BOARD OF FINANCE

LYME TOWN HALL
480 HAMBURG ROAD
Lyme CT. 06371

LYME BOARD OF FINANCE
Regular Meeting
February 27, 2024

The Lyme Board of Finance held a Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lyme Town Hall, 480 Hamburg Rd, Lyme, CT 06371.

Members Present: Alan Sheiness (chair), Bob House, Dan Hagan, Steve Mattson, Dave Brown, Jim Miller, Walter Burhans (alternate), Adam McEwen (alternate), Jeff Oyster (alternate), Lannie Mossberg (secretary). First Selectman Lahm, **Present**.

Call to Order – 6:30 p.m.

Seat Alternate member – n/a

Approve the Minutes from February 20, 2024, Regular Meeting – Miller made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by House. Oyster commented that he felt the minutes should be written to communicate better with more disclosure. Discussion ensued before voting. Hagan Abstained. Unanimous.

Overview of 24/25 Full Budget – Sheiness said he sent out a proposed budget, revenue, operating expenses, and capital budget packet. The overview gives a context of what the numbers may look like. Sheiness gave a general funds balance summary. Brown questioned when the $340k for Macintosh Bridge reimbursement would come in. Sheiness said it will be in the next fiscal year, but numbers may shift. The next meeting will have more details. Sheiness replied to Millers' comment from the prior meeting on the mill rate percentage increase from 23/24 that last year's projections anticipated an approximate 3% increase.

Selectman's discussion of 24/25 detailed capital budget - Lahm started the discussion by explaining the proposed shows out to 33/34 but looking at 24/25, it is reduced because there won't be any proposed bridge projects. McEwen questioned the bridge inspections. Lahm explained they are on a schedule. Mattson commented on who is responsible, either federal or state, based on the size of the bridge and that there are approximately 18 in the town. Lahm explained that the town will receive 80% from Federal reimbursement and 20% from the State. Mattson commented that the town is lucky to have a full reimbursement even though there is a 1-year delay from the time of spending to the refund. Sheiness commented on the timing of spending reimbursement in the next year, and it's important to look at things over a multi-year horizon. Tinker Lane is a notional project. Lahm touched base on the Beaverbrook Rd. bridge and explained the choices between the amount projected in this

capital plan and less costly alternatives. Brown questioned the Emergency Management Department (EMD). Sheiness explained it's based on a grant with a debit/credit wash. Mattson said it's a no-cost service but funded $60k annually for equipment. Lahm said they are applying for a grant to get more money to make the town hall the second EMD location. The town will be requesting $8k for speed signs. He gets the most calls about town speeding. Oyster questioned the fire truck replacement and resale of the current trucks. Lahm said the town needs a woodchipper for the town employees to make road work clean-up easier and quicker. Mattson commented they have needed it for years. Sheiness questioned whether there is an effect on insurance coverage. Lahm said there are preliminary feelers out for the library HVAC replacement for a grant, and it would be a very unexpected pleasure if received. Miller questioned the ambulance placeholder numbers. In Shared facilities, Lyme has a 25% stake in the senior center's total redo cost. A brief discussion of the senior center's possible structure changes. Sheiness mentioned they may need more money based on the changes, which would call for a special town meeting in April before the final budget approval in May. Hagan questioned if the town was comfortable with the current IT department. Lahm commented yes, but once things are converted to the cloud, it will cut the cost of replacing the server every few years. There are no online land records for the safety of the town and cyber stealers. Hagan questioned if the town engineer was still working with Lahm on the bridges. Lahm confirmed, yes.

New Business – n/a

Adjournment – 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lannie Mossberg, Secretary