

Minutes of the Special Board of Finance meeting held on Tuesday, April 04, 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, Jude Read,
H. P. Garvin III, Andrew Russell, Kim Thompson
Alternate Members: Maria Marchant, Matthew Olson, Katherine Thuma

Present in Person: Timothy Griswold, First Selectman, ex-officio
Matt Ward, Selectman
Martha Shoemaker, Selectwoman

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

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

Guests:

Mr. Kelsey called the Special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that Ms. Read is going to be a few minutes late. Therefore, a motion was made by Mr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Russell, to have Mr. Olson vote for Ms. Read this evening. Ms. Read arrived at 7:15 p.m.

300 Capital Expenditures

Mr. Griswold and Mr. Ward have been developing the Capital General Fund Budget and Capital Project Funds.

Under General Government, Lyme Art Association's Capital Campaign (\$10,000), Harbor Management included Hydrographic Survey (\$5,000), Buttonball Road permitting and dock (\$20,000), and Sound View five benches with transportation (\$2,760) and Open Space – Ferry Road Wildlife Refuge (\$22,000), Senior Center Rental fees (during renovation) (\$6,000), Senior Center Laptop Computer (\$2,761). The Town Hall Capital items include retrofitting elevator controller (door operators obsolescence) (\$30,000), Art Restoration/Maintenance (\$2,000), Improvements (\$6,500), and F,F, & E (furniture, fixtures and equipment) (\$5,500). The total of General Government Capital is \$119,760.

Public Works Capital includes Small Equipment (\$5,000) and repair rear wall area & beams at the Public Works garage (\$9,600) for a total of \$14,600.

The Fire Department's Capital items are as follows: Air Bottle (1st of 4-year cycle of replacement every 10 years) (\$14,000), Portable radios (\$2,000), Flashlight replacement (\$4,000), and replacement of the Zodiac 38-1 (\$31,038). Capital for the Cross Lane station an Electrical Service upgrade (\$45,000).

Emergency Management - EOC Expansion: Architect and Engineering (\$100,000), Equipment Grant reimbursable (\$60,000), Equipment unreimbursed (\$1,200), and Public Safety Communication upgrade (\$225,000).

The Police Capital includes bathroom remodel with asbestos abatement (\$13,500), installing secure sidelights on the front door (\$5,000), Eight E-ticket printers (\$5,560), Seven Patrol Rifles (\$11,000), Two new Glock 45 firearms (\$7,500), .223mm ammunition (\$5,000), 9mm ammunition (\$6,000), and Vests (5-year life) (\$3,600).

For Public Works Projects, Miscellaneous outside Contractors (\$5,000) and the Grassy Hill Road Bridge construction (\$1.3M estimate) (\$355,000).

Under Parks and Recreation Department, the Capital request included new soccer goals (\$6,000), Cross Lane Basketball/tennis courts (\$150,000). For Public Works Vehicle and Equipment Capital Fund, the replacement of the 2017 Ford Explorer with pickup truck in 2023/24 (\$43,000) and refurbish/replace Dump Body (OL-6) in FY2023/24 (\$6,000). For FY23/24, Road Improvements include Rowland Road (\$340,200), McCurdy Road (\$364,500), and Beckwith Lane (\$80,200).

Fire Department Rescue unit replacement 2024/25 (\$900,000 estimate) for \$150,000 each year.

For the Town Hall Capital IT funds #28: The following Capital funds are included. Town Hall surveillance and access (in conjunction with the new front door project from last year) (\$38,980), Refresh for printers, computers, etc., (\$35,000), Capital Projects – Consultant (\$6,500), Printers (\$4,000), and UPS unit batteries replacement (\$6,000). Remote site Capital includes Body infrastructure deployment (\$10,445) and Miscellaneous (\$5,000).

Mr. Griswold detailed the Ferry Road Sidewalk Project and the construction costs. In the Jacobson Engineering 2023 Estimate of Probable Cost breakdown, total construction cost is \$214,900, with an additional \$36,000 for Engineering Costs and additional items (\$6,000). Sources of Funds include FY2023 Carryover (\$104,000), FY2023 Capital (\$60,000) and FY2024 Capital (\$93,000), to be included in Public Works Projects.

