

Minutes of the Special Board of Finance meeting held on Tuesday, June 20, 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,
Andrew Russell, Kim Thompson
Alternate Members: Matthew Olson, Katherine Thuma

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

Present via Phone: **Regular Members:** H. P. Garvin III
Alternate Members:

Absent: **Regular Members:** BJ Bernblum, Jude Read
Alternate Members: Maria Marchant

Guests: Chief, Rob McCarthy, Old Lyme Fire Department

Mr. Kelsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that Mr. Bernblum and Ms. Read will not be present. Therefore, a motion was made by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Russell, to have Mrs. Thuma vote for Mr. Bernblum in his absence. Motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to have Mr. Olson vote for Ms. Read in her absence. Motion carried.

Lymes' Senior Center Town Vote

Mr. Griswold stated that the Town vote is taking place today at the Middle School from 12 noon until 8:00 p.m. Results should be available around 8:30 p.m. If the proposal is approved, the first step is to solicit proposals for a construction manager and then, a general contractor. The proposals can then be reviewed, and the successful bidders can be selected. Construction could begin in the fall.

Ambulance Association: Stipends for Shift Coverage

Mr. Griswold explained that he spoke with Tom Rozanski and Jane Bysko from the Ambulance Association. They believe the Association does not need a full-time employee and they recommend that a mix of part-time employees and volunteers paid on a stipend basis would be best. However, there are specific rules that govern how a volunteer can be paid, so they will research this and submit a proposal to the Board of Selectmen for review and approval.

Old Lyme Fire Department Discussion

Mr. Griswold stated that the Boughton Road Ice Machine is old, and the inside lining of the ice maker is flaking into the ice cubes. The ice machine is essential for both ambulance and fire personnel and for various uses at the Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Griswold stated that the replacement cost for the ice machine is \$6,200 and he received a proposal from Fire Marshall David Roberge who proposed allocating \$1,550 from the Emergency Management Capital equipment line, \$1,200 from the Emergency Management Capital equipment unreimbursed line and \$750 from the Emergency Management Operating budget line "Equipment" toward replacement of the machine. Fire Chief Mr. McCarthy stated that the Fire Department will allocate \$2,700 as well. Mr. Griswold explained that this expense wouldn't require appropriation, however, there was a discussion on how to report the Fire Department donation.

Mr. Russell asked Chief McCarthy about the status of the Fire Department's budget at the close of the fiscal year and if there will be any overruns. Chief McCarthy stated that they are over on the fuel and electricity expenses, but that total expenses should be within the budget. Chief McCarthy reported that the electrical work for the turnout gear washer and dryer is complete.

Minutes of May 15, 2023 Meeting

The Minutes of May 15th were reviewed.

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

Minutes of Special Meeting of June 08, 2023

The Minutes of the Special meeting of June 08th were reviewed.

There being no corrections noted, a motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mrs. Thuma, to approve the minutes, as written. Motion carried.

Other Business

Mr. Olson inquired about the status of the Finance Director position and Mr. Griswold explained that the position is being advertised in several publications and online resources. Mr. Griswold stated that there are several other towns in CT and Rhode Island looking for Finance Directors. He commented that both the Finance Director and Assistant to the Finance Director resigned. However, the Town welcomes Tracy Beatty, who was hired as the Assistant to the Finance Director. Mr. Griswold stated that Kelly Sterner, retired Finance Director from the Town of Essex, has been working three days a week and can assist us until the end of August. She has been doing a great job.

Mrs. Shoemaker stated that William Radazzo offered to sell 52 & 56 Hartford Avenue to the Town for \$750,000. These properties are directly next door to the old El Morrocco establishment. Further discussion will take place and she will update the Board at its next meeting.

Mrs. Thompson reported that the Cross Lane Playground received a new layer of mulch and weeds were removed around the playground area. She wants to make sure that mulch and playground maintenance is included in the Parks and Rec budget during the next budget season.

Selectman's Report

Miami Beach: Mr. Griswold stated that Mark Mongillo, President of Miami Beach wants Miami Beach residents to have exclusive access to their homes on Pond Road. Mr. Griswold stated Mr. Mongillo thinks the Town could rebuild Pond Road to access Portland Road on Town property to the north of Pond Road.

Halls Road: Mr. Griswold stated that engineers are working on the Lieutenant River pedestrian bridge plans and there is no update on the overlay district approval. Following the denial by the Zoning Commission, there is a 12-month "cooling off" period before the Hall Road Improvements Commission can reapply.

Lieutenant River Bow Bridge: Mr. Griswold stated that Mr. Graybill is open to granting the Town a right of way to the proposed bridge, but the details must be worked out.

Sound View Sewer: Mr. Griswold stated that all are waiting for a letter from the DEEP confirming the approval of a DEEP forgivable loan between \$14 - \$17 million. He will keep the Board apprised as events unfold.

Ferry Road Sidewalk: Mr. Griswold stated that the Ferry Road sidewalk project will be going out to bid in August. The DOT granted a one-year extension of the Town's STEAP grant.

Swan Brook Crib Repair: Mr. Griswold stated that the Swan Brook crib was repaired. There is now discussion on how to protect the pipes to prevent sand from re-entering them in the future.

Tantammaheag Road: Mr. Griswold stated that the Town submitted a Settlement Proposal to the Framptons. He will report back when a response is received.

36-1 Buttonball Road: Mr. Griswold stated that minor trail work has been performed to create a walking path. The Harbor Management Commission and Open Space Commission are working together on the project. The amount of \$20,000 has been approved for engineering a dock in FY2024.

McCulloch Property: There are two building lots with a lot release payment of \$50,000 each for two Affordable houses. Habitat for Humanity has been approved to develop the two houses on the McCulloch property off Flat Rock Hill Road.

Historic District: The Historic District wants to inform the Board that the Admin line within their budget will be overbudget. However, the total expenses will be within budget.

Illegal Dock on Caulkins Road: Mr. Griswold stated that he was contacted by DEEP regarding a 70' illegal wooden walkway cutting through the marsh to a floating dock on the Back River. Public Works will investigate and determine what will be involved to remove the walkway and dock.

Mr. Kelsey stated that the next Board of Finance meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Hall of the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Olson, to adjourn the regular budget meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele E. Hayes
Secretary