



TOWN OF LYNDON  
SELECTBOARD MEETING

October 14, 2019

5:30 PM

Selectboard

Dan Daley, Chair  
Christian Thompson  
Fred Gorham

Press

Todd Wellington

Public

Dawn Dwyer, Justin Smith, Steve Gray, Larry Willey  
Philip Rindlehart, Kevin Davis, Jillian McLaughlin  
Sue Russell, Caleb & Samantha Gale, Rachel Morrow  
Eric Berry (5:58 PM)

1. Adjustments to the Agenda:

- Health Insurance

2. Approval of minutes:

Motion made by Christian Thompson, seconded by Fred Gorham, to approve the September 30, 2019 minutes as amended. Motion carried 3 to 0.

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

The Board approved and signed the orders drawn on the Treasurer for weeks # 41 & 42

4. Quarterly Highway Report:

Dawn Dwyer, Treasurer, explained that property taxes were not included in the quarterly reports for the general fund or the highway fund. Total property taxes were coded to the general fund, including taxes due to the school district. Journal entries will need to be made to correct the posting errors. Paving projects are not complete yet. The finish coat can not be applied if it's going to rain.

5. Fenton Chester Ice Arena Financial Report and Plans for the Season:

Eric Berry, Athletic & Activity Director at Lyndon Institute (LI), presented the Board with the proposed FY 2020 budget and budget vs actual for FY 2019 for the Fenton Chester Ice Arena. Mr. Berry discussed the current issue which is causing the delay in opening for the winter season. There was a leak in a pipe under the concrete, which they believe was caused by being driven over by the Zamboni for the last forty years. Mr. Berry has some ideas to increase revenues, that he didn't want to discuss until there was a definite commitment. Some suggestions given were partnering with Burke Mountain Resort to promote the arena when families couldn't ski due to inclement weather. LI agrees that the roof maintenance is their responsibility.

6. Solar Discussion:

Kevin Davis from Norwich Solar discussed the potential of the Town taking on 200 KW of capacity for an estimated savings of \$800 annually on electric charges. The 500 KW project is in the very early stages and is being explored for a parcel off Church Street, behind the Robert Bosch building. Bill Humphrey, General Manager of Lyndonville Electric Department, discussed the possibility that the substation located on Hill Street may not have the capacity to accept the power. It would then be up to the solar company to pay to upgrade the substation. Mr. Humphrey also talked about the 100% of loss in revenue that solar credits create for the utility as well as how the financial incentives have decreased for solar credits due to the number of projects in the State. Larry Willey, Lister, explained that solar farms are being installed in undesirable parcels such as empty gravel pit and closed dumps. The change of use helps increase the grand list. The project is expected to be completed by 2021. The Board wanted more time to consider the opportunity.

7. Lyndon Outing Club (LOC) Grant Application Discussion:

Sue Russell introduced the new LOC board members that were present (Caleb & Samantha Gale and Rachel Morrow). She was pleased to report that there is a total of seven new board members. LOC has been in discussion with Jody Fried to come up with other four season uses for the Club. LOC has applied for a Kingdom Trail Mini Grant. The grant would cover the planning of the installation of a bike park as well as purchasing mowing equipment. The cost is estimated between \$7,000 and \$10,000. Most is sweat equity, which the new board members are willing to put in. The bike park would not interfere with the winter activities (skiing and snowboarding). The Board is in full agreement to move forward in exploring the reality of a bike park through grants. Ms. Russell also informed the Board that LOC did not qualify for the Historic Preservation grant they had applied for. They had to meet five of the seven criteria. The only thing they would qualify for is to restore the façade of the lodge back to the original log condition.

8. Lyndon Rescue:

Jillian McLaughlin was committed to another meeting and was unable to stay long enough to participate in the agenda item. The item will be addressed at another scheduled meeting.

