

Town of Lyme  
Budget Committee  
January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
7:00PM  
Town Office/Police Station  
School Cafeteria

## Public Hearing on the Town & School Proposed 2010 budget

Approved: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judith Brotman, Richard Jones, Josh Kilham, Freda Swan, Mark Schiffman, William Lewis, Earl Strout, Dick Justice, Tim Cook, Morton Bailey, & Elizabeth Glanshaw. Selectmen: Simon Carr. Road Crew: Fred Stearns & Scott Bailey. Community members: Cynthia Bognolo, Julia Elder, Nancy & Blake Alison. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

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

Ms. Strout moved to approve the minutes of the January 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Shiffman. A correction on the count of a vote was corrected. The minutes were voted unanimously in favor with corrections noted.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:05 by Chair Brotman.

Per the Budget Committees request for additional information, Road Agent Fred Stearns referred to a handout with information on the usage of the 2 1-ton trucks for the highway department. There followed a lengthy discussion on this topic, with many questions asked and answered.

The following topics were discussed:

- The present highway fleet was reviewed.
- The current Capital Improvement Plan schedule was reviewed.
- How would the payments into the Capital Reserve Fund(s) change if the truck was not purchased through this fund?
- How could the purchase of the second 1-ton truck be made from the Undesignated Fund Balance?
- What is the total amount spent, and the total amount put into, the Capital Reserve Fund(s) in the past 2 years?
- The present Capital Improvement Plan does not reflect what the Road Agent requested.
- Would the proposed changes in the Capital Reserve Fund change the tax rate?
- The present level of funds in the Capital Reserve Funds is not adequate to pay for the present-day cost of replacement vehicles and equipment.
- The continued overall goal is to keep the tax rate level.

Public Comments:

Blake Alison suggested the Selectmen consider looking at purchasing used equipment. Because of the present state of the economy, the town may get a better deal.

A general discussion followed concerning the type of warrant article the Budget Committee could vote on tonight to use the Undesignated Fund to keep the tax rate level, or as an alternative to purchase the truck from this fund. The discussion ended with no action being taken.

Mr. Lewis moved to approve line 390, "Total Operating Expenses" at \$2,009,520.90. Seconded by Mr. Jones. The Selectmen clarified what items were cut from the budget to meet the Budget Committees request to level fund the operating budget – a reduction of approximately \$3,500.00. The change was made at the Budget Committees request. It was noted the Selectmen's recommended budget will stay the same number recommended by the Selectmen. It was noted the bottom line is not level with last years operating budget. The difference in the increase was due to the Block Grant coming to the Town at a higher figure than anticipated. The Block Grant is an "in and out" as there is a revenue figure for the matching amount. Revenues were briefly reviewed at this time.

The motion was voted 7 in favor. 3 against (Lewis, Cook & Strout). The motion passed.

Mr. Jones moved to approve line 427, "Subtotal for Capital Outlay" at \$268,000. Seconded by Mr. Schiffman. The motion was voted 8 in favor. 2 against (Lewis & Bailey). The motion passed.

Mr. Jones moved to approve line 452, "Subtotal for Interfund Transfers Out" at \$321,250. Seconded by Ms. Swan. The motion was voted 7 in favor. 3 against (Lewis, Cook & Bailey). The motion passed.

The next Public Hearing will be devoted to the School proposed 2010-2011 budget. Mr. Schiffman informed the Budget Committee that they expected a crowd larger than the conference room could accommodate. Ms. Brotman stated she would follow-up on the need for a possible change of meeting room, and inform everyone if a change in location is made.

At 8:25 Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting