

Town of Lyme
12175 NYS Route 12E
Chaumont, NY 13622
July 9, 2025
Regular Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m.

A public hearing and regular meeting of the Town Board of Lyme, County of Jefferson and the State of New York was held at 12175 NYS Route 12 E at 6:15 P.M., on the 9th day of July 2025.

Regular 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, Councilmember Farrell, Councilmember Bourquin, Councilmember Gosier, Town Clerk Ariana Henderson, Legislator William Johnson, Jennifer Kingsley, Charles Bruce Kingsley, Josh Rogers, Julie Grieco, Heather Lipczynski, Ted Smith, Cathy Ward, Susan Nichols, Cara Jerome, Cindy Lachenauer, Jose Bernier, Jane Collins, Tracey Lawson, Terry Countryman, Kim Heiselman, Renee Thruston and Mr. Wendall.

Legislator William Johnson:

Legislator Johnson reported that the County passed a local law regarding short term rental occupancy tax. They adopted the JCC budget. The County Share was \$5,695,000.00. They're also purchasing an old building on Arsenal Street.

Josh Rogers:

Josh Rogers read the following from AES Solar:

"We were grateful for the opportunity to engage with the community at the meeting on June 30th. Getting community feedback is key to our process. Please reach out to Daniel with any questions or concerns at Daniel.postal@aes.com. We would also like to reiterate information from that meeting, that there will be no Battery Energy Storage System at Riverside or Bay Breeze Solar."

Jane Collins asked if this was referring to both projects. Josh Rogers clarified that neither project would have battery storage.

Ted Smith:

Mr. Smith read the results of the survey:

Solar Survey Results of June 30, 2025 CCRS Meeting

"Concerned Citizens for Responsible Solar" held a public informational meeting on June 30, 2025 at the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department community hall. It was standing room only with 125

people plus listened to a power point presentation of solar projects in Jefferson County. Two of which will make the town of Lyme home to almost twice the Mega Watt power than the whole of Jefferson County. They are called Riverside Solar and Bay Breeze. AES is the company developing these solar projects, and together encompass 2500 acres.

The meeting lasted for an hour and a half. The majority was taken up with questions from the floor to Dan Postal, a representative of AES.

Besides informational maps and displays, a seven question survey was passed out to those in attendance. 75 surveys were completed. Below are the responses.

1. Are you in favor of large Scale Solar?: 88% No
2. Should Ag land be converted for Solar?: 85% No
3. Should solar battery storage be sited within 1 mile of residential housing, school, church, sports field? 95% No
4. Are you concerned that the Town of Lyme may have to pay decommissioning costs for clean up and removal when the panels no longer function? 83% Yes
5. Should drilling be allowed within ¼ mile of project lot lines? 89% No
6. Should adjacent landowners' water wells be tested? 92% Yes, 85% said it should be tested annually
7. 75% are interested in knowing more on solar activities in our community

Supervisor's Report

Resolution 2025-147: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to transfer \$111,996.52 from the Highway Equipment Reserve to the General Fund to pay for the New Tractor; Councilmember Farrell seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Proposed Adjustments

16204.01.03 Buildings CE-Water	413.76
16204.01 Building CE	(413.76)
19104.01 Unallocated Ins	1,322.46
50104.01 Supt of Highway CE	2,191.72
19904.01 Contingency	(3,514.18)
51302.03 Machinery EQ	85,236.96 *
Equipment Reserve	(85,236.96)
51124.04 Permanent Improve	12,121.63
51122.04 Permanent Improve	(12,121.63)

51481.03	Services to Other Govts	131.05
51301.03	Machinery PS	(131.05)
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51124.04	Permanent Improve	24,497.00
51122.04	Permanent Improve	(24,497.00)

Resolution 2025-148: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to approve the Budget Transfers as written; Councilmember Gosier seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Resolution 2025-149: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve the June Supervisor’s Monthly Financial report; Councilmember Farrell seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Highway Superintendent’s Report

Highway Superintendent Pat Weston reported that the surplus equipment is on Auctions International. The Highway department is mowing and working on maintenance.