9. Miller's Run Covered Bridge Discussion:

Philip Rindlehart, a tractor trailer driver himself, presented to the Board his thoughts and concerns regarding the Millers Run Covered bridge and over-weight and over-height commercial trucks causing extensive damage. Mr. Rindlehart explained the three different versions of GPS: personal GPS, trucker GPS and RV GPS. The trucking GPS can be set with the truck's length, height and weight. The GPS will direct you around height or weight restricted bridges. Mr. Rindlehart presented to the Board two diagrams; one with the current signage and one with his suggestions. His suggestions include cameras to capture the license plate on the actual tractor, not the trailer, higher fines and lights on signs to draw attention to the drivers. The covered bridge is a main artery for rescue personnel and minutes can make a difference between life and death. National Highway Standards would have to be met for any changes made. The Board appreciated a truck drivers' perspective with this issue.

10. Warrant #40 Rural Edge CDBG Scattered Sites:

Motion made by Christian Thompson, seconded by Fred Gorham, to approve and sign the order drawn on the Treasurer for the Rural Edge Warrant #40 in the amount of \$33,444. Motion carried 3 to 0.

11. Warrant #1 Rural Edge VCDP Olivia Place:

Motion made by Christian Thompson, seconded by Fred Gorham, to approve and sign the order drawn on the Treasurer for Rural Edge Olivia Place Warrant #1 in the amount of \$345,235. Motion carried 3 to 0.

12. Utility Partners Contract Renewal:

Utility Partners has provided two renewal options for the wastewater plant operation. The two options offered are a three-year option with proposed limits of a minimum 2.5% annual increase and a not to exceed maximum of 5.5% annually and a five-year option with proposed limits of a minimum 1.5% annual increase and a not to exceed maximum of 3.5% annually. Either contract would begin April 1, 2020. Motion made by Christian Thompson, seconded by Fred Gorham, to accept the five-year renewal contract option offered by Utility Partners as outlined above. Motion carried 3-0.

13. Opioid Class Negotiation Lawsuit Discussion:

The District Court of the Northern District of Ohio has certified a voluntary negotiation class for all US Counties, Cities and local Governments. This results from many counties and cities across the US suing manufacturers, distributors and retailers seeking reimbursement for monies spent dealing with the opioid crisis. The Class includes all US Counties, Cities and local Governments regardless to whether they have filed a lawsuit or not. If a settlement is reached in the future, the Town would be bound by the settlement. Justin Smith spoke with the Town Agent Hanne Trudeau regarding the lawsuit and her

recommendation is that Lyndon stay in the lawsuit. The Board is in full agreement with Ms. Trudeau's recommendation.

14. Police Union:

The Board has given Justin Smith permission to research legal representation for the town to aid in negotiations with the newly formed Police Department union. The cost of the representation will be considered in the research.

15. Health Insurance Premiums:

The Board was informed that the 2020 increase for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) health insurance premiums came in at 8%. The earlier projections were approximately 12%. MVP premiums increase is 10%. Any changes to the policy must be communicated to BCBS by November 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board has approved staying with BCBS for the next year.

16. Other:

- a. Justin Smith has placed the ad looking for a call-in winter hire for the Highway Department. Last year's winter hire has joined the Highway Department full-time with the departure of Brandon Matte.
- b. Justin Smith shared the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District's (NEKWMD) proposed budget information receive from Paul Tomasi, Director. In addition, Mr. Tomasi included a document that explains some of their financial obligations for 2019 and 2020 and their intentions to meet those obligations.
- c. Steve Gray, Lyndon's NEKWMD representative, informed the Selectboard that Director Paul Tomasi was informed by USDA that the \$64,000 grant proceeds they received must go toward the purchase of the new bailer since this is what the District indicated on their grant application. At the last meeting, the supervisors were told the Director would like to use the per capita to repay the capital improvement fund instead of the new bailer as was presented to voters. The next scheduled meeting is November 12, 2019 which will include a public hearing on the budget.