

**LYNDEBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 20, 2021**  
*Final*

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Introduction of Members Present:**

Chairman Fred Douglas and Selectman Mark Chamberlain

Selectman Robert Howe is excused

Town Administrator Russ Boland

**Public & Media Present:** Jessie Salisbury, Art Napolitano, Lisa Post, Mike Decubellis, Sandy Schoen, Lez Ebert, Alex Simovici, Administrative Assistant Dawn Griska Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Leo Trudeau, Fire Chief Brian Smith, Ginny & Tom Chrisenton, Phil & Sharon Dupont and other guests

**III. Appointments:**

**6:05pm: Broadband Committee Discussion**

The Selectmen met with volunteers for the Broadband Committee.

T/A Boland said he heard that TDS is doing work on Center Road. Consolidated received money to improve and expand their service but they have six-years to use those funds.

Committee member Alex Simovici said they ran 44 pairs of fiber on the way to his house, and only two are being used.

Chairman Douglas mentioned that the Selectmen take this topic serious and provided examples of how limited internet access has affected former residents and the Board's past actions to improve the situation.

Lez Ebert asked if the Town has seen any activity.

Lisa Post wanted to follow-up regarding any funds received for broadband. T/A Boland confirmed the Town received funds equaling a total of \$91,000 addressed for broadband or other uses and expects to receive another \$91,000 next year. Those funds could help with revenue or Broadband. Those funds would not make much of a difference in the cost to resolve the broadband issue and other funds or efforts could be utilized for broadband improvements so there needs to be a careful consideration where these funds best help the Town.

Lisa Post asked if any funds would help entice broadband improvements from vendors and T/A Boland said that there are only 68 customers on the Consolidated system and there was money available but that has not helped the process. Alex Simovici provided his opinion that he believes the cost would be minimal to connect the houses on the Turnpike, maybe \$500 per house.

T/A Boland said he will be contacting members of the Broadband Committee to set-up a meeting.

#### **6:30pm Woodward Road Subdivisions Area E-911 Street Naming**

Ginny Chrisenton presented an updated proposed road name map for the Board to review. The latest map has an amended name from the previous version (Poly Pond Road has been proposed to be changed to Western Way) and what had been proposed as Venue Road has been incorporated into Western Way to make it one continuous road rather than two roads that break at an intersection, which relieved a previous concern.

The Board had no additional concerns on the names. The Fire Chief, Police Chief and Ambulance Director have not commented yet.

Administrative Assistant Dawn Griska said they have not submitted anything to E911 yet.

**VOTE: Selectman Chamberlain made a motion, Chairman Douglas seconded to submit the proposed road names and plans to E-911 for confirmation, subject to any comments by the department heads. Motion passed 2-0.**

Ginny Chrisenton asked about a decision about the center line and other requirements. She was provided a copy of a letter from the Selectmen, which lists the items needed to be completed to lift the moratorium.

#### **IV. Community Forum and Public Comment:**

Ginny Chrisenton announced that the work to repair the cemetery stones will start tomorrow by Medlyn Monument. Encumbered funds are being used for this project.

Phil Dupont asked the status of the Woodward Road building moratorium and what is being done to resolve it. He was pleased to see there is a letter to address this and will read that letter. He will request to be on the next agenda. He hopes there is a resolution on the status of his building permit application. Chairman Douglas said once the items are completed that building permits can be issued and added items 1-6 have to be completed to the satisfaction of the town. Mr. Dupont said this is helpful.

Ginny Chrisenton asked if the Board wants every lot that is accessed or just the subdivision lots and those that have building on them. Selectman Chamberlain said anything that is accessed by those roads. They also discussed the scale can't be 400 and it may have to be a 200 scale. T. Chrisenton asked if only the roads accessing the Brown and Dupont properties could be done now and the rest later and was told all the items need to be completed.

#### **V. Decision Making Actions:**

##### **a. Old/Tabled Business:**

#### **Proposed move of Wilton Ambulance Department to the Wilton Fire Department Building Discussion**

T/A Boland said there was an AAC meeting yesterday with Wilton, Greenfield and Lyndeborough. Wilton asked about the requirement to postpone the decision to move the ambulance operations to the Wilton Fire Station until after Town Meeting. Wilton asked if a Public Hearing could replace the Town Meeting requirement. The position of this Board

is to ask for public comment as this move could have a financial and life safety impact. There are serious consequences with the response time being increased. This Board voted that they are not comfortable making that decision and voted to bring this to Town Meeting. They feel that vote stands. With COVID, they don't expect a large attendance at a public hearing and feel there will be greater participation at the traditional Town Meeting format in March.

*6:37pm. Fire chief Smith arrived.*

Fire Chief Smith said he does not think it's a good idea right now based on money issue. "I don't see any savings that would justify a four (4) minute loss of response time. It is not a good idea. It is not in our benefit." The cost savings would only be \$2,000 per year.

Selectman Chamberlain asked how many people does Lyndeborough have available to respond during the day. Chief Smith replied, "Three in the Highway Crew and one is an EMT." Their location within the Town and availability obviously can change. Chief Smith added it is getting tough to have a volunteer staff.

Chairman Douglas said this is huge decision, which has life safety issues. "I have been in law enforcement for 40-years. I see time and time again, when emergency services go in for budget hearings that they hang their hat every time on "Response Time". I don't see why we want to take something that works and move it right next the Milford border. What does that say for the people in North Lyndeborough? What does that say for Greenfield?

T/A Boland will advise Wilton of the consensus to remain with the Town Meeting requirement.

### **2022 Budget Discussion**

T/A Boland handed out the draft 2022 Budget. The Board will meet on **Friday, October 29** with department heads. After that, the budget will go to the Budget Committee.

