

Minutes of the Board of Finance meeting held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall, 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 06371.

To join this meeting by phone dial +1-605-472-5727 and enter access code 3819718.

Present in Person: **Regular Members:** David Kelsey, BJ Bernblum, H. P. Garvin III,
Jude Read, Andrew Russell, Kim Thompson
Alternate Members: Maria Marchant Matthew Olson, Katherine Thuma

Present in Person: Timothy C. Griswold, First Selectman, ex-officio
Matt Ward, Selectman
Martha Shoemaker, Selectwoman
Nicole Leger, Finance Director

Present via Phone: **Regular Members:**
Alternate Members:

Absent: **Regular Members:**
Alternate Members:

Guests: Don Bugbee, Parks and Recreation Director
Dave Roberge, Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director
Ed Adanti, Public Works Director

Mr. Kelsey called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of February 07, 2023 Minutes

The Minutes of February 7th were distributed and reviewed. There was a typographical error on page 3, 2nd paragraph, 4th sentence, which should read the word “weapons”.

There being no other corrections noted, a motion was made by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Ms Read, to approve the minutes as modified. Motion carried.

204 Parks and Recreation

Mr. Bugbee reviewed the various line items within the Parks and Recreation budget. A large increase is due to Seasonal Wage increases relating to the increase in the minimum wage from \$15/hr to \$16/hr. Other increases include Contracted Services – Water, Internet at Hains Park, \$3,300 for security cameras, and Sound View Facilities. There is a decrease of \$6,000 for Contracted Services for White Sand Beach. All other lines remained the same as last year.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Garvin, to approve \$358,687 for Parks and Recreation. Motion carried.

204-0400-0410 Town Woods Park

Mr. Bugbee highlighted the Town Woods Park budget, stating that there is a slight increase of \$300 in Contracted Services for water. There were no other changes noted.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Ms. Read, to approve \$144,910 for Town Woods Park. Motion carried.

204 Parks and Recreation - Other

204-0420-0000-000: Fireworks: Mr. Griswold stated that the breakdown for the Fireworks is as follows: Fireworks - \$21,000, Audio - \$1,300, Port-a-potties - \$400, Shuttle bus - \$400, and Light tower - \$300.

A motion was made by Mr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Bernblum, to approve \$23,400 for the Fireworks budget. Motion carried.

204-0421-0000-000: Memorial Day: Mr. Griswold stated that the Memorial Day request is \$4,000.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Russell, to approve \$4,000 for Memorial Day. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Capital:

Parks and Recreation Capital items include security upgrade installation of internet digital dialer application for Fire Alarm and Camera System (\$11,000), and Soccer Goals (\$6,000). There was a discussion about installing field lights at Cross Lane for the softball field (\$145,000) in FY23/24 and at the baseball field (\$150,000) in FY24/25. No action was taken on Capital items.

203 Public Works

Mr. Adanti stated the increases are in Crack Seal, Catch Basin drain cleaning, Electricity, Vehicle Parts, Garage Cleaning, Miscellaneous Supplies/Tools, the Other/Miscellaneous line, Safety Equipment and Uniforms. There is a slight decrease in Miscellaneous Supplies Pipe, Block and Basins.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to approve \$928,892 for Public Works. Motion carried.

Public Works Capital

Public Works Capital includes Small Equipment (\$5,000), and Public Works building repair of the rear wall area and beams (\$9,600), along with the \$6,500 that will be carried over to be applied to the same project,

Capital Projects: Capital Projects include: Ferry Road Sidewalks Engineering (\$5,000), and the Grassy Hill Road bridge (\$355,000).

Capital - Vehicles and Equipment: Capital Vehicle and Equipment include replacing the 2017 Ford Explorer with pick up truck (\$43,000) and \$6,000 to refurbish the dump body truck.

Road Improvements: The Road Improvements include resurfacing the following roads: McCurdy Road (\$364,500), Rowland Road (\$340,200), and Beckwith Lane (\$80,200).