Clerk’s Report

Monthly Receipts were as follow: Total Local Shares Remitted: \$3,983.56; Total State County & Local Revenues: \$4,030.56 Total Non – Local Revenues: \$47.00

Resolution 2025-150: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to accept the Town Clerk’s Report for June; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Audit of the Bills (Abstracts #13 + 14)

Resolution 2025-151: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve Abstract #13 in the amount of \$0.00; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2025-152: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve Abstract #14 in the amount of \$82,773.78; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Resolution 2025-153: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to approve the following meeting minutes; Regular Meeting June 11, 2025, Special Meetings June 25, 2025; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Old Business:

Water District #6 SEQR:

John Condino explained the SEQR process for Water District #6. This SEQR includes every water district that the Town has considered. John read the following Resolution out loud:

**Proposed Action: Town of Lyme Water District No. 6
RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE TOWN OF LYME TOWN BOARD
TO ACT AS LEAD AGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Town of Lyme (Town) is proposing the Town of Lyme Water District No. 6 Project (Project), located in the Town of Lyme, Jefferson County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Project has been classified as a “Type I Action” as defined by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in 6 NYCRR Part 617.4; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Town of Lyme Town Board to assume the role of “Lead Agency” for purposes of conducting a SEQRA/SERP assessment of the Project; and

WHEREAS, Part I of a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) has been completed, reviewed by the Town of Lyme Town Board, and will be circulated to all Interested and Involved Agencies for purposes of establishing the Town of Lyme Town Board as “Lead Agency” in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.6(b).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Lyme hereby is authorized to sign Part I of the FEAF (page 13); and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Town of Lyme will send said Part I of the FEAF and associated site figure to the attached list of “Interested and Involved Agencies” under cover of a “Notice of Intent to Establish Lead Agency” letter for purposes of establishing Lead Agency status under the SEQRA/SERP; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Lyme and the Town Board, together with the Town of Lyme Attorney and B&L, are hereby authorized to take all actions, serve all notices, and complete all documents required to give full force and effect to this determination.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jim Millington

Yes X

No _____

Don Bourquin	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____
Julia Gosier	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____
Tim Farrell	Yes <u> X </u>	No _____

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Resolution 2025-154: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion declaring the Town of Lyme Town Board to act as lead agency for the proposed Water District No. 6 Project; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Hart Road IMA Agreement:

John Condino explained that in 1997 the previous Town Board approved a Water District#1 extension. All the proper paperwork to create the district extension was filed. Yet, the Village of Chaumont has been billing and providing water to Hart Road until present. The Town will need to take over the billing for the Hart Road residents. The Village will then bill the Town for the water. An IMA needs to be in place between the Town and Village. B&L have drafted an IMA that needs to be reviewed by the Town Attorney. Councilmember Gosier questioned the legal standing of the right of way. The deeds will need to be reviewed. There was a discussion on the Village billing the Town for water. Councilmember Farrell asked if there would be sediment build up considering it's a dead end. There were further questions and discussions. Kim Heiselman spoke on the details of the timeline of the Hart Road Water District #1 extension.

Grant Writer Position:

There were two applicants that applied for the Grant Writer position. Morgan Spencer and Robin Grovesteen. Morgan Spencer offered to work pro bono. Councilmember Farrell said we aren't going to lose anything if the applicant is going to work free of charge. Councilmember Gosier said she is very impressed by Morgan's credentials, but Robin is very familiar with the Bicentennial project which is the focus after receiving the survey results. Councilmember Bourquin stated that Robin is a town resident and received many grants for the Town. Councilmember Farrell reiterated that the other applicant would work for free. They will both have to review and familiarize themselves with the project. Jennifer Kingsley asked if either of the grant writers needed insurance to cover the Town from liability. The Board will have to look into this and tabled their decision until the August meeting.

Resolution 2025-155: Councilmember Farrell made the motion to table hiring a grant writer; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Town Board Vacancy:

There are four candidates that applied for the Town Board Vacancy. Supervisor Millington read the letters of interest out loud for all the candidates, Bill Kleftis, Greg Hoppel, Cara Jerome and Jennifer Kingsley.

Supervisor Millington stated he supports Jennifer Kingsley to be on the Board. She could help with the budget, which is a very taxing project. He said we can use her financial expertise. Supervisor Millington made a motion to appoint Jennifer Kingsley; seconded by Councilmember Bourquin; Gosier, Farrell, Bourquin NAY; Millington YAY; motion was not carried.

Councilmember Farrell explained that Jennifer is qualified, but he wants to give another resident an opportunity to get involved with the board for the next 6 months. He stated that it has nothing to do with the primary election results.

Councilmember Gosier is extremely impressed with Cara and her experience. She will be on the ballot in November. Jennifer Kingsley stated that Greg Hoppel will also be on the ballot.

