BOARD OF FINANCE LYME TOWN
HALL 480 HAMBURG ROAD LYME, CT 06371

LYME BOARD OF FINANCE
Regular Meeting
April 2, 2024

The Lyme Board of Finance held a Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lyme Public Library, 482 Hamburg Rd, Lyme, CT 06371.

Members Present: Alan Sheiness (chair), Steve Mattson, Bob House, Dan Hagan, Dave Brown, Walter Burhans (alternate), Adam McEwen (alternate).

First Selectman Lahm, **Present.**
Financial Director Morgan Regan **Present.**
Members of the public **present.**

Call to Order - 6:30 p.m.
Seat Alternate Member – Alternate member Burhans was seated for absent member Miller.
Approve the Minutes from the March 26, 2024, Regular Meeting – Sheiness commented about three spelling corrections. Mattson made a motion to accept as corrected. Seconded by Hagan. Unanimous.

Ian Neviaser: Region 18 Fiscal 24/25 Budget Presentation- Neviaser started by saying the executive budget summary was originally .62% increase but is now at 3.0%. The pre-k to 3 elementary enrollments went up. He said the High School has the lowest student enrollment he's ever seen but Mile Creek will be expanding and adding teachers and an assistant principal. Neviaser said 75-80% of the budget is teacher salary. Debt services for Pk-8 will be reflected in the budget next year, not this. The .62% was increased to 3% to allow for $853k of direct payments on the Pk-8 project in lieu of issuing that amount of debt, thereby reducing the amount of interest that will be paid. Brown questioned the new teachers. Neviaser commented it will be third grade, and the assistant principal position will be part-time. Mattson questioned the budget refunds and receipts number totals. Holly McCalla, Business Manager, commented and explained how they got the number totals receipts being actuals and refunds being based on student %. Lahm questioned when the budget referendum would be. Neviaser said May 7. Sheiness commented on the impact of reduced refunds on the net cost to the towns. Neviaser agreed. Lahm also questioned if they have gone through the Mile Creek Zoning process yet. Neviaser said the application with ZBA is currently in process. Susan Fogliani, building chair, commented on the Building Committee charter and maintaining Lyme/Old Lyme member balance.

Selectman's review of YTD 23/24 Results - Lahm said it's the same trajectory as Quarter 2, doing well, with a few things over budget before and still now mostly because of the Library HVAC but no concerns of department-wide overages.

Mill rate scenarios, reflecting final Region 18 Impact to Towns (April 1 student counts) - Sheiness commented the next meeting will have full budget document and the finalized Grand List. Discussion of the variables in the Region 18 assumptions in their budget book and in our projections. A small operating change is reflected in this year's finish. Sheiness discussed the other major components included in the finish. The revised over/under goal is "healthy." Mattson questioned what if the mill rate were to stay the same next year? Sheiness changed around numbers to see the effects of that and other "what-ifs" on the ending general funds balances over time. Sheiness said the next meeting is in two weeks and asked if the board would like to see the 14.50% for the mill rate assumption. Sheiness commented that last year we decreased the mill rate from 19.95 to 19.50. Hagan stated that given our specific funds are at goal and no debt for the town, he is comfortable assuming a 14.50 mill rate. Mattson noted that the capital in the last few years looks light, something that could also eat into out general funds over goal.

Brown brought up the Affordable Housing and questioned what we will plan for in the future. Hagan said he thinks Affordable housing should divorce itself from volunteer housing. The board had a discussion. Brown said he would like to see a business plan before the town "kicks in" at all. Hagan questioned what's needed now for fire and ambulance, and what is the impact on future recruiting. McEwen agreed. Mattson commented on who has needs and what are some other alternatives to providing housing. Mattson suggested Lahm create a Volunteer Housing committee separate from Affordable Housing. Sheiness closed the discussion by saying there is plenty of time for number adjustments, and the discussion would be good to have post-budget.

New Business – n/a

Adjournment – 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lannie Mossberg, Secretary