

Draft: September 17, 2008  
Approved: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

Town of Lyme  
Budget Committee  
September 17<sup>th</sup> 2008

Approved

Budget Committee Members Present: Judith Brotman, Earl Strout, Freda Swan, Charles Justice, William Lewis, Josh Kilham, Jeff Lehmann, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Richard Jones, and Mark Schiffman. Scribe: Dina Cutting. Public: Simon Carr

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brotman at 7:30pm.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the September 3 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor.

It was noted that Mr. Justice and Mr. Lewis met with Mr. Schiffman and Mr. Schnare, Superintendent of Schools, following the last meeting. They reviewed the school budgeting process.

The Committee discussed giving more specific guidelines to the department heads concerning the proposed 2009 budget. It was noted that this will be a challenge with the new county jail, the new town offices building, and fuel increases.

The budget committee decided to use the CPI number of 5.5% as a guideline for the budget recommendation.

After a lengthy discussion Mr. Lewis moved to recommend that:

- 1) The school develop a budget request at the rate of inflation; and
- 2) The town develop a budget request at 1% less than the rate of inflation.

Seconded by Mr. Kilham.

Following the motion, the committee discussed which inflation rate to use - CPI or Social Security? The Committee agreed to use the October figure, and agreed to use the 5.5% CPI index. It was the sense of the Committee that the school should be held to the same standard as the town.

Following the discussion, Mr. Lewis amended the motion to read:

- 1) The school should come to the budget committee with a budget request at 1% less than the rate of inflation excluding Special Education and High School Tuition charges; and
- 2) The town should come to the budget committee with a budget request at 1% less than the rate of inflation excluding the Bond for the new town offices.

Mr. Kilham accepted this amendment.

Motion voted: 7 in favor, 2 opposed (Mr. Jones and Mr. Justice).

It was clarified that the town and school will be working towards not more than a 4.5% increase for their budget requests. There were concerns expressed that this percentage increase will not be low enough to meet the expectations of some budget committee members.

In an attempt to get the public informed and interested in the budget process for the town and school some budget committee members proposed holding neighborhood meetings. Can this be done and if so who can do it? Mrs. Brotman will check into this.

In addition, the Budget Committee's schedule will be put on the Town web page and regular reminders will be sent out via list serve and the Town's web page on the Monday prior to the Wednesday meetings. Also the Budget Committee meeting schedule should be put in the next Church news letter.

At 8:30 pm Mr. Lehmann moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Cutting