Motions for the Capital General Fund Budget and Capital Project Funds are as follows:

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Olson, to approve \$119,760 for the General Government. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to approve \$14,600 for Public Works. Motion carried.

Mrs. Thompson spoke against the funding of \$11,000 for patrol rifles and feels that, as elected officials of the Town, the Boards of Selectmen and Finance have a duty to ensure that the taxes collected are allocated in a responsible way to add value to the Town. She stated that she agrees with the Police and the Board of Selectmen that school shootings are horrific events, however, mass shootings in schools are rare events (0.7% of all incidents of gunfire on school grounds). Firearms are the number one cause of death of children, and she suggested that investment in strategies that might prevent children from having access to firearms is a much more valuable investment of taxpayer dollars.

Mrs. Thompson reported that “Everytown for Gun Safety” recommends that community efforts to help families use safe storage techniques for their firearms makes a meaningful impact to reduce deaths and injury to children. Furthermore, only one-in-three-gun owners in states with child access prevention laws (CT included) know that their state requires secure storage of guns. In closing, she commented that the value of this proposed purchase of rifles to the community is low, and these funds would have much more value to taxpayers if allocated elsewhere.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Garvin, to approve \$599,398 for Public Safety Capital. Mrs. Thompson did not approve the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Bernblum, to approve \$453,000 for Public Works Projects. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to approve \$156,000 for Parks and Recreations Capital Fund #26. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Garvin, to approve \$49,000 for Public Works Vehicle & Equipment Capital Fund #31. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to approve \$150,000 for the Fire Department’s Vehicle & Equipment Capital Fund #20. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Bernblum, to approve \$105,925 for IT Capital Fund #25. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Garvin, to approve \$784,900 for Road Improvement Fund #3. Motion carried.

210 Capital Project Funds – Transfer Out

Mr. Griswold highlighted the Capital Project Funds – Transfer Out and explained each item.

* 1000	Revaluation	\$ 35,000
* 1002	Sanitation and recycling	\$ 1,000
* 1003	Info tech	\$ 127,900
* 1004	PW Capital	\$ 49,000
* 1006	Building Improvement	\$ 10,000
* 1007	Road Improvement	\$ 800,000
* 1008	P&R facilities and equip	\$ 156,000
* 1009	Police Private Duty	\$ 15,000
* 1020	Open Space	\$ 75,000
* 1030	Fire Apparatus & Equipment	\$ 150,000
* 1060	Bus Barn	\$ 37,000

A motion was made by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Russell, to approve \$1,433,925.00 for Capital Projects Funds – Transfer Out. Motion carried.

Revenues

Revenues were briefly discussed, and it was pointed out that a motion to approve is not necessary.

Other Budget Issues

Mr. Kelsey stated that there is a revision of the amount approved for Rogers Lake Authority. The amount of \$72,290 approved on March 7 includes \$20,000 for the Asian Clam removal line which Rogers Lake Authority's Chairman Overfield said is not necessary.

A new motion was made by Mr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Russell, to revise the Rogers Lake Authority's budget to \$52,290. Motion carried.

Mr. Griswold and Mr. Ward detailed the Proposed Budget for FY2023/24. The Board reviewed the amounts line-by-line and made necessary corrections. It was decided that since the Tax Collector has consistently had a higher than reported Collection Rates than 98.25%, changing the collection rate to 98.50% is appropriate.

Minutes of March 21, 2023 Budget Meeting

The Minutes of March 21st were reviewed. There was a correction to the spelling of Matt Strelkel's last name on page 1, under Guests and, on page 3, under Florence Griswold Museum.

There being no additional corrections noted, a motion was made by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Olson, to approve the minutes, as modified. Mr. Russell abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Kelsey stated that there will be a Special Board of Finance meeting scheduled for later this week when all the revisions and changes are duly noted on the Proposed Budget for FY2023/24.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Garvin, to adjourn the regular budget meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele E. Hayes
Secretary