



BOARD OF FINANCE

LYME TOWN HALL  
480 HAMBURG ROAD  
LYME, CT 06371

BOARD OF FINANCE

Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting

The Lyme Board of Finance held a budget hearing/regular meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lyme Town Hall, 480 Hamburg Road, Lyme, CT 06371.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Hagan (Chair), Herb Ross, Kathryn Wayland, Peter Evankow, Jarrod Leonardo (seated alternate), Bruce Anderson (seated alternate), Jennifer Thomas (Secretary)

ABSENT MEMBERS: Judith Duran, David Brown, Lori Caine (alternate)

SELECTMAN PRESENT: Steven Mattson, First Selectman

Several members of the public were present.

The meeting was called to order by Hagan at 6:30 p.m.

**Seat Alternate Members**

Hagan called for a motion to seat alternate members Jarrod Leonardo and Bruce Anderson for absent regular members Judith Duran and David Brown. Wayland made the motion, seconded by Evankow, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Hagan called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2019 regular meeting. Evankow made the motion, Wayland seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting

**Budget Hearing-Public Comment**

Hagan reviewed the budget summary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Operating costs are decreasing by .5%. Capital expenses have decreased by 39.2%, total expenses down by 6%, and income has decreased by 9.1%. These figures are affected by the purchase of the Johnston Property in fiscal year 2018-2019. School costs to Lyme have decreased 2.5%. The town is continuing to increase savings in several funds, including open space, capital non-recurring, and affordable housing.

The revaluation of property caused property values overall to decrease by 6.7%, which means that the Mil rate will have to increase to keep a revenue neutral position. Individuals may see an increase or decrease in their tax bill based on the percentage their particular property value went up or down, but the total taxes collected by the town will remain the same as the current fiscal year.

Other notable items in the budget include a line item for teacher pensions, which is a possible new cost to the town based on State legislation, an increase in Zoning Enforcement Officer costs due to training a replacement for the current Zoning Enforcement Officer, and an increase in garage costs to purchase a compactor for the Hamburg Recycling Center.

The town is expecting to bring in more in interest on investments due to a change in where the accounts are held.

The regional school budget has an overall increase of 2.29%, but because of the percentage of students that reside in Lyme, the cost to Lyme will decrease by 2.5% over the current year.

Hagan called for any public comment or questions regarding the budget presented.

George Fowler questioned where the town is in the process of getting the Birch Mill bridge rebuilt.

Selectman Mattson stated that the Birch Mill bridge will be replaced. The process will take about two years, including engineering and obtaining state and federal approvals, as well as other permits. The town will receive a state grant of 50% of the cost. The town is hoping to receive approval of the plans and begin construction in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and complete the bridge construction the following fiscal year.

Rolf Wolfswinkel asked whether this will be a replica of the existing bridge or a different design.

Selectman Mattson stated that the design will have to be different to conform to state regulations, including widening the bridge to 20 feet and adding railings, but will still stay with the character of the town.

**Board approval to send budget to Town Meeting**

Hagan called for a motion to approve the budget to send to Town Meeting on May 14, 2019. Ross approved the motion, seconded by Anderson, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business-** None

**New Business-**None

**Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.