

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
October 20th, 2010
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station
Conference Room

Approved: November 3, 2010

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judith Brotman, Simon Carr, Laszlo Bardos, Earl Strout, Elizabeth Glenshaw, William Lewis, Dick Justice, Tim Cook, Morton Bailey, & Robin Taylor. School Representative: Kate Semple-Barta. Fire Chief Michael Hinsley & Captain Tim Estes. Road Agent Fred Stearns. Police Sergeant Shaun O’Keefe. Converse Free Library: Librarian, Betsy Eaton, Trustees, Mardi Bowles and Nora Gould. Community members: Tony Ryan, Charles Hallett, Bridget Fillo & William Fillo. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

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

1) Mr. Bardos moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2) The following Departments presented their proposals for the 2011 budget discussions:

A) Highway:

Road Agent Fred Stearns reviewed various line items in the Highway budget. Brief discussions concerning the following items took place:

- Gravel, where we get it and how much we can haul in various trucks
- Block Grant money
- Safety Clothing for Highway workers
- A requested 3 % increase for wages
- The vacant spot in the road crew will not be filled.
- Mr. Stearns explained why he wanted to keep the “extra” truck even though the department has 1 fewer employee.
- Mr. Stearns reviewed how many trucks the Highway Department has. Followed was a discussion concerning the merits of keeping the extra truck.
- The grader was discussed. Under consideration is spending to maintain the grader in order to get 4-5 more years from this piece of equipment. Followed was a brief discussion concerning the cycle of replacement we have for our vehicles.

B) Police:

Sargent O’Keefe reviewed various line items of the Police budget. Brief discussions concerning the following items took place:

- Benefits
- Uniforms & Equipment

- Computer Systems
- Training & Education
- Gasoline prices

C) Fire:

Mr. Hinsley reviewed various line items of the Fire budget. Brief discussions concerning the following items took place:

- Safety equipment
- Fire has a lower Budget than 2010
- Fire Station improvements: The structure of the Fire House was discussed. The Fire Department does not want a new building. The Fire Department would like to give this building a face lift and make it energy efficient over the next 10 years.
- Mutual aid dues were discussed
- Fundraising
- The volunteers for the Fire Department
- Maintenance and repair of the fire trucks was discussed.

D) Mr. Carr gave a brief up-date on the Selectmen discussion of pay raises for employees.

E) Library:

Ms. Bowles reviewed various line items of the Library budget. Brief discussions concerning the following items took place:

- Staffing
- Ms. Eaton's responsibilities
- Cataloging- what needs to be done and what needs to be purchased to get it done.
- No rent is being charged to the (SAU) school for the use of the office down stairs in the Library
- Blisters
- PTO fundraiser
- The Library does use money out of the endowment each year. The Library also receives various donations.
- Followed was a brief discussion concerning the school usage of the Library

F) Mr. Carr gave a brief up-date on the tax rate amount for 2010. The new tax rate is \$19.17. The Selectmen used \$350,000.00 from the unassigned fund balance to keep the tax rate down.

Comments were made that the town needs to keep the operating budget as stable as it can.

The Selectmen will be presenting their proposed budget on November 3, 2010.

At 8:45 Mr. Lewis moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dina Cutting