

Town of Lyme Referendum-April 9, 2024  
Frequently Asked Questions  
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**What is the referendum vote for on April 9, 2024?**

The referendum is to authorize the Lyme Town Board to secure a \$5.3M Bond (loan) to build a new highway garage. The new garage has already been designed, and sent out to bid.

**When and where is the referendum vote going to be held?**

The vote will be held:

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

12 PM to 8 PM

Town Hall Courtroom

This vote is for all RESIDENTS of the Town of Lyme. This means that you can vote as long as you are a resident regardless of whether or not you are a property owner. If you are a property owner whose primary residence is elsewhere you are not eligible to vote.

**Will my taxes increase if the resolution for the \$5.3M Bond (loan) is passed?**

The goal of the Town Board is not to raise taxes. Based on expected sales tax revenue increases, additional property taxes from new construction, previous savings anticipating a new highway garage, and a thorough budget review, the Town Board expects minimal increase to taxpayers. While the total cost of the loan reflects a \$.59 per thousand assessed tax, which equates to \$59 per year on a home assessed at \$100,000, the Town is confident it will be less.

**Why does the Town Board want a new highway garage?**

The current highway garage is 66 years old and has fallen into disrepair. It has many leaks, and the walls are disintegrating. The Town has been working on a plan to replace it for several years. One of the driving factors of urgency is the increase in cost of materials and labor. Since it's early planning, the cost of building the new garage has more than doubled. The current garage does not have sufficient space to house all of the Town equipment. The current Garage is 4,808 square feet. The new garage will be 8,640 square feet. This means we have to leave very expensive equipment exposed to the elements. The location of the current garage is also an issue as it shares a narrow driveway with the Town Hall. Due to the narrow driveway, it is often a problem for residents visiting the town offices to come and go at the same time as our Highway Dept. workers. This is only going to become more of an issue with increased traffic at the new Veteran's Park.

**The Town Hall also needs to be replaced. What is the plan?**

The current plan is to focus on the highway garage first, as it is a more crucial need. The goal is to keep the tax burden to a minimum and work in stages. Once the highway garage is complete plans can begin for the new Town offices.

**Is the Town of Lyme currently in debt?**

No. The Town of Lyme has no debt currently.

**Has the Town of Lyme already spent money on the new Highway Garage project?**

Yes. A total of \$188,000 has been spent on design and engineering fees for the project. There was no tax increase for this work, and the Town currently has no debt.

**What happens to the Highway Garage project if the referendum doesn't pass?**

If the referendum does not pass, The Town will not have the funds for the construction and infrastructure. This would mean we would have to redesign the highway garage and put it back out to bid.

**When can I ask questions and learn more about the existing garage and the new proposal?**

The town board will be having an open house at the existing highway garage from 11:00am – 12:30pm on April 6, 2024 so that residents can view its current condition. Also on April 6, 2024 there will be an information session starting at 1pm at the Chaumont Fire Hall so that residents may view full size prints of the plans for the proposed facility, and ask questions regarding the project and its impact.

**What happens to the existing building with this proposal?**

Once the new building is constructed the proposal is to tear down the current building and pave the parking lot to provide more parking for upcoming community events at the new park across the street.