

MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2025
TOWN OF OLD LYME, CT
ANNUAL TOWN BUSINESS MEETING

Approximately ninety-five (95) townspeople attended the Town of Old Lyme Annual Town Business Meeting on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 7:30 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 7:30 p.m., and she called for nominations for a moderator for the meeting.

A motion was made by Selectwoman Judith Read and seconded by Selectman Jim Lamos, to nominate Attorney Eric Parker to serve as moderator. There being no other nominations for moderator, First Selectwoman Shoemaker called for a vote on the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Attorney Parker asked Vicki Urbowicz, Town Clerk, to read the call of the meeting.

Following reading the call of the meeting, Attorney Parker asked Bennett Bernblum to present the Annual Town Report.

1. To accept the Annual Town Report for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, as submitted by the Board of Finance.

Bennett Bernblum, Chair of the Board of Finance, presented the Annual Town Report, giving credit to Michaele Pearson for her outstanding work as editor. Bennett also thanked Katie Balocca and Michele Hayes in the First Selectman's office, Vicki Urbowicz (Town Clerk), Courtney Joy (Assistant Town Clerk), and Anita Mancini (Finance Director) for their help with assembling the material.

Bennett gave an overview of the Annual Town Report, highlighting some of the committees and organizations referenced in the Annual Town Report. He reviewed the revenues and expenditures and stated that the fund balance at the end of the fiscal year was over fourteen million dollars. He thanked both administrations in "making this a good year."

Kim Thompson made a motion to accept the Annual Town Report for fiscal year 2024, and Bonnie Reensnyder seconded the motion. Attorney Parker asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none. A vote was taken. All voted in favor of the motion, and none were opposed.

Motion Carried.

2. Following a presentation to the Meeting about the Project, to make an appropriation in the amount of \$1,522,170 for the Emergency Operations Center Building Project. * (*As to Item #2, grant funding is available totaling \$912,950, which, if obtained, would reduce the net cost of the Project to the Town.)

Attorney Parker asked Fire Marshal and Emergency Operations Management Director Dave Roberge to present Item #2. Mr. Roberge indicated that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is currently located at the Boughton Road Firehouse and consists of approximately 375 square feet and contains an operations room and communications room. Over the years the responsibilities and supporting activities of the EOC have changed and more space is needed to operate efficiently. The proposed plan is to bump out approximately 1,500 square feet from the existing location at the Boughton Road Firehouse to create additional space needed for the EOC. This additional space will also be suitable for hosting board meetings, educational presentations and group workshops and can be used by others such as EMS and the Fire Department.

Mr. Roberge did investigate renting space instead of building; however, the building codes require essential facilities such as the EOC to be assigned a higher classification as "Risk Category IV" which requires additional anchorage, wind deflection and seismic control to be designed to the building. Outfitting a rental space would incur additional costs and would make leasing less economical over a 30-year period compared to constructing a new addition.

Mr. Roberge reviewed the breakdown of the cost of the project and indicated that the total construction and build out estimate is \$1,522,170. With various grants available through FEMA ARPA and Millstone, there is funding support in the amount of \$912,950. Thus, bringing the estimated total net cost to the town of \$609,220.

A motion was made by George Finley and seconded by Lynn Fairfield-Sohn to accept the appropriation. The floor was open for discussion. There were a few questions from the audience. Specifically, whether there is enough space for storage and were there provisions for EMS and the Firehouse Staff to operate while EOC is in there. Mr. Roberge stated that there will be between 700-900 square feet of storage and that the EMS and Firehouse Staff will be able to operate while the EOC is there. There being no other questions.

Attorney Parker called for a motion to accept Item #2. A vote was taken. All were in favor. No one opposed or abstained from the vote.

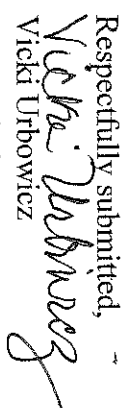
Motion Carried.

3. To announce the recipient of the Board of Selectmen's Citizen of the Year for 2024.

Attorney Parker asked First Selectwoman Shoemaker to announce the Old Lyme Citizen of the Year for 2024.

First Selectwoman Shoemaker read a statement on behalf of the Board of Selectmen declaring that Carolyn Wakeman the Citizen of the Year for 2024. First Selectwoman Shoemaker described Ms. Wakeman as "someone who has gone above and beyond to improve the well-being of others and our community as a whole." The audience applauded Carolyn on her accomplishments.

Selectwoman Read made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Lampos seconded it. The meeting was adjourned. at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Urbowicz
Town Clerk