



TOWN OF LYNDON
SELECTBOARD MEETING

August 5, 2019

5:30 PM

Selectboard

Dan Daley, Chair
Christian Thompson
Fred Gorham

Press

Amy Nixon

Public

Dawn Dwyer, Justin Smith, Steve Gray, Pierce Thompson
Larry Willey, Kermit Fisher

1. Approval of minutes:

Motion made by Christian Thompson, seconded by Fred Gorham, to approve the July 22, 2019 minutes as amended. Motion carried 3 to 0.

2. Approval & Signing of Orders drawn on the Treasurer:

The Board approved and signed the orders drawn on the Treasurer for weeks # 31 & 32.

3. Highway Report:

At 60% through the year, payroll is 65% spent and the entire budget is 39% expended.

4. Property Tax Penalty Appeal:

Justin Smith, Municipal Administrator, shared a letter from Doreen Holl owner of 801 Center Street asking that the late penalty and interest on their 2018 taxes be abated(attached). The Town Clerk, Dawn Dwyer, explained that the process to abate taxes, penalty & interest must go through the Board of Abatement. A letter explaining the procedure will be sent to Ms. Holl.

5. Lister Request for Proposal (RFP) for Town Wide Reappraisal:

Larry Willey, Lister, informed the Board that the State of Vermont is in the process of completing the annual sales study. It was brought to Larry's attention that the Town of Lyndon is approaching the ten-year benchmark since the Town has had a reappraisal. Larry suggested sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP) now for a reappraisal to be conducted in the next two years. There are nineteen approved vendors in Vermont, but we will be lucky if we get three or four responses. Larry would like to have a schedule and cost by Town Meeting 2020. Larry's expected date of completion would be 2023-2024 as it takes two years to complete. The State is also changing the Integrated Property Tax Management System for assessing. It would be beneficial to the Town if the vendor the State chooses would also do the Town's reappraisal. The Board gave approval to move forward with the RFP.

6. Special Appropriation Policy for 2020:

The annual Special Appropriation Policy for 2020 was not set at the reorganization meeting after Town Meeting. It was decided by the voters at Town Meeting to vote all Special Appropriations (SA) by Australian ballot. Kermit Fisher expressed his opinion as a taxpayer that SA's should not be funded through taxes. Taxes should only be used for services and programs that are "essential for the operation and growth of the Town of Lyndon and available to ALL residents". Some of the organizations asking for SA's already receive money from the State of Vermont and the Federal government. As taxpayers of State and Federal Taxes, he feels this is "double dipping". Larry Willey pointed out that tax-exempt organizations are not paying taxes and receiving donations. It was discussed that to be included on the Town Meeting Warning, a petition with the proper verbiage and signature of at least 5% of the voters must be turned in no later than 47 days before Town Meeting. Motion made by Christian Thompson, seconded by Fred Gorham, to set the 2020 Special Appropriation policy to require each organization wishing to appear on the Australian ballot to submit a letter of request, including amount requested, addressed to the Selectboard and a one-page report suitable to be included in the Town Report by

December 31, 2019 and a petition with the required verbiage and number of signatures by the due date of January 16, 2020. The motion carried 3-0.

7. Other:

- a. The Town of Kirby has discontinued TH#4, Town Farm Road. The site visit and hearing was held with no comments.
- b. Justin Smith updated the Board on correspondence he sent out from the last meeting.
- c. Steve Gray told the Board the next Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2019. He has not yet received the agenda. Steve believes they will be appointing a new chairperson. Steve was asked if he could add an item to the agenda to update him on the tax issue with the Town of Lyndon.
- d. Tom Williamson was issued a household waste violation for his apartment building on Center Street. The next day a dumpster was on the property.
- e. A household waste violation will be issued to Rick Schwag for his Main Street rental. In addition, he will be reminded of the ordinance regarding when garbage bins may be left on the street for pickup.
- f. An update on the Miller's Run Bridge was given. Winterset will be completely repairing the north end first and then moving to the south end. They are currently ahead of schedule. New signs are being made for both ends of the bridge.