

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
November 18th, 2009
7:00PM

Town Office Conference Room

Approved: December 16th, 2009

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judith Brotman, Richard Jones, Josh Kilham, Freda Swan, William Lewis, Tim Cook, Morton Bailey, Earl Strout, Richard Justice & Elizabeth Glenshaw. Selectman: Simon Carr & Charles Ragan. Dina Cutting (Scribe).

Called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Brotman.

Mrs. Swan moved to approve the minutes of the November 4th, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Voted unanimously in favor.

- 1) The following estimated revenues for the 2010 budget year were discussed:
 - Block Grant
 - Shared Revenues
 - Motor vehicle registrations
 - Interest on investments

- 2) The following selectmen's recommended expenses for the 2010 budget year were discussed:
 - A) Town Building Maintenance & Repair Capital Reserve Fund.
 - Lyme Center Academy Building
 - Highway garage building has problems with mold growing in the work bay areas and the saturation of insulation that needs to be addresses.
The Selectmen noted at this time they will be looking at how to handle the general maintenance of all the town buildings in the near future.
 - B) Social Security and Medicare % were reviewed
 - C) The usage of the Lyme Center Academy Building
 - D) The Pike house (rental house on the Town office property)
 - E) Library

- 3) Mr. Lewis shared a handout comparing historical budget expense amounts to actual expenditures. Followed was a discussion concerning holding the budget's bottom line to a 0% increase. It was suggested the Selectmen find \$3,500.00 in the proposed budget to meet this request. Mr. Jones and Mr. Carr explained the Selectmen worked hard to get to the bottom line number. The total operating expenses would have been lower than last year if not for the health insurance increase. The Selectmen felt it would be hard to find these cuts and expressed concern over the fact that many of the expenses are out of their control. Explanations concerning health insurance, cuts previously made to the budget,

undesignated fund balance, and legal suits' costs took place. Budget Committee members acknowledged the hard work the selectmen had done to bring this budget in with such a small increase. Concerns were noted by some about falling back into a recession. Concerns were also expressed that the Selectmen's recommended budget was already tight.

- Mr. Strout moved the Budget Committee recommend the Selectmen reduce the operating budget by \$3,500.00. Seconded by Mr. Cook. The motion was voted 6 in favor, 3 opposed (Jones, Swan & Glenshaw)

4) It was the sense of the Budget Committee to cancel the meetings of December 2nd & 9th. The next meeting will be December 16th, 2009 at 7:00pm. A spread sheet with the Budget Committees recommended \$3,500.00 cut in the budget will be sent out the Friday before this meeting.

At 8:10 Mr. Lewis moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Swan. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting