



BOARD OF FINANCE

LYME TOWN HALL  
480 HAMBURG ROAD  
LYME, CT 06371

LYME BOARD OF FINANCE  
Special Meeting/Regular Meeting

The Lyme Board of Finance held a special/regular meeting on Tuesday April 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lyme Town Hall, 480 Hamburg Road, Lyme CT 06371.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Sheiness Chair, Dan Hagan, Jarrod Leonardo, Bob House, Kathryn Wayland, David Brown, unseated alternates Jim Miller and Bruce Anderson. Adam McEwen joined as unseated alternate for the regular meeting.

First Selectman Steven Mattson and Selectman David Lahm present

Region 18 Superintendent Ian Nevaizer and Business Manager Holly McCalla also present

**Special Meeting**

Sheiness called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Appointment of successor to fill alternate member vacancy**

Sheiness called for nominations.

Leonardo nominated Adam McEwen and House seconded.

Sheiness called for any discussion, noting that the nominee's qualifications had been previously distributed to the board members.

After a brief discussion, Sheiness called for a vote and the nomination was unanimously approved.

**Adjournment**

Sheiness called for a motion to adjourn. Brown made the motion, seconded by Wayland and the special meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

**Regular Meeting**

Sheiness opened the regular meeting at 6:35 p.m. and invited McEwen to join the meeting as an unseated alternate.

**Approve Minutes of March 22, 2022**

Sheiness called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Brown made the motion, seconded by House, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Board of Education FY 22/23 Budget Summary**

Present: Region 18 Superintendent Ian Nevaizer

Nevaizer presented the board with the Region 18 2022-2023 proposed budget summary. The budget shows a .13% decrease from the current budget. The decrease is driven largely by a health insurance decrease due to the health collaborative, as well as reduction in

transportation costs. Nevaizer also noted that there are no program or extra-curricular cuts being made. A review of capital projects for the 2022-2023 year were reviewed, which total \$449,000.

The impact to the Town based on a student count percentage of 17.8% totals \$5,925,196 which is a decrease of 1.2% compared to the current year.

Miller questioned whether the drop in student count reflects reduced enrollment in Lyme or an increase in enrollment in Old Lyme and Nevaizer stated that he believes it is driven from an increase of students enrolled in Old Lyme.

Hagan asked Nevaizer about the yearly surplus in the budget and questioned why there is enough of a surplus to fund the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures and give money back to the towns as a credit.

Nevaizer answered that the practice has always been to budget on the gross amount, and not account for monies that may be received by the State or other grant programs. This ensures that there will be enough money in the budget to cover costs without having to go back to the town if grant money does not come through.

Nevaizer noted that the Board of Education must approve the use of funds from the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures.

### **Review of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Results/Outlook for Year-End**

Mattson reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter results, noting that that property tax collection, real estate conveyance fees and reduced costs for road maintenance due to a mild winter have had a positive impact on the budget, while interest on investments has been lower than projected. Overall, the town is projected to end the current fiscal year with a general fund balance of \$2,867,857, a portion of which will be encumbered for future bridge projects.

### **22/23 Budget Update; Changes from March 22 and Remaining Open Items**

Mattson presented the latest proposed budget document, which recommends keeping the mill rate at the current level of 19.95. The board discussed the Rogers Lake Authority and Senior Center line items.

Wayland stated that she does not support the recommendation of a 7% wage increase and also questioned if the town received any quotes on the needed HVAC repairs at the Town Hall.

Sheiness stated that the 7% is built into the proposed budget but the Board of Finance will determine the right percentage at a later date. This allows the money to be in the budget if a 7% increase is indicated.

Brown believes 7% is too high, noting that the employees are also receiving an ARPA bonus.

Miller stated that it is important to remember that the increase not only affects the upcoming budget year, but all future years as well.

Mattson stated that the board can wait until May to make a final decision and see what the inflation trend looks like at that point.

Anderson stated that the wage increase should be evaluated independent of the ARPA bonus.

Sheiness called for a motion on the wage increase.

Hagan made a motion to approve a 4% wage increase for FY22/23 and authorization of the 10% ARPA expenditure. Wayland seconded the motion.

Sheiness made a point of clarification that the 10% ARPA expenditure has previously been approved by the board.

Hagan amended his motion to remove the 10% expenditure from his motion and Wayland seconded.

Mattson stated that he will always advocate for the staff, and believes the 7% increase is appropriate.

Leonardo pointed out that the board often commends the town staff on their performance.

Sheiness called for a vote. Wayland, Hagan, and Brown voted in favor and House, Sheiness, and Leonardo voted against. The motion does not pass.

Sheiness called for any additional motions and there were none.

Wayland asked if any additional quotes were received on the town hall HVAC system repair.

Mattson stated that four companies were approached but none of them showed interest in taking on the job. One estimate of \$310,000 was received from the company who currently handles the repairs of the system.

### **New Business**

Hagan asked for an update on the Building Official transition.

Mattson stated that the new building official has obtained his certification and the current building official will be retiring on May 1, 2022.

### **Adjournment**

Sheiness called for a motion to adjourn. Wayland made the motion, seconded by Brown and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Thomas, Secretary