO/CEO Report:

Jim Millington is leaving for Texas tomorrow.

TMB Cemetery:

Councilmember Gosier reported to Supervisor Countryman that everything is going well with the student workers. Pat Weston requested that we put digging the Three Mile Bay cemetery grave digging out to bid. It is costing the Town more money than they are receiving to have our highway department do the work. There are 6 to 8 burials a summer plus cremains burials. Councilmember Gosier agreed that it was a good plan to hire out the digging.

Resolution 2023-77: Councilmember Farrell made a motion to advertise the grave digging for Three Mile Bay Cemetery; seconded by Councilmember Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Cape Vincent Ambulance:

Supervisor Countryman said the meeting was held in the new building. It is not being used yet but is painted and will be ready to use soon.

Privilege of the Floor

William Pfaff: Mr. Pfaff asked why the fire district wouldn't include Three Mile Bay Fire Department. Supervisor Countryman said that they are two sperate departments. The departments can't be forced into joining the fire districts. He said he would like for both departments to fall under one district.

Alec Wendall: Mr. Wendall asked for any updates on the Hart/Independence Road Water issue. Supervisor Countryman said he has spoken with several people about the issue. He has a letter that the Town connected Water District#1 in 2001 even though it was formed in 1993 from DANC. He is still researching the situation.

Kathy Dyer: Water Board Chair Kathy Dyer clarified that there is several billion dollars available in infrastructure. The Water Board simply wants to create the district so grants can be applied for. She said the engineers made four different proposals and doesn't believe forming the district needs to start from the beginning. Supervisor Countryman will have to go over the information

with the engineers and lawyer to see what the necessary process will be. He said we are already way over budget in engineering and lawyer fees for this year.

Online Privilege of the Floor

There was no online privilege of the floor.

Executive Session

Resolution 2023-78: Councilmember Villa made the motion to go into executive session; Councilmember Farrell seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Return to Open Meeting

Resolution 2023-79: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to enter the Open Meeting at 9:10 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2023-80: Councilmember Villa made the motion to allow Susan Locy to attend assessment school at Cornell University seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Adjournment

Resolution 2023-81: Councilmember Villa a made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried; meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Henderson

Ariana Henderson
Town Clerk