

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
December 16th, 2009
7:00PM
Town Office Conference Room

Approved: January 6th, 2010

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, Mark Schiffman. Selectman: Simon Carr. Dina Cutting (Scribe).

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

1) Mrs. Brotman noted 2 items to begin this meeting.

- Budget Committee members should have received a letter from the Planning Board.
- Individual Budget Committee members do not have the authority to expend town funds for budget-related fact finding. If the Budget Committee decides to look in to a financial issue they need to go through the appropriate channels for permission to expend town funds for this – for Town-related issues – the Board of Selectmen; for School-related issues – the SAU office.

2) Mrs. Swan moved to approve the minutes of the November 18th, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Corrections were offered. Voted unanimously in favor as corrected.

3) The letter received from the Planning Board was discussed. Budget Committee members noted the tone and direction of the letter was not well received. After a lengthy discussion concerning the letter from the Planning Board and the process involved with the CIP, it was the sense of the Budget Committee to:

- Advise the planning board that they had received this letter;
- The Budget Committee will recommend a Capital Budget that they feel is the best for the town;
- The Budget Committee suggests that the Planning Board appoint a CIP committee to get the Capital Improvement Plan update done;
- The Planning Board letter will not be used as a document for this Budget Committee's recommendation.

4) **Operating Expenses:**

The Budget Committee briefly reviewed the process. All votes taken at tonight's meeting are advisory.

Questions were asked and answered concerning the cuts made to this revised budget.

Mr. Jones moved to recommend \$2,009,520.90 for the 2010 operating expenses. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Followed was a brief discussion. The motion was voted 5 in favor, 3 against (Jones, Swan & Lewis) with 1 abstention (Schiffman).

5) **Capital Budget:**

The following Capital Reserve Fund items were reviewed and discussed:

- Fire Safety Equipment
- Dump Truck
- 1 ton-truck
- Police vehicle
- Besse Hall Trust Fund

Mrs. Swan moved to approve the amount of \$268,000.00 for line 411 (Machinery, Vehicles and Equipment). Seconded by Mr. Jones. Motion voted 6 in favor. 3 against (Strout, Bailey & Lewis).

The following To Capital Reserve Funds & Trust Funds were discussed:

- 1 ton-truck
- Vehicle & truck amounts
- Recreation Facilities
- Fire Fighting Safety Equipment

Mrs. Swan moved to approve the amount of \$290,250.00 for line 443 (To Capital Reserve Fund). Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Motion voted 6 in favor. 3 against (Bailey, Strout & Lewis)

Mr. Lewis moved to approve the amount of \$35,000.00 for line 450 ((To Expendable Trust Fund). Seconded by Mrs. Swan. Motion voted 8 in favor, 1 against (Cook).

6) **Revenue:**

The estimated revenues were reviewed.

7) School:

Mr. Schiffman gave a brief up-date on the following topics:

- High school tuition numbers
- Concerns involving class size.
- Not enough classroom space
- School board is still trying to get the figures to work and is concerned they will not be able to get a 0% budget increase.

Next meeting: January 6th, 2010. The School will be presenting the budget for the 2010-2011 school year.

At 8:12 Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Kilham Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting