

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
January 14th 2009
7:00PM
Fire Station Training Room

Approved: January 21, 2009

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judith Brotman, Josh Kilham, Jeff Lehmann, Mark Schiffman, Richard Jones, William Lewis, Earl Strout, Dick Justice and Elizabeth Glenshaw. School Board Representatives: Jeff Valance, Peter Glenshaw and Gordon Schnare. Public: Simon Carr, Dina Cutting, Nancy & Blake Allison, Cynthia Bognolo, Ben Henszey, Tim Cook and Betsy Reeder.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Brotman.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the December 10th, 2008 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Clarification discussion took place. The minutes were approved as is.

- **School budget proposal:**

Mr. Glenshaw gave a presentation on various budget items in the 2009-2010 proposed school budget. A hard copy is in the official minutes book at the Town Office.

At this time Mr. Strout stated his daughter was working for the school system. He wanted to make sure no one felt this was a conflict of interest in voting on this proposed school budget. Mr. Lehmann stated that his daughter also worked at the school. Mrs. Glenshaw stated that her husband was chairman of the School Board. All Budget Committee members present did not feel any of these relationships posed a concern of a conflict of interest.

The following items were discussed: Increase in school nurse position, SAU costs, Insurance costs, and classroom aides. The number of educational staffers was discussed and it was noted that they will be cutting staff by 1 FTE. High school costs, special education costs and library costs were also discussed.

- **Public comments:**

Cynthia Bognolo commented about how tough it is on the staff to have children in the school system with severe health issues. She also stated her belief that the Rivendell school system will be the school of choice in the near future.

Ben Henszey asked if Lyme's budget has been compared to other schools. He noted that other towns were giving their teachers a 0% raise.

Followed was a brief discussion concerning the economic times and how people need to think outside the box for budget-solving issues.

The school board was asked if they had discussed with the Library Board the use of the office space once the Town offices move out. Mr. Schiffman noted they had not had this discussion yet but did plan on having it.

It was noted at this time that the proposed school budget is exactly the same amount as requested last year.

- Mrs. Brotman explained the law requires the Budget Committee to vote on both the Town and School proposed budgets by individual line items. The Budget Committee must vote on the bold line item amounts. If the Budget Committee chooses not to do this, the town will be asked to vote on the budgets as submitted by the Selectmen and the School Board.

2009-2010 proposed school budget, as voted by the Budget Committee in an advisory vote:

Lines 1130 Regular High school Tuition: \$1,588,171.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$1,588,171.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 6 in favor, 2 opposed (Justice & Lewis).

Lines 1230 High School Special Education: \$167,905.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$167,905.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 6 in favor, 2 opposed. (Justice & Lewis).

Lines 1100 Regular Education: \$1,406,420.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$1,406,420.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 3 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice & Lewis).

Lines 1200 Special Education: \$310,446.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$310,446.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 6 in favor, 2 opposed. (Justice & Lewis).

Lines 2120 Guidance: \$47,244.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$47,244.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 3 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice & Lewis).

Lines 2130 Health Services: \$63,814.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$63,814.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 4 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice, Strout & Lewis).

Lines 2140 Psychological Services: \$18,200.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$18,200.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 3 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice & Lewis).

Lines 2150 Speech: \$30,187.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$30,187.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 4 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice, Strout & Lewis).

Lines 2160 Physical/Occupational Services: \$13,418.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$13,418.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 3 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice & Lewis).

Lines 2190 Other Student: \$2,000.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$2,000.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Lines 2210 Improvement of Instruction: \$43,094.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$43,094.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 4 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice, Strout & Lewis).

Lines 2220 Library/Media Services: \$16,791.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$16,791.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 4 in favor, 5 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice, Strout, Brotman & Lewis).

Mr. Lehmann moved lines 2220 Library/Media Services at \$0. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Followed was a discussion concerning Library/Media services. Mr. Lehmann and Mr. Lewis withdrew the previous motion.

Mr. Lewis moved Lines 2220 Library/Media Services at \$1.00. Seconded by Mr. Lehmann. Voted 4 in favor. 5 opposed (Glenshaw, Jones, Kilham, Schiffman & Brotman). The motion did not pass.

Followed was a brief discussion concerning Library/Media services.

Mr. Schiffman moved lines 2220 at \$16,791.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor. 4 opposed (Lehmann, Justice, Strout & Lewis).

Lines 2310 School Board: \$21,884.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$21,884.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 4 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice & Strout).

Lines 2320 SAU Services: 181,322.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$181,322.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 3 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice, Strout & Lewis).

Lines 2400 School Administration: \$188,883.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$188,883.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 4 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice, Strout & Lewis).

Lines 2600 Maintenance: \$229,938.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$229,938.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 3 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice & Lewis).

Lines 2700 Transportation: \$89,371.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$89,371.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 5 in favor, 3 opposed. (Lehmann, Justice & Lewis).

Lines 3100 Food Services: \$69,360.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$69,360.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted 6 in favor, 2 opposed. (Justice & Strout).

Lines 5100 Debt Service: \$99,576.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$99,576.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Lines 5200 Lyme School Transfer Funds: \$7,500.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$7,500.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Jones moved to take the preliminary School budget as voted tonight **\$4,595,524.00** to the Public Hearing on January 21st 2009. Seconded by Mr. Schiffman. Voted 7 in favor. 1 opposed (Lewis).

- Mrs. Brotman informed the Budget Committee that Mr. Brannen sent his apology to all; he thought he had made it clear he would not be at the meetings in the spring. He has resigned as of tonight's meeting. There is 1 more year left on his seat. This 1-year term will be filled by a vote at Town Meeting.
- Mrs. Brotman requested direction from the Budget Committee at this time. As noted earlier in the meeting, the Town budget has to be voted by individual lines. If the Budget Committee chooses not to do this, the town will be asked to vote on

the budget submitted by the Selectmen. It was the sense of the Budget Committee to re-visit the town budget at this time.

- **Town Budget:**

Mr. Jones reviewed the cuts the Selectmen made to the proposed 2009 budget at the budget committee's request. The bottom line of this budget is \$2,005,000.00. Mr. Jones noted that the block grant figures had come in, which allowed the Selectmen to cut an additional \$2,000.00 to meet the bottom line figure request.

Followed was a discussion concerning the employees COLA. Some members of the budget committee felt the Selectmen did not follow the intent of the previous meetings motion concerning the employees COLA numbers.

At this time it was noted the Selectmen were charged with coming back to the budget committee with a bottom line figure of \$2,005,000.00, which they did. The budget committee is not charged with setting employees wages, the Selectmen are.

2009 proposed town budget as voted by the Budget Committee in an advisory vote:

Lines 4130-4139 Executive: \$134,013.00

Mrs. Glenshaw moved at \$134,013.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted 4 in favor. 3 opposed (Lehmann, Strout, Lewis) 1 abstention (Justice).

Lines 4140-4149 Elections, Registrations & Vidal Statistics: \$78,562.00

Mrs. Glenshaw moved at \$78,562.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted 4 in favor. 3 opposed (Lehmann, Strout, Lewis) 1 abstention (Justice).

Lines 4150-4151 Financial Administration: \$48,329.00

Mrs. Glenshaw moved at \$48,329.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted 4 in favor. 3 opposed (Lehmann, Strout, Lewis) 1 abstention (Justice).

Lines 4152 Revaluation of Property: \$34,747.00

Mrs. Glenshaw moved at \$34,747.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted 4 in favor. 3 opposed (Lehmann, Strout, Lewis) 1 abstention (Justice).

Lines 4153 Legal: \$30,000.00

Mrs. Glenshaw moved at \$30,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted 6 in favor. 1 opposed (Lewis) 1 abstention (Justice).

Lines 4155-4159 Personnel Administration: \$57,512.00

Mrs. Glenshaw moved at \$57,512.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted 4 in favor. 3 opposed (Lehmann, Strout, Lewis) 1 abstention (Justice). These numbers will be re-calculated to make sure they are correct.

Lines 4191-4193 Planning & Zoning: \$72,399.00

Mrs. Glenshaw moved at \$72,399.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted 4 in favor. 3 opposed (Lehmann, Strout, Lewis) 1 abstention (Justice).

Mr. Jones informed the budget committee that the Selectmen have posted this job and will be interviewing in the near future. This position is being reviewed and may change. The personnel policy has just been renewed with changes. One of the changes reflects a 15% co-pay of the base health plan for all new hires.

At this time Mr. Lewis moved to approve the following budget lines as listed bellow:

4194 General Government Buildings at **\$16,650.00**

4195 Cemeteries at **\$47,054.00**

4196 Insurance at **\$46,315.00**

4197 Advertising and Regional Association at **\$2,385.00**
4199 Other General Government at **\$100.00**
4210-4214 Police at **\$203,238.00**
4215-4219 Ambulance at **\$39,909.00**
4220-4229 Fire at **\$41,075.00** (*changed by a later vote to \$43,275.00 - see below*)
4290-4298 Emergency Management at **\$1,750.00**
4299 Other Public Safety at **\$19,250.00**
4312 Highway and Streets at **\$687,139.00**
4316 Street Lighting at **\$2,310.00**
4323 Solid Waste Collection at **\$32,704.00**
4324 Solid Waste Disposal at **\$41,000.00**
4415-4419 Health Agencies & Hospital & Others at **\$16,522.00**
4441-4442 Administration & Direct Assistance at **\$7,150.00**
4520-4529 Parks & Recreation at **\$65,890.00**
4550-4559 Library at **\$131,995.00**
4583 Patriotic Purposes at **\$650.00**
4611-4612 Administration & Purchase of Natural Resources at **\$855.00**
Seconded by Mr. Justice. Voted 5 in favor. 2 opposed (Lehmann & Strout).

1 abstention (Justice)

Mr. Shiffmen moved to adjust line 4220-4229 to **\$43,275.00** to reflect the original budget request including the total insurance amount. Seconded by Mr. Justice. Voted 7 in favor.

1 opposed (Lewis)

Line 4711 Principal Long Term Bonds at \$69,420.00

Mr. Lewis moved at \$69,420.00.00. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted 7 in favor.

1 opposed (Lewis)

Line 4721 Interest-Long Term Bonds at \$65,077.00

Mr. Lewis moved at \$65,076.25. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted 7 in favor.

1 opposed (Lewis)

Line 4723 Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes at \$11,000.00

Mrs. Glenshaw moved at \$11,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Voted unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Glenshaw moved the total budget at **\$2,007,200.00**. Seconded by Mr. Kilham.

Voted 5 in favor. 4 opposed (Lehmann, Justice, Strout, Lewis)

Capital Budget:

Line 4902 Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment: \$239,500.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$278,500.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Mr. Lewis moved to amend the amount to \$239,500.00 to reflect the removal of \$39,000.00 for the Police cruiser.

Followed was a brief discussion concerning the Capital Reserve Funds. Seconded by Mr. Justice. The amended amount was voted 5 in favor. 3 opposed (Glenshaw, Jones & Schiffman).

Line 4903 Buildings: \$27,500.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$27,500.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. The funds are for repairs to the Lyme Center Academy Building. This will be a warrant article outside of the Capital Reserve Fund accounts. Voted 7 in favor. 1 opposed (Strout)

Line 4915 To Capital Reserve Funds: \$211,000.00

Mr. Lehmann moved to reduce line 434 by \$13,500.00. Seconded by Mr. Justice. Followed was a discussion concerning the funding of the Capital Reserve Funds. Line 4915 To Capital Reserve Funds will total \$211,000.00. Voted 7 in favor.

1 opposed (Jones)

Line 4916 To Trust Funds: \$70,000.00

Mr. Jones moved at \$70,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted 7 in favor.

1 opposed (Lewis)

- At 10:15 pm Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Cutting

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 21st, at 7:30 pm.

Public Hearing on the proposed School and Town budgets.