



BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

It has been too long since the Selectmen have had the opportunity to publish a newsletter and we apologize for its absence. Now that the town has approved the budget for fiscal year 2022/23, we thought it a good time to update Lyme residents. Here's what's happening in your town government ...

COVID:

It has been quite a battle to manage the pandemic over the past couple of years, and Lyme has weathered this crisis better than most towns. We still have had only one death due to COVID and we trust that this will not change. Presently, the number of cases is near the peak experienced previously and we suggest that all residents continue to practice the mitigation strategies that have worked so well – get vaccinated and wear masks when in large groups.

Finances:

The budget for next fiscal year, beginning July 1st, that was passed at the May 26th town meeting is the fifth year in a row that we have held the property tax rate stable, and it remains at 19.95 mills. This is quite an accomplishment given that our spending has not been curtailed but has actually increased as we continue with the replacement of two bridges in town. Thanks are due to the town staff who pay strict attention to spending and save wherever possible. We anticipate that the current fiscal year will see spending below the budget allocation by more than \$300,000.

The upcoming fiscal year's budget will complete our paydown of debt and the town will end the year completely debt free. We will also manage to reach the reserve fund goals set jointly by the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen. The town's finances are in terrific shape.

Infrastructure Projects:

During the upcoming fiscal year, we will be addressing a number of needs in the town and utilizing a portion of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to accomplish as much as possible.

In addition to the two bridges, we will be chip sealing (road resurfacing) twice as many miles of roads as we usually do each year. The following roads will be addressed: Brockway Ferry, Burr, Clark, Cove, Day Hill, Ely Ferry, Honey Hill, Mitchell Hill, Oakland, Parkside, Selden, Tinker and Town Woods. Please use patience and caution while these roads are repaired and resurfaced during the summer.

In addition to our roads, we will be replacing the HVAC system in Town Hall which has never worked as intended and resulted in higher than necessary maintenance spending. This replacement will reduce future spending and may be a little disruptive while the work is performed in the fall.

Employee and Volunteer Turnover:

During the past year, Lyme has experienced a larger than normal turnover of town employees along with board and commission volunteer members. Finding replacements is getting tougher as our population ages and we ask residents to contact us should they wish to get involved in town government. We strive to maintain a list of residents who want to serve on our many boards when vacancies arise.

In addition, and at present, we are having a hard time finding two part-time employees to hire. First is an assistant zoning officer and assist our land use boards as administrative assistant to take minutes at their meetings. The second need is for a financial director who will also serve as our Town Treasurer. Please contact us if your background will match well with these positions and you would like to get involved with the town.

Board Accomplishments:

We recognize two boards for their accomplishments this past year. The Sustainable Committee has been awarded the Bronze level award from the SustainableCT program for its efforts in making the town more sustainable; and the Affordable Housing Committee has completed its affordable housing plan to lead the town in preserving and expanding the number of Lyme properties that are available for families in town.

First Selectman Retirement:

Our First Selectman has announced his intention to retire in early July. "After serving the town since 1995, with 17 years on the Board of Selectmen, I have decided to retire and spend more time with my family and traveling," Mattson said. "It has been a pleasure serving the town and I thank you all for your support while doing so. The Board of Selectmen will be voting at its July 5th meeting to appoint a replacement. Please support the new First Selectman as you have me."

Steven Mattson
John Kiker
David Lahm



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Board of Selectmen:

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David Lahm, *Third Selectman*

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