Mr. Kelsey requested that Other Public Safety discussion be moved up on the agenda to accommodate guests. A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Ms. Read to move Public Safety up on the agenda. Motion carried.

205 Other Public Safety

205-0500 Emergency Management

Mr. Roberge stated that there is a slight decrease in the reimbursable and nonreimbursable wage lines. Other increases include: Dues, Other/Miscellaneous, and Telephone.

A motion was made by Ms. Read, seconded by Mr. Garvin, to approve \$35,562 for Emergency Management. Motion carried.

01-205-0520 Ambulance

Mr. Griswold stated this budget represents salary increases.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to approve \$172,855 for the Ambulance Association.

205-0550 Fire Protection

Ms. Leger stated that CT Water Company is public fire protection charges are based on a rate per linear feet of pipe within public fire protection boundaries, plus a charge for each fire hydrant. The Town has a total of

23 hydrants (at \$20.60 per month each) and a total of 26,242 linear feet of underground pipe in Town and State roads (at \$/0.12 per month). Ms. Leger distributed a monthly breakdown of the charges for FY23/24.

A motion was made by Ms. Read, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to approve \$50,000 for Fire Protection. Motion carried.

205-560 Fire Marshal

Mr. Roberge stated that the budget has decreased due to the elimination in the part-time Assistant Fire Inspector.

A motion was made by Mr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Read, to approve \$80,837 for Fire Marshal. Motion carried.

213-0011 Sanitation

213-1300-0011-000 Municipal Refuse Collection (CWPM): For household garbage removal from Old Lyme to CWPM's New London facility in the amount of \$568,218. It was noted that the CWPM contract will expire on June 30, 2023 and must be renewed.

213-1300-0011-001 Single Stream Recycling (CWPM): Mr. Griswold stated that formerly, single stream recycling was handled by Material Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA). CWPM brought the recycling to the MIRA transfer station in Essex and MIRA trucked it to its plant in Hartford. MIRA did not charge its member Towns to process the recycling as an incentive for recycling. However, when Old Lyme opted out of its contract with MIRA and CWPM took over the disposal of both household garbage and recycling, it provided the Town with a lower per ton charge to process garbage (from \$111/ton to \$90/ton) and it charged the Town to process recycling for a base fee with a credit, based on the market value of the recycled materials. Initially, the net charge to the Town was favorable because the value of the recycled materials was higher, however, as time went on, the value of the recycled materials dropped drastically. While it has recovered somewhat, it is still low. Accordingly, Mr. Griswold suggested the Town budget \$135,300 for Single Stream Recycling.

213-1300-0560-000 Disposal of Municipal Refuse (CWPM): Mr. Griswold stated that on July 1, 2022, Old Lyme contracted with CWPM to dispose of its municipal refuse after it is delivered to New London. The Town is charged \$90 per ton for this service which, based on about 3,300 tons per year, equates to \$300,000.

No action was taken this evening and tabled until the February 28th meeting.

213-1320 Recycling

Mr. Griswold stated that there is a slight increase in the Recycling Committee's budget - \$3,750 for postage, printing, banner expense, etc. All other line items have remained the same as last year.

Mr. Adanti stated that there has been a decrease by \$5,000 in Recycling – All Items (to \$10,000) because CWPM, the new garbage/recycling company, takes the items to Deep River. The Town no longer uses Willimantic Waste. The Recycling Committee's line items include \$3,750 for Committee expenditures (printing and postage of informative materials, etc.).

A motion was made by Mr. Bernblum, seconded by Ms. Read, to approve \$21,460 for Recycling. Motion carried.

213-1330 Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Mr. Griswold stated that Old Lyme's portion of the River Council of Governments fee to manage the regional Household Hazardous Waste program is \$3,500. In addition, the Town's HHW activity amounts to \$14,000, making up the line item of \$17,500.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Ms. Read, to approve \$17,500 for the Hazardous Waste Collection. Motion carried.

213-1340 Transfer Station

This covers the daily operation of the Transfer Station on Four Mile River Road. There is an increase in Contracted Services, telephone and electricity, and a decrease in Landfill Monitoring. All other lines remained the same as last year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Read, to approve \$281,136 for the Transfer Station. Motion carried.

