



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 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Hagan Chair, Judith Duran, David Brown, Kathryn Wayland, Peter Evankow, seated alternates Bruce Anderson and Bob House, unseated alternate Susan Tyler, Jennifer Thomas Secretary, and First Selectman Steven Mattson.

Absent Member: David Brown and Jarrod Leonardo

Regular Meeting

Hagan called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Seat Alternate Member

Alternate member Bruce Anderson was seated for absent regular member David Brown. Alternate member Bob House was seated for absent regular member Judith Duran.

Approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 meeting.

Hagan called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2021 meeting. Evankow made the motion, seconded by Duran and the motion carried.

New Business

Appoint auditor for the 2020-2021 fiscal year

Hagan reminded the board that there is a current contract with the firm Seward and Monde and asked for a motion to appoint Seward and Monde as auditor for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Duran made the motion, seconded by Anderson, and the motion carried.

Old Business

Discussion and approval of 2021-2022 budget for publication

Hagan reviewed the summary sheet reflecting the most updated budget proposal, noting an increase in debt payoff and a healthy general fund balance. The budget represents a deficit spending plan of \$170,631, which can be easily absorbed by the general fund balance.

Anderson questioned whether there is an anticipated increase in conveyance tax income and the reasoning behind the snow and ice removal figure. Mattson stated that the conveyance tax income is anticipated to remain about the same as in past years and that although the town has come under budget with snow and ice removal for the last few years, there have been years when the entire budgeted amount has been needed.

The board discussed the replacement of the building inspector over the next two years. Mattson reminded the board that the one year increase in the budget is to hire, train, and certify a replacement before the current building inspector retires, and the new hire will have an expanded role with regards to facilities maintenance. Hagan cautioned that there should be confirmation that the state is running a certification program in 2021 before incurring the cost of a new hire.

Hagan stated that he feels there are too many new expenses being added in one year, noting the new accounting software, salary increases, and expanded treasurer position.

House and Duran agree that a finance director is needed and Mattson commented that a new hire should have some say in choosing the new accounting system and helping implement direct deposit payments, bill payments, and accepting credit cards. Evankow noted that segregation of duties is still a concern with a combined treasurer/finance director.

Hagan made a motion to eliminate the financial director position from line 5012 and study that need with new software and a new treasurer and revisit next year. With no second, the motion failed.

Wayland questioned the need for two locations for recycling, and wondered whether the Hamburg recycling center should be closed.

Hagan stated that the Board of Selectmen recommends keeping the mill rate at 19.95. Evankow said he would like to see the mill rate decrease given the economic impact COVID-19. Mattson stated that if the mill rate was reduced for the 2021-2022 budget, it would need to be increased by 6 mills the next year to cover the cost of some of the slated bridge work. Hagan agreed that leaving the mill rate at 19.95 to smooth out tax increases in coming years is preferable.

Wayland expressed concern that there may be further delay building the bridge and does not believe the town should be holding taxpayers money.

Hagan called for a motion to approve the 2021-2022 proposed budget of \$10,969,497 for printing and publication in anticipation of the public budget hearing. Duran made the motion, seconded by House, and the motion carried.

Adjournment

Hagan called for a motion to adjourn. Wayland made the motion, seconded by Evankow, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Thomas, Secretary