Resolution 2025-156: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to appoint Cara Jerome to the Town Board Vacancy; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

New Business:

Point Salubrious Cemetery:

The Point Salubrious cemetery is in rough shape. Councilmember Bourquin and Heather Lipczynski will be meeting Harry Wilson at the Cedar Grove cemetery, and they hope to have time to go to the Point Salubrious cemetery as well. The Board agreed that the budgeted abandoned cemetery funds will go toward this cemetery.

Resolution 2025-157: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to spend \$5,000.00 from account A8810.4.13 on the Point Salubrious cemetery; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Youth Commission Savings Signers:

Resolution 2025-158: Councilmember Gosier made the motion for Charles Mount and Scott Radley to be signers on the Youth Commission Savings account at Gouverneur Savings and Loan Bank; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Town Board Report:

Councilmember Farrell expressed his concern after reviewing the monthly bills the attorney fees are still high. It is a lot of money to spend every month.

Councilmember Bourquin said that we have a CD coming due August 5th. He suggested opening a checking account to deposit the money into. The account will specifically be used for highway garage expenditures. This will make it simpler when the USDA has to audit the checking account.

Resolution 2025-159: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to transfer the amount of \$986,551.49 from the Building Capital Reserve Fund to open a checking account for the Town Highway Garage project expenditures subject to permissive referendum; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Assessor Report:

DATE: July 8, 2025

SUBJECT: June 2025 Monthly Report

We have submitted a notice to the lyme light to let residents know that we will be out performing data collection. We are going to be pushing to complete a significant amount of data collection in the next few months. We have been in contact with the county and are working on the logistics of a re-evaluation. Recent sales are showing a significant increase in property value from 2024 to 2025.

We are requesting a new computer for Serena. The current computer is Windows 10 and states that it will be no longer usable in October, 2025 due to outdated hardware it is not eligible to update to Windows 11. This process can be time consuming because the set-up must be coordinated with the county to drop off for several days and have them upload RPS, and remove it from the existing computer. We do not have a current quote from Ben but the pricing should be in-line with the recent purchases from the Town for new computers.

There was a discussion on the purchase of a new computer for the assessor clerk.

Resolution 2025-160: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to purchase a new computer within the assessor equipment budget contingent that the old computer's windows program can't be updated; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Municipal Water Board Report:

Kathy Dyer had nothing to report. She reminded the public that there is a public information meeting about Water District #6 August 6th at 6:00 p.m. at the Chaumont Fire Hall.

Planning Board:

There were no questions on the report.

Youth Commission:

Scott Radley emailed the Board with a list of coaches that the Youth Commission recommended. Hollie L’Huillier, Ashley Youngs, and Melissa Koffs - Coaches for Junior Level
Janelle Dumaw - Coach Little Kickers

Resolution 2025-161: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to approve Hollie L’Huillier, Ashley Youngs, Melissa Koffs and Janelle Dumaw as coaches for Youth Commission Soccer; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

ZEO/CEO Report:

There were no questions on the report.

ZBA Report:

There was no report.

TMB Cemetery:

Councilmember Gosier is trying to stretch the mowings for the cemetery but the grass is growing quickly.

Cedar Grove Cemeteries:

Heather Lipczynski said she will be meeting with Harry Wilson next week to discuss repairs to the cemetery. No sales were made last month. The driveway was repaired with crushed stone.

Closing Privilege of the Floor

Jane Collins lives on Lotts Point in Three Mile Bay. She is present to express her concerns about Water District #6. There are several residents on the point that have spent several thousand dollars to install water systems and don’t want another \$600 per month for a water bill. Ms. Collins is looking for a petition with the correct wording to express they are NOT in favor of the new district. She had several questions. Another concern was that there were several people are buried on the point. She believes the SEQR should be type 2. She has spoken to another Town’s that are not happy with Barton and Loguidice. Kathy Dyer explained that we can apply for funding for the district before the district is formed. This is a recent change in the law. She stated that there would be more information available at the August 6th informational meeting.

Charles Bruce Kingsley asked anyone knew why Thomas Donovan resigned. He would like to see his resignation letter. He has a hard time understanding and the community should as well. The Board is still having difficulties making decisions. He stated that Councilmember Gosier has resented his daughter Jennifer Kingsley. Also, Councilmember Farrell is always complaining about legal fees but is never getting anywhere.

Online Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments.

Executive Session

Resolution 2025-162: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion to enter executive session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss Public Officers Law Item #5; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Open Meeting

Resolution 2025-163: Councilmember Farrell made the motion to return to open meeting at 9:26 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Bourquin; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Adjournment

Resolution 2025-164: Councilmember Farrell made the motion to adjourn at 9:27 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Bourquin; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Henderson

Ariana Henderson
Town Clerk