

**MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2024**  
**TOWN OF OLD LYME, CT**  
**ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING**

Approximately thirty electors and citizens attended the Town of Old Lyme Annual Town Budget Meeting on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Hall of the Memorial Town Hall, 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

First Selectwoman, Martha Shoemaker, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., and she called for nominations for a moderator for the meeting.

A motion was made by Kimberly Russell Thompson and seconded by Fred Behringer, to nominate Dave Rubino to serve as moderator. There being no other nominations for the moderator, First Selectwoman Shoemaker called for a vote on the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Rubino asked Vicki Urbowicz, Town clerk, to read the call of the meeting.

Following the reading of the call of the meeting, Mr. Rubino asked Bennett Bernblum, Chair of the Board of Finance, to present the Annual Town Report.

**1. The Budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, as recommended by the Board of Finance.**

Mr. Bernblum first thanked the key members in putting together the budget; specifically, the Board of Selectmen, Anita Mancini (Finance Director) and Michele Hayes (Board of Finance Secretary). In addition, he thanked all the members of the Board of Finance for all of their hard work. He then gave an overview of the 2024-2025 budget. Overall town government operation and capital is down \$191,580 (1.5%). Regional School District 18 Old Lyme Share is up \$1,281,660 (4.5%). The total budget expenditure is up \$1,090,080 (2.7% over the current budget).

The Board of Finance anticipates having to bond thirty-six million for Regional School District 18 beginning next year. As this will have a minor impact to this year's budget, no money was taken from the Town's surplus to offset the 2024-2025 budget. Mr. Bernblum anticipates the bonding expense to be two to three million a year for the next few years. At that time, using money from the Town's reserve to reduce taxes will be considered.

The mill rate set for the 2024-2025 budget is 24.4 (.90 mills change from last year).

Mr. Bernblum then asked if there were any questions.

Tom Grant, 9 Lake Drive, asked if any thought was given to increasing the reserve by two million this year to help with the school? Mr. Bernblum responded no, as it will increase the mill rate.

Mr. Grant then asked about the Town's refuge and transfer company located in Hartford going out of business and the possibility that we would then have to transfer our refuge to Pennsylvania which would create a significant cost to the Town. Mr. Bernblum was unaware of this and asked First Selectwoman Shoemaker to answer the question. First Selectwoman Shoemaker stated that she did know about it and that the Town switched from MIRA to CWPM in 2022 to accommodate for the impending closing.

Mr. Rubino then asked for a motion to accept the budget. Andy Russell made a motion to accept the budget, seconded by Kimberly Russell Thompson. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

**Motion Carried.**

2. A proposal that the taxes in the Town of Old Lyme on Real Estate and Personal Property shall be paid in two (2) semi-annual installments, the first payment being due on July 1, 2024, and the second payment on January 1, 2025. Provided that any tax in these categories under \$100.00 and the tax on vehicles on the Supplemental List will be due in one (1) full payment in July 2024\*.

The proposal of taxes was presented by Mr. Bernblum. There were no questions or discussions. Mr. Rubino asked for a motion. Matt Olson made a motion to approve the proposal of taxes, Anna Reiter seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Motion Carried.**

A motion was made by Anna Reiter and seconded by Matt Olson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Urbowicz  
Town Clerk

\*Scrivener's error. Date should read January 2025.