Chairman Douglas asked if there is a budget increase. T/A Boland informed him there is a 7.3% increase. Chairman Douglas asked how much is that per household. The increase will be 60 cents on the tax rate. For a \$200,000 home that equals a \$120 increase, just on the municipal side.

Chairman Douglas noted the inflation rate is 5.7%. Gas has gone up 42%. T/A Boland said they don't have the health insurance costs yet. There was a 35% increase in road salt. There will be an increase for the ambulance services.

### **b. New Business:**

#### **NRPC Electricity Supplies and Aggregation**

NRPC recommends that Lyndeborough enter into this program now. T/A Boland noted that his name is listed correctly but the document reflects that Mr. Boland is representing Brookline. Due to the NRPC schedule, they suggest this Board cross out "Brookline" and add "Lyndeborough" then sign the document. This program has saved Lyndeborough over \$20,000 since they have been enrolled.

**VOTE: Selectman Chamberlain made a motion, Chairman Douglas seconded to allow T/A Boland to sign this contract for Energy Consulting Proposal with Standard Power through NRPC. Motion passed 2-0.**

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - 2022**

The emergency generator for library will cost close to \$20,000. The grant is for 2022, therefore the quote process will be appropriately delayed so the quotes stay current. The grant is a 50% matching grant, but we use GOFFER funds to help offset to net cost. There should be no cost to the Town.

#### **c. Items not on Agenda:**

Nothing

### **VI. Town Administrator Report**

The Town received the American Rescue Funds one of two payments of \$91,000. There was a meeting to accept the first installment of \$91,000. At this point, NHMA is advising and recommend we hold another public hearing to consider modifying the first vote to accept the entire amount so we can have it as unanticipated revenue in 2022.

A House Bill makes it clear under RSA 31:5b the Town can hold a new hearing to amend a vote to accept the total. They are one grant, not two separate grants.

It was agreed to hold a Public Hearing at the November 17 meeting to modify accepting the \$91,000 to the entire \$182,000.

**VOTE: Selectman Chamberlain made a motion, Chairman Douglas seconded to reexamine the American Rescue Plan Funding. Motion passed 2-0.**

Dawn Griska will handle the public notice requirements.

The Highway Department scraped the bad spots on Citizens' Hall and Center Hall and repainted. Both buildings look much better. This was done at very little expense to the Town. The Board wanted to convey their appreciation to the Highway Department.

T/A Boland received a letter from Peg Charpentier asking if the Amherst Town Band could use Citizens' Hall for their annual Christmas concert. Their church is not allowing them to use their space so they are seeking other venues. The event would be free and opened to all town's people the weekend of December 10-11. The event collects food for charity. The Board agreed to table this request for now.

T/A Boland announced there was another attempted IT hack and stressed that we need to remain vigilant. On another note, Chairman Douglas mentioned he did not send an email asking people to buy iTune cards, that was a scam.

### **VII. Selectmen's Report**

#### **a. MACC Base Action & Agenda**

They are exploring using ARPA Funds from the communities. They have a few vacancies.

#### **b. Transportation Committee**

The 10-year plan was discussed. If you have a project in the 10-year plan it got pushed 1-7 years down the road. The Transportation Committee will not meet next month. They have been having a difficult time with a quorum especially since people got used to Zoom.

**c. Planning Board**

The Planning Board will meet tomorrow night. They held a workshop two-weeks ago to discuss the Class VI & Private Road Policy, which resulted in the creation of a subcommittee, which then met last Thursday.

**d. Heritage Commission**

The Commission will meet next Friday. The videos for the Fourth Grade Civic Project will be shown at the Wilton Town Hall Theater this Saturday at 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

**e. Conservation Commission**

The Commission had a meeting last Thursday. Agenda items included working on putting together a wetlands buffer ordinance. There is a workshop next Thursday to move forward.

Chairman Douglas said he will be decorating the small Christmas tree at Center Hall on the second weekend in December on behalf of Clayton Brown

**VIII. Consent Agenda:**

**VOTE: Selectman Chamberlain moved, Selectman Douglas seconded to accept the Consent Agenda in part, minus Items #6, #7 and #8. The minutes will be tabled because there is only one signature. Motion passed 2-0.**

**IX. Information Items Requiring No Discussion**

None

**X. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (a & c)**

**VOTE: Selectman Chamberlain moved, Selectman Douglas seconded to enter into a Non-Public Session at 7:04 p.m. Motion passed 2-0. The Board was polled.**

**VOTE: Selectman Chamberlain moved, Selectman Douglas seconded to exit the Non-Public Session at 8:10 p.m. Motion passed 2-0.**

**Adjournment:**

**VOTE: Selectman Chamberlain moved, Selectman Douglas seconded adjourn at 8:10p.m. Motion passed 2-0.**

All scheduled items having been addressed, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next regular meeting: November 3, 2021 at Citizens' Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Kathleen Humphreys, Transcriber

Chairman Fred Douglas\_\_\_\_\_

Selectman Mark Chamberlain\_\_\_\_\_

Selectman Robert Howe\_\_\_\_\_

See below for Consent Agenda

<b>October 20, 2021 Consent Agenda</b>		
<b>Item #</b>	<b>Item Title</b>	<b>Approved</b>
1	AP Warrants – October 13 & 19, 2021	Yes
2	Payroll Warrant – October 4 through October 17, 2021	Yes
3	VALIC ACH Payroll Warrant -- October 4 through October 17, 2021	Yes
4	Request to Approve Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) Abatement (Map-Lot 247-016-004)	Yes
5	Request to Execute Private Road Requirements Correspondence - Chrisentons	Yes
6	Board of Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2021	Tabled
7	Board of Selectmen's Non-Public Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2021 (RSA 91-A:3 II (c))	Tabled
8	Board of Selectmen's Public Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2021	Tabled