01-215-1500 Debt Services

Ms. Leger stated that the Debt Service Principal will be \$420,000, a decrease by \$5,000, and the Debt Service Interest will be \$23,000, a decrease of \$6,803.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Bernblum, to approve \$443,000 for Debt Service principal and interest. Motion carried.

Other Business

Lymes' Senior Center Expansion Project: Mr. Griswold stated that the design work by PointOne Architects for the Lymes' Senior Center Expansion project should be complete. PointOne could have bid packages for potential contractors and provide the Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme with cost estimates. The two towns could conduct separate votes requesting approval of the project and, if approved, the bids could be released to contractors. The conditions would be that both towns must approve the project. Mr. Griswold stated that a Public Information meeting could take place at the Town Meeting in May or later in the summer. There was a discussion whether the Town of Old Lyme should have a Public Information meeting and then have a referendum or a Town Meeting vote. It was mentioned that the Town of Lyme does not have Referendums. More information will follow in the coming months.

Municipal Police: Ms. Leger reported a revision to a pay grade within the Municipal Police budget, reducing the overall budget by \$3,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Ms. Read, to revise the Municipal Police budget by \$3,000 to be \$831,501.

Resident State Police: Ms. Leger reported a revision in the State's calculation of the Resident State Trooper's fringe benefit package which reduces the overall budget by \$28,000, to be \$187,000.

A motion was made by Ms. Read, seconded by Mr. Russell, to revise the Resident State Police to \$187,000. Motion carried.

Sidewalks at Hains Park: Ms. Leger stated that \$11,000 is outstanding for a sidewalk that was installed at Hains Park. She stated that there is a Public Building Fund which is funded by fees collected by the Town Clerk. She stated that this fund is rarely used and could be used to pay the \$11,000. Payment could also come from the Special Revenue Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Garvin to approve taking \$11,000 from the Public Building Fund to pay the \$11,000 cost for sidewalks at Hains Park. However, after further discussion, Mr. Russell and Mr. Garvin withdrew his original motion until additional information and clarification is received from the Chair of Parks and Recreation. It was decided to invite Chair, Bob Dunn, to the next Board of Finance meeting to provide further explanation. Motion failed.

Lymes' Senior Center Building Project: Mr. Griswold stated that, at a meeting of the Senior Center Building Committee it was stated that an inspection was needed to determine if there is any asbestos in the Senior Center. The Committee suggested Mystic Air Quality perform the inspection. Those present agreed this should be done but, despite there being no funds available for this, the Committee authorized the work. There is an outstanding invoice in the amount of \$1,000 that needs to be paid. It was suggested that the Board of Selectmen work on this.

Budget Procedure Discussion: There was a discussion regarding how the budget procedure was done in the past. Mrs. Thompson asked if the Board of Selectmen presented its budget to the Board of Finance. Mr. Griswold replied that the Selectmen met with Ms. Leger and that the Board of Finance's Salary Committee provided input which resulted in the Budget Overview spreadsheet that the Board of Finance reviewed at January 17th Board of Finance meeting. Mr. Griswold stated that it is not possible to develop a complete budget by mid-January since not all of the information is available yet. There was a discussion about the process and Ms. Leger stated that when Mrs. Reemsnyder was First Selectwoman, the Board of Selectmen did submit a complete budget to the Board of Finance. Mr. Griswold asked Ms. Leger if the draft budget included all the line items, including the mill rate calculation to which she responded that it did. Mr. Griswold thought this was hard to believe. Ms. Leger exclaimed, "Tim, I am not a liar" and abruptly picked up her budget materials and left the meeting, commenting that she was "done with the Republican/Democrat BS". Everyone present were shocked by her conduct and the discussion was closed.

Mr. Kelsey stated that the next Board of Finance meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Budgets for Fire Services, Social Services, Senior Center and Senior Services are scheduled for discussion and approval.

A motion was then made by Ms. Read, seconded by Mr. Bernblum, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele E. Hayes
Secretary