



SELECTMEN'S MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019

Present: Parker Lord, John Kiker, Steven Mattson, Senator Norm Needleman, Wendy Hill

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 P.M. and the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The board discussed the preliminary budget draft to be presented on March 12<sup>th</sup> and agreed to move this document forward to the Board of Finance.

The board also discussed the recent inspection by CT DEEP at the transfer station and town garage. The town is required to correct a small number of minor violations. Chief among these is the need for a stormwater pollution prevention plan for the transfer station. This has been created and the monitoring associated with the plan put into place. Next year's budget will also contain funds to cover open dumpsters at both facilities to meet DEEP requirements.

Senator Norm Needleman discussed many issues with the Board of Selectmen. Chief among these subjects were the 3 of most concern to Lyme:

- School redistricting – Norm shares the town's opposition to this initiative and advised that the Governor's proposal is for a study and hopefully that study will conclude that the regionalization plan in the press will not be adopted.
- Forcing towns to shoulder a portion of the teacher's pension costs that have historically been the responsibility of the state. Norm discussed the fiscal problems facing the state and the complexities associated with a solution. The Governor's proposal is a much smaller burden than the proposal of the prior administration and will be phased in over 3 years. The board stated its concerns that after 3 years the portion of the costs borne by the towns will continue to grow and will quickly become a financial burden. We also stated our displeasure with paying costs that we are not a party to negotiating.
- Bill HB5254 – a bill allowing towns to decide to opt into charging a conveyance tax on property sales that the town can save to apply to future open space costs or purchases. The town expressed its support of the bill in that it asks for no money from the state, does not require property tax increases from the town homeowners and gives almost total discretion to the town instead of the state. Norm has not yet taken a position on this bill but leans against it and quotes the real estate lobby argument that it would reduce home sales. We disagreed with that logic and asked Norm to reassess his position before a vote should the bill be released from committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Mattson  
For the Board of Selectmen