

TOWN OF LYNDON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
December 28, 2016
1:00 PM

Selectboard

Dan Daley, Chair
Kermit Fisher
Martha “Marty” Feltus

Press

Amy Nixon

Public

Dawn Dwyer, Justin Smith, Ken Burchesky

1. Budget Discussion:

The Board, Municipal Administrator, Justin Smith & Clerk & Treasurer, Dawn Dwyer, went over the General Fund, Highway Fund, Wastewater Fund & Sanitation proposed budgets. Items of interest were Listers: education monies, are we getting the money or is the State subsidizing the cost of classes Police Department: move the renewal of the Intermunicipal Police Agreement between the Town & Village to before the budget hearings so the split will be determined before budget approvals rather than after, cost of Workman’s Comp. Insurance (WC) covers elected Constables that are not on our Police Dept. Payroll.

Public Safety Building: Snow removal \$10,000 was found to be a duplicate payment-will be corrected, WC doubled, includes 2016 & 2017-will be corrected (this is true for all WC costs).

Look at proposed costs of oil and propane across the budgets, prices expected to rise.

Highway Budget: Ken Burchesky discussed his concerns with the Brown Farm Road and related his concerns with the trucks that went off the road recently. He feels the State’s Better Back Roads projects failed in that the road was narrowed and a pull-off spot was removed. He spoke with Mike Bickford, who also lives off Brown Farm Road and is in construction, and he estimates the cost to widen and take down the first rise which limits site distance would be \$25,000. The Board discussed having a State engineer take a look at the site. They discussed with Rob Nutting, Road Foreman the possibility of installing guardrails.

Rob also discussed with the Board the summer paving project he would like to see done on the South Wheelock Road. The section would be from Route 5 to Leon Gilman’s driveway. The estimated cost is \$345,000. Lyndon is in line for a Class 2 paving grant. The grant is an 80% grant with 20% contribution, up to \$175,000. The Town’s contribution would be approximately \$170,000.

This portion of the meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM

5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

Selectboard

Dan Daley, Chair
Kermit Fisher
Martha “Marty” Feltus

Press

Amy Nixon

Public

Dawn Dwyer, Justin Smith, Steve Gray, Russ Blake
Don Welch

1. Approval of minutes:

Motion made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Marty Feltus, to approve the December 12, 2016 minutes with noted changes. 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 #50-51.

3. Warrant # 11: Rural Edge RLF:
The Board approved and signed the order drawn on the Treasurer for Warrant #11.
4. Highway Report:
At 98% through the year, payroll is 93% spent and the entire budget is 81% expended.
5. Joint Garage Proposed Change Order's (PCO):
#26 Optimum Testing to test the strength of concrete for the new foundation: \$3,243. Motion made by Marty Feltus, seconded by Kermit Fisher, to approve PCO #26. Motion carried 3-0.
#27 Bollards with base plates around existing metal building posts for protection: \$1,925. Motion made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Marty Feltus, to approve PCO #27. Motion carried 3-0.
#28 Labor and materials to cut the concrete wall for the last two overhead doors in the existing building: \$770. Motion made by Marty Feltus, seconded by Kermit Fisher, to approve PCO #28. Motion carried 3-0.
6. Wastewater Treatment Facility Update:
The Town is currently at a standstill to close out the grant. Blower #2 is still vibrating and making noise. The engineer, Gary Leach of Tata & Howard is not comfortable with the vibration. Mr. Leach sent a letter to T. Buck Construction asked for the manufacture to replace the blower unit. The odor is under control.
7. Elected Official Term Limits:
Russ Blake thanked the Board members for their endless time commitment to the Town of Lyndon. He then proposed that the Board look into term limits. His proposal was for three (3) consecutive terms, or a total of nine (9) years. The individual would then step down for one (1) to three (3) years before they could run for election again. If elected they could serve for another three (3) consecutive terms, or nine (9) years. He believes this would allow the opportunity for new individuals to serve as well as keep the Town from ending up with a shorthanded board, similar to what other area towns are currently facing. Marty felt the Town would need a legal opinion on this subject since the terms are governed by State Statutes as the Town of Lyndon does not have a charter other than the original charter in 1781.
8. Policy for Sending Copies of Tax Bills:
A complaint was brought before the Board by Gary Dwyer who bought a property in August and did not receive a tax bill. The taxes went delinquent and he was assessed the late penalty as directed by State Statutes. State Statutes also direct that tax bills are sent to the owner as of April 1st. It is printed on the tax bill "Please forward to new owner if property was sold after April 1st." The Board agreed that this is an issue between the buyer and the seller. There is a mechanism in place to ask for an abatement through the Board of Civil Authority should Mr. Dwyer wish to pursue it. Justin will write to Mr. Dwyer and let him know the outcome of his request.
9. Abatement of Wastewater Bill:
At the August 8, 2016 Selectboard Meeting, Lyndon State College had requested a Wastewater abatement due to a leak. The Board tabled the request until accurate usage could be determined. Dawn presented calculations based on the March & June 2016 readings. The calculations resulted in an abatement of \$4,350.72 on the high flow meter and \$40,733.44 on the low flow meter. Motion made by Marty Feltus, seconded by Kermit Fisher, to grant the abatements as presented. The credits will appear on the accounts and be applied to future billings. Motion carried 3-0.

10. Appointment of a Representative to Lyndon Rescue Inc.

Justin has spoken to Jack Berube, current rep, and he is interested in being re-appointed as the Town of Lyndon's rep to Lyndon Rescue Inc. Motion made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Marty Fisher, to reappoint Jack Berube as Lyndon's representative to Lyndon Rescue, Inc. Motion carried 3-0.

11. Class 4 Roads/Trails Policy:

Tabled to a future meeting

12. Other:

- a. Donald Welch, Trustee & Treasurer for the Cobleigh Public Library addressed the Board regarding the Library's 2017 appropriation. He is still waiting for some end of year totals. Currently the proposed budget is \$304,000 up from \$302,000 in 2016. This proposed budget includes a 2% pay raise. The Library will be using approximately \$24,000 from their endowments, currently totaling \$495,000. The Library will be asking the Town for the same appropriation as 2016, \$235,000. The Board would like to see their proposed budget once it is completed.
- b. Dan Daley attended the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management annual meeting. The proposed Charter change to allow variable mechanisms to raise revenues passed but the Charter change addressing the approval of their annual budget failed by one vote (see December 12th minutes for full Charter Change details).

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM

Minutes taken by Dawn Dwyer

Approved by the Selectboard: January 9, 2017