

Town of Lyme  
Budget Committee  
September 16th, 2009  
7:30PM  
Town Office Conference Room

Approved: October 14<sup>h</sup>, 2009

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

Mrs. Swan moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted 8 in favor. 2 abstentions (Cook & Bailey).

Mrs. Swan moved to approve the minutes of the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted 8 in favor. 2 abstentions (Strout & Justice).

At this time the Budget Committee confirmed the schedule of upcoming meetings and noted the start time for meetings will be at 7:00pm, ending no later than 9:30pm.

School:

Mr. Schnare and Mr. Schiffman reviewed the handout (attached). The areas touched on were as followed: high school tuition, a reduction in tax rate, new accounting system, fixing doors & ceiling in the school building, Mr. Schiffman noted the school budget came in about 9% under budget.

Concerns for the upcoming budget (2011-2012):

K and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes are over the recommended size, this will impact the budget depending on if these classes are split or not. The expected increase in high school students because the outgoing class is smaller than the incoming class. Because Mr. Schnare is working his way to retirement, the school board is preparing financially for this change. Retirement figures changed after the budget was set, the employer contribution % changed after the budget was set. Followed was a discussion concerning the High School tuition CRF.

Mr. Schiffman reported on the Lyme innovation for Education Fund: This program was started with an anonymous donation of \$250,000.00. It will cover the cost of this program for 3 years.

Town:

Mr. Jones reported on the Selectmen's guidelines to department heads concerning the budget proposals for 2010. With the preliminary reports of a 0% COLA for the 2010 budget season, the general budget increase guidelines from the Selectmen this year will be as follows:

- No increase in wages

- Departments will need to fully justify all over-time budget requests
- Each overall department budget should be a 0% increase, not including benefits. The Selectmen will be adding the benefit dollar amounts when they become available.

In the Capital budget: Police vehicle & Highway dump truck.

New items: Recreation Facilities CRF-\$11,000.00.

Mr. Jones touched on the following items: Legal expense line will be over budget this year due to 2 cases. Things seem to be on track for this years overall budget expenditures. Followed was a brief discussion on how and when the tax rate is set.

At 8:15 Mrs. Swan moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted unanimously in favor.

Next meeting October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to receive presentation from department heads.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting