

Town of Lyme
Select Board Meeting
Minutes for December 5th, 2013
Approved: December 12, 2013

The following were present for part or all of the meeting: Charles J. Smith (Chair), Richard A. Vidal (member), and Dina Cutting (Administrative Assistant). Shaun O'Keefe (police chief). Over seer of Welfare: Nancy Grandine. Community members: Phil Pochoda, Carola Lea, Shirley & Wayne Tullar, Mildred Bailey, Arend Tensen.

1. Chair Smith called the Selectboard meeting to order at 8:00AM
2. Carola Lea explained a group had formed to try and help investigate agriculture tax relief for farmers in our town. The group was looking to the Selectboard for advice and ideas on what could be done. 79-F was reviewed. The group described how they have tried to come up with a figure to determine if 79-F was going to help the farmers with tax relief. Diana Calder, Assessor reviewed what may take place in this application of 79-F. Calder reviewed how difficult the criteria would be to come up with. She explained that Barns are already assessed at depreciated value and what you are really looking at is the land under the barn which is already assessed much lower than land under a homestead. Smith noted the Selectboard did not want the employees spending a lot of time trying to figure out possible tax savings since the administrative costs associated with 79-F would be high and each application would have to be done on a case by case basis. The Board will need to develop a system using the form provided by the Commissioner, verify the application meets the IRS definition of a farm by and a review of the current assessment and a visit to verify use and condition would have to be conducted before any individual property can have their assessments revised. This will tell how much would be saved on the assessment but the actual dollar figure will depend on the tax rate set by DRA. The group noted there is no other local program to help the farmers. The Board pointed out that farms benefit from current use tax assessment and that any tax relief for one group must be made up by the other taxpayers in town. If 79-F is put on the warrant it has to be voted on as written by the State. This group could petition to Selectboard to put this on the warrant or the Selectboard could vote to put it on the warrant. Mr. Smith and Mr. Vidal felt they wanted to wait until MacKenzie is present to discuss and/ or vote on this. The general feeling is that this will provide minimal savings to the farmer and it may be better to get with our Representative and try to write a better bill to provide relief for farms.
3. Nancy Grandine: Grandine passed out a chart of allowable levels of assistance. Each year the Board must vote on these levels. The board will review and notify Grandine when this has been voted. Grandine review various parts of her job as Over Seer of Welfare. The Board has some concern over reoccurring payments to banks, which they are assuming are mortgage payments. Grandine noted she could apply liens to any individuals who own homes and are receiving assistance. The Selectboard felt this would be warranted.
4. The minutes from November 21st, 2013 were approved by a motion from Vidal, seconded by Smith. Voted unanimously in favor.
5. Matters arising:
 - Smith will write a draft of the possible rink rules for the Public Hearing.
 - Smaller mower: It will need to be offered to all employees and see who is interested.
6. Public Comment: none
7. Manifests were approved in the amounts of \$1,037,607.24 (manifest included \$400,000 for school & \$533,105.00 for Grafton County) & \$1,522.47 for Over Seer of Welfare.
8. Abatement form was signed for an elderly abatement that was inadvertently not entered in the tax system.
9. Committee & Commission reports:
10. 2014 proposed budget:

- The Budget Committee made an advisory vote for the proposed 2014 budget at \$2,038,025.00
 - Possible warrant articles to review and discuss:
 - 5 year lease to purchase highway roller
 - Land Use Change Tax
11. At 9:23AM Vidal moved to enter non-public session under authority of RSA 91-A: 3 II(c) “matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person”. The application was reviewed. The Selectboard voted unanimously to grant an abatement in the amount of \$5,392.75 with a motion from Vidal and seconded by Smith. At 9:32AM Vidal moved to enter public session seconded by Smith. Voted unanimously in favor. At 9:07AM the Board returned to public session having voted by unanimous roll call vote not to make the minutes of the non-public session available to the public.
12. There being no further business Smith moved to adjourn at 9:33AM. Seconded by Vidal. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting