



SELECTMEN'S MINUTES – VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 6, 2020

Present: Parker Lord, John Kiker, Steven Mattson, Dan Hagan

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 and Selectman Mattson wished good health to the families of all participants. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The board reviewed the financial report for the 3rd quarter of this fiscal year showing continued adherence to planned spending levels. The board also reviewed the BOS proposed budget for fiscal year, 2020-2021, that recommends no change to the property tax mill rate for next year. The board noted that this recommendation, if approved by the Board of Finance, will be the 3rd budget in the last 4 years where no property tax increase will be necessary. The board approved the budget proposal and it will be submitted to the Board of Finance on 4/7/2020.

The board also discussed the Governor's orders as regard the use of modified procedures for passage of municipal budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. The Governor's Order # 71 dated 3/21/20 suspended the in-person requirement for purposes of adopting the FY 2020-2021 municipal budget and setting of the mill rate. The Board of Selectmen is empowered, by this executive order, to authorize the budget making authority (Board of Finance) to adopt the budget and set the mill rate. The Board of Finance must follow open meeting protocols for the development and approval of the budget, including holding a virtual Budget Hearing open to the public. A copy of the budget must be posted on the town's website accompanying the announcement of the Budget Hearing date and agenda. Also included should be an email address that residents can use to comment on the budget prior to the hearing.

By unanimous vote, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lyme authorized the Lyme Board of Finance to adopt the FY 2020 – 2021 Budget and set the mill rate following a virtual Budget Hearing and without Town Meeting vote. All efforts will be made to allow property owners to review and comment on the budget prior to the Board of Finance Budget Hearing virtual meeting planned for April 28, 2020.

Mr. Hagan provided a meeting schedule for the BOF adoption or revision to the proposed budget and anticipates final approval and a mill rate decision in May following the passage of School District #18's budget.

The board reviewed the latest COVID-19 preparations and referred to the First Selectman's Public Health Advisory dated 4/5/2020 posted on the town's website for details.

The board also discussed another of the Governor's executive orders creating a 90-day tax deferment for taxpayers who experience significant economic loss from COVID-19. The board endorsed such an

extension of due dates for tax bills, including property taxes due 7/1/20, and plan to adopt such Deferment Program at its next meeting and following the state's definition of eligibility and the process for taxpayers to apply.

Selectman Kiker discussed our new "Zoom" virtual meeting capabilities for boards and commissions to use in holding meetings and specifically the security of this technology. He and Jen Thomas will be developing protocols for board chairs to follow to enhance security and will be sending this information to all chairs as soon as possible.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Mattson
For the Board of Selectmen