



SELECTMEN'S MINUTES – VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 20, 2020

Present: Parker Lord, John Kiker, Steven Mattson, Dan Hagan, Mary Biekert (The Day)

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. and the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The board discussed options, created by the Governor, to provide property tax relief to taxpayers adversely effected by the coronavirus. Two options were reviewed with the town required to adopt one or both options. The first option, Deferment Program, would delay the due date for property taxes for 3 months. The board believed this program had a potential financial risk as the town carries a reserve fund equal to two-months of operating expenses. The second option, Low Interest Rate Program, would grant a 3-month period where interest on overdue tax accounts would have the interest rate reduced from 18% to 3% with all taxes due in full before the expiration of the 3-month period.

By unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen, the Town of Lyme has selected to participate in the Low Interest Rate Program created by the Governor in response to the Coronavirus emergency, as stated in Order #7S dated 4/1/2020 and supplemented by Order #7W dated 4/9/2020. This program will lower the interest rate charged on overdue tax bills from 18% to 3% for a period of 3 months if paid in full by the end of this 3-month period. This 3-month period will begin at the time the tax bill becomes due and will apply to all delinquent taxpayers. For our property tax bills coming due 7/1/2020, the interest charged for the 3-month period July 1, 2020 through October 1, 2020 will accrue at an annual rate of 3%. Beginning October 2, 2020, the interest rate will revert to the statutory 18% annual rate retroactively. Any tax bills that remain unpaid on October 2, 2020 will have the statutory interest rate of 18% applied for the entire period that bills are past due.

The board also discussed the upcoming paving of Rte. 156 by CTDOT. The state would like to install rumble strips down the center of this road from the junction with Rte. 82 to Mt. Archer road. The board discussed the safety enhancements from rumble strips along with the noise they create for homeowners fronting the road. Board consensus was against the installation of rumble strips and directed the First Selectmen to advise CTDOT not to proceed with this installation.

Selectman Mattson updated the board on the work at Johnston Preserve to clear the land for an entry to a small parking area to provide access to this newest town land parcel. The town is acquiring a quote for the entryway construction as approved by the CTDOT permit. Plans for a dedication of this property will follow the project's completion and the ability to gather at the site.

A request to install a garden in a corner of the 8 Mile Cemetery by a neighbor was discussed. The board felt that the cemetery land was for the use of all residents and permission should not be granted to a sole neighbor for personal use.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Mattson
For the Board of Selectmen