



BOARD OF FINANCE

LYME TOWN HALL
480 HAMBURG ROAD
LYME, CT 06371

LYME BOARD OF FINANCE
Virtual Regular Meeting

The Lyme Board of Finance held a virtual regular meeting on Tuesday April 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Hagan Chair, Judith Duran, David Brown, Kathryn Wayland, Peter Evankow, seated alternate Susan Tyler, and unseated alternates Bruce Anderson and Bob House. Jarrod Leonardo (unseated regular member entered 6:36 p.m.)

Selectmen Present: Steven Mattson and John Kiker

Board of Education Members Present: Stacey Leonardo, Jean Wilczynski, Diane Linderman

Region 18 Staff Present: Ian Neviaser Superintendent and Holly McCalla

Regular Meeting

Hagan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Seat Alternate Member

Tyler was seated for absent regular member Leonardo.

Approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting

Hagan called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting. Evankow made the motion, seconded by Brown, and the minutes were approved.

New Business

Board of Education presentation and discussion

Present: Ian Neviaser, Regional School District 18 Superintendent

Neviaser presented the board with the 2021-2022 regional school district budget. There is a 0.47% increase (\$162,917) over the current budget. The net billing to the Town of Lyme will be \$380,045 less than the current budget year due to decreased student percentage to Lyme and balance refund. The student count for Lyme will be 18.2% and 81.8% for Old Lyme with a current total student count of 1,305.

Brown questioned the number of tuition students in the district and Neviaser stated that he believes there are 10 or 11 at this time, paying between \$15,000-19,000 each, and that the district continues to get requests.

Mattson noted that the budget and 3-year projections for the school district have been very accurate, and asked Neviaser to provide any insight on upcoming items that may have a large impact on future budget years.

Neviaser stated that there are not any major projects that would impact the budget in the upcoming years and that an increase in student count may potentially have an impact but that this is limited by housing availability in the two towns.

Hagan thanked the Board of Education members and Region 18 superintendent and staff for attending and presenting and expressed his and the board's thanks to the entire school district,

teachers, staff, and board of education members for working so hard to keep the students in school full time during this challenging year.

Review final student count (%) and impact

Hagan stated that Neviaser had covered this in the previous agenda item, pointing out that the current student percentage is 18.2%, but that percentage can swing substantially year to year.

Review 3rd quarter budget results/outlook for year end

Mattson presented the results of the current 3rd quarter, stating that the town is right on budget, and expects to end the fiscal year around \$472,000 under budget.

Old Business

Continue review and adjustments to the 2021/2022 budget

Mattson reviewed budget proposal for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, noting the changes made at the Board's request, which includes additional debt reduction and increased specific fund allocation. The Board of Selectmen recommend keeping the mill rate at 19.95.

Brown proposed implementing health insurance cost-sharing for future full-time employees, with 15% paid by the employee and 85% covered by the town and Wayland agreed. Duran cautioned against deterring quality candidates from applying and Tyler thought it was a worthy discussion but would like more information before a decision was made.

Mattson pointed out that changing the handbook would require a legal review.

MOTION: Brown made a motion to implement health insurance cost-sharing for any full-time employee hired after July 1, 2021, with the town paying 85% of the cost and the employee paying 15% of the cost. Wayland seconded the motion.

Hagan, Brown, Wayland, and Evankow voted in favor. Tyler and Duran opposed. The motion carried 4-2.

Mattson stated that implementing this policy by July 1, 2021 would require help from the Board of Finance as the town does not currently have the staff or resources to complete this change in the timeframe given.

Wayland stated that she believes the goal of \$1,000,000 in the Open Space Fund is excessive. She would like to see the goal reduced to \$500,000 and believes the yearly contribution should be capped at \$50,000.

Hagan stated that the goals are recommendations by the Board of Selectmen and that more discussion regarding the specific fund goals will take place in August. Tyler agrees that August would be an appropriate time to review the goals.

Mattson said that the Board of Selectmen provides the goal recommendations to the Board of Finance and the Board of Finance has supported these goals by approving the budget annually.

MOTION: Wayland made a motion to reduce the open space budget to \$75,000 annually and a goal of \$500,000 for the open space fund. Hagan seconded the motion.

The motion carried with a 4-2 vote. Wayland, Hagan, Evankow, and Brown in favor, and Tyler and Duran opposed.

Other discussion items included the accelerated debt payoff, the timeline for the next Plan of Conservation and Development, and the open space maintenance costs.

Adjournment

Evankow made a motion to adjourn. Brown seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Thomas, Secretary