



TOWN OF LYNDON  
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

Via Zoom  
February 20, 2021 at 11:00 AM

Selectboard: Christian Thompson-Chair, Dan Daley, Nancy Blankenship

Officials: Dawn Dwyer, Justin Smith

Press: Alexandra Huff, News 7-NewsLink

Public: Wendy Beattie-Lyndon Outing Club, Lila Bennett-Rural Community Transportation, Joe Benning-State Senator, Betsy's iPhone, Heather Bollman, Treney Burgess-Caledonia Home Health & Hospice, Sarah Cousino, Marty Feltus-State Representative, Steve Gray, Allison Gulka-Fairbanks Museum, Jim Levison, Myscha, Andrea Otto-Catamount Arts, Martha Reed, Susan Russell, Cindy Santaw-Brown-Lyndon Area Meal Site at the Darlin Inn, Jen Simpson-Lyndon Youth Baseball/Softball, Anthony Skelton, and Larry Willey

The meeting was called to order by Selectboard Chair Christian Thompson at 11:05 AM. Christian explained the purpose of the informational meeting and reviewed the process to be followed.

Christian then introduced State Senator Joe Benning and State Representative Marty Feltus. Senator Benning and Representative Feltus gave a brief overview on the committees they were on and the items they are working on in Montpelier.

There being no questions for Senator Benning and Representative Feltus, Christian began the reading of the articles as they appear on the warning and ballot. Christian informed the attendees that he would read the article and then take any questions or comments. Christian reviewed the Town positions that were open for election before starting with article one. All articles can be found in the back of the Town Report.

Articles One through Three were read with no questions or comments. Article Four, regarding the General Fund budget, was read and a Power Point presentation, created by Selectboard member Nancy Blankenship, was presented by Christian. Sarah Cousino commented "That's awesome in a world where volunteers are going away!" in regard to the Lyndonville Fire Department volunteers, and Anthony Skelton - Lyndon Resident – "All I wanted to comment was that I support keeping healthy reserves for maintenance and future purchase planning" which Representative Feltus agreed with and offered that many grants now require a town match. With no other questions, Christian moved to Article Five.

Article Five relates to the adoption of the Town Highway Fund budget. Again, Christian pointed out the highlights of the Highway budget. Sarah Cousino asked, "Does this (highway skim coating) include fixing the awkward dip on Pinehurst Street by the fairgrounds?" Dawn Dwyer, Clerk & Treasurer, pointed out that the Village taxpayers do not pay the Town Highway tax, therefore any repairs to Village roads would be addressed with the Trustees and the Village budget. Susan Russell commented "Many thanks to the town plow crew for keeping the Lyndon Outing Club (LOC) parking lot clear and sanded. We have been so busy."

Article Six was read and there were no questions or comments. Article Seven and Eight addresses the Selectboard being authorized to enter tax stabilization contracts with industrial, commercial, and agricultural owners. Sarah Cousino asked, "what does this mean?" so Christian explained about the potential tax stabilization (tax rate and/or property assessment) that could be offered to new businesses moving into Lyndon. Justin Smith clarified that it could also be a current business that expands and increases employees. To date, Lyndon has not entered into any contracts with businesses.

Articles Nine through Twenty-one address the special appropriation requests. The requests as they appear on the warning, representatives that attended the informational hearing, and comments and questions asked are as follows:

Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice represented by Treny Burgess. Wendy Beattie's comment "Caledonia Home Health Care does a great job and is a much-needed service."

Catamount Arts represented by Andrea Otto. Sarah Cousino asked, "What would it take to make this a free access opportunity?" and was told many of the programs, due to COVID, are free and can be found on their website.

Fairbanks Museum was represented by Alison Gulka.

Helping Other People Everyday (HOPE) and Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce did not have representatives.

Lyndon Area Meal Site was represented by Cindy Santaw-Brown. Susan Russell commented "Kudos for all you are doing to feed people!"

Lyndon Outing Club (LOC) was represented by Wendy Beattie.

Lyndon Youth Baseball/Softball was represented by Jen Simpson.

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging and Northeast Kingdom Human Services was not represented. Susan Russell spoke to the work NEK Human Services does, not as a representative but as someone who works closely with them.

Rural Community Transportation (RCT) was represented by Lila Bennett who had to leave the meeting before this article was read. Ms. Bennett left the following comment in the chat room: "Hi Everyone, this is for when you get to Rural Community Transportation. I am Lila Bennett, from Rural Community Transportation. I am here to answer any questions anyone may have about our services or our request for appropriations. RCT provided 12,264 trips to 227 residents of Lyndon, travelling 214,516 miles at a total cost of \$304,356. Unfortunately, I cannot stay any longer, I have a conflict. My email is lbennett@riderct.org, if any of you have any questions about what our services provide to the Lyndon Residents. We care very much about our community and we appreciate the support from the Lyndon Voters. I will join the next meeting for questions too. Thank you all for taking the time today." Cindy Santaw-Brown commented "Very Important service to the Lyndon Community!!!"

Umbrella and Village Improvement Society/Powers Park were not represented.

This concluded the formal presentation of the warning to be voted on. Sarah Cousino, Susan Russell, and Cindy Santaw-Brown thanked the Selectboard and town employees for the jobs they are doing. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM