

TOWN OF LYMAN 2021 Budget Hearing

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Lyman, in the County of Grafton, and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in the Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Highway Garage in said Town on **TUESDAY**, the **NINTH** day of **MARCH 2021**; polls to open at **ELEVEN O'CLOCK** in the morning and will not close before **SIX O'CLOCK** in the evening in said Town Highway Garage, to act on Article 1; the remaining Articles to be considered at **SEVEN O'CLOCK** in the evening.

Article 1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

On Tuesday, February 9th 2021, the Town of Lyman held its annual Budget Hearing at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chairman of the Select Board, Jim Trudell. In attendance were Selectman, Wendy Ho-Sing-Loy and Administrative Assistant, Tabbetha Shosa. Selectman, Bruce Beane was absent. Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Bethany Carignan, took the meeting minutes.

There were 7 people in the audience. They were given an overview of the past year's expenses and future year's goals. Trudell began by saying that the taxes are estimated to go down for the 2021 year. The total tax appropriation is \$862,214. A contribution of \$175,000 from the fund balance as well as estimated revenues totaling approximately \$331,315 will assist in keeping tax increases as manageable as possible. An estimated total of \$110,000 will remain in the fund balance. Overlay will remain the same at \$42,000 and will be used to cover expenses such as Abatements. The total estimated amount to be raised by taxes is \$413,664.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Five Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$405,668) to defray Town charges for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Executive.....	\$58,505.00
Election, Reg., Vital Statistics.....	38,358.00
Financial Administration	46,405.00
Revaluation of Property	6,250.00
Legal Expenses.....	8,000.00
Personnel Administration.....	67,120.00
Planning	4,745.00
Zoning	2,325.00
General Government Buildings	20,330.00
Cemeteries.....	11,500.00
Insurance otherwise not allocated .	12,503.00
Advertising & Regional Associations	2,810.00

Other General Government	700.00
Ambulance	7,995.00
Fire	26,750.00
Emergency Management	4,050.00
Solid Waste Disposal	50,720.00
Health Officer	850.00
Animal Control.....	2,264.00
Health Agencies	6,054.00
Welfare Administration	670.00
Welfare Vendor Payments.....	2,900.00
Library	1,700.00
Patriotic Purposes	150.00
Other Culture.....	2,550.00
Conservation	200.00
Principal on Long Term Notes	8,275.00
Interest on Long Term Notes.....	1,920.00
Interest on TAN	7,500.00

Trudell reviewed a summary of the expenses related to Warrant Article 2 and then presented a more in-depth review of each line item from Article 2. Many of the line items from this Article are down this year.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars (\$273,526) for maintenance, expenses, salaries, supplies, equipment and street lighting for the Highway Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Highway Administration.....	\$143,076.00
Highway Maintenance	\$129,850.00
Street Lighting	\$600.00

The town will look to expand the part time position to include help during the winter and summer months so that Road Agent, Tom Smith & Highway Crew Worker, Ed Parker are able to take time off when requested as well as providing necessary coverage in the case of illness or emergency. Trudell explained plans that Road Agent Smith has presented to the Board of Selectmen to continue necessary road maintenance and repairs and keep Lyman Roads in good shape. Also, the cost of winter sand and road salt. This line item is up \$2,326.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen)

This article is so the town does not have to borrow money to replace equipment. Tom and

Ed take good care of the equipment and everything is in good running condition. They are looking into replacing the loader in 2022 because of its age.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Road Material Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen)

These funds are used to offset the cost of blasting and crushing materials for Lyman roads.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the Bridge Replacement & Repair Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen)

These funds are intended to cover cost that the Town will incur for necessary Bridge Repair on the Ogontz Bridge located on the town road that travels through the Ogontz campground. The current balance in this Capital Reserve Fund is \$10,700.

Trudell and Ho-sing-loy discussed an estimate that was received earlier in the evening for the upcoming Bridge Repair. An additional Warrant Article may need to be added requesting a necessary loan not to exceed \$40,000 to cover additional expenses that cannot be covered from funds in the Capital Reserve Bridge Fund. If a loan becomes necessary the first payment will be due in 2022 and the second and final payment will be due the following year.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) to be placed in the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Money goes into this fund yearly and is used to cover the additional expense of the Cyclical Valuation.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) to be placed in the Transfer Station Equipment & Repair Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Money goes into this fund yearly to cover necessary equipment replacement and repairs for the Lisbon Transfer Station.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) to increase the compensation of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. This article is proposed to be approved in addition to the amount of Town Clerk/Tax Collector compensation included in the 2021 budget. (Inserted by Petition) (Majority vote required) (Not recommended by the Selectmen)

This is up to the voters of Lyman. In 2019 the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors compensation was cut by approximately \$5000. The work load in the office has not changed. Currently the Town Clerk does not get paid for meetings after regular hours or Elections. An increased work load and hours will also acquire because the town will now have semi-annual taxes. Pay is based on the 18 open window hours only. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector is a part time position but enough hours are worked to qualify for health insurance which is based on 30 hours a week.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue completely and absolutely Echo Ledge Road pursuant to RSA 231:43. Echo Ledge Road is a dead-end road, which begins at an intersection with Ash Hill Road and travels approximately 1,864 feet to its end. An affirmative vote on this Article will terminate the public's right to use Echo Ledge Road, but under New Hampshire law, owners of the property abutting the road may continue to use the road at their own risk. All of the property surrounding Echo Ledge Road is currently owned by the same party. Written notice of this Article was provided by the Selectmen to the owner of the property surrounding Echo Ledge Road more than 14 days prior to Town Meeting. (Inserted by Petition) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen)

This is currently a Class 5 Town road that is maintained by the Town. The owner at the end of Echo Ledge would like this road changed to a private road. This change should be a cost savings for the town as the town would no longer be responsible for maintaining Echo Ledge Road.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering. Additionally, these voters ask the town of Lyman to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the town officials to Lyman's State Legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote. (Inserted by petition) (Majority vote required)

A diagram was displayed showing the way in which current voting takes place. Trudell explained how voting might change should gerrymandering be allowed.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to have the Selectmen or other Lyman resident participate in a regional, communications district planning committee. This planning committee would explore working with a supplier to provide fiber optic internet service to residents and businesses within participating communities. Such high-speed service is seen as important to the Town's growth. The committee would include at least two members from each participating town. The planning committee would not have the authority to enter into any agreement with a supplier. (Majority vote required)

State Representative, Tim Egan is currently working to help small towns in the area gain access to improved internet service.

Article 13. To transact any other business that may legally come before the Meeting.

Town Meeting will take place at the Town Garage this year. Voting will also happen at the Town Garage from 11-6pm. The school meeting is scheduled for March 17 at 7pm in the Lisbon Regional School gymnasium.

The Lyman Budget Hearing was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Given under our hands and seal this 9th day of February, 2021.

The Lyman Board of Selectmen


James Trudell, Chairman


Bruce Beane

Wendy Ho-Sing-Loy

Respectfully submitted,
Bethany Carlgan, Lyman Town Clerk