

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
September 15th, 2010
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station
Conference Room

Approved: September 22nd, 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. Selectmen: Richard Jones. Town Property Assessor: Diana Calder. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

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

Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2010 Public Hearing. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Bardos moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Carr. A change was offered. Voted unanimously in favor with changes noted.

1) Ms. Calder gave an in-depth review of the State requirements for assessing town property. The following topics were discussed:

- Certification requirements, 5 year cycle.
- Revaluation requirements, 10 year cycle.
- Reviewed old and new procedures associated with assessing property.
- Assessing budget will stay level funded for 2011.
- Any certification or revaluation work costs will come out of the Capital Reserve Fund.
- The utility appraisal process was reviewed. The Town hires George Sansoucey to appraise the town's utilities.

2) Budget:

Mr. Carr reviewed the information he was asked to bring back to this meeting.

- Grafton County Tax: The next 2 years will be a 3-4% increase. After 2012 the increase will be 9% to 16%.
- Staffing: update for the Police and Highway departments.
- Town Building Maintenance Fund: The new Committee will be looking to get all of the buildings on a schedule for general maintenance. The Committee will also be looking at larger projects needed for the buildings and getting a plan in place to fund the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund.
- Wages & Benefits: The Selectmen have not discussed any personnel issues pertaining to possible raises or benefits cost. Last year the Board implemented the contribution of 15% towards employee health insurance for new hires.
- Retirement rates are going to go up in July 2011

- The condition of 3 bridges and what has taken place to date was discussed.
- The Pike House: wet basement issue is being addressed.
- The underfunding of some of the Capital Reserve Funds was discussed. The Vehicle and Bridge Capital Reserve Funds were specifically noted needing attention.
- Extending the life of the backhoe and grader was reviewed.

3) At this time the Budget Committee had a brief discussion on priorities for this budget cycle. The Budget Committee felt the Capital Reserve Funds needed to be reviewed and they should be spending more time on this topic.

4) The Budget Committee asked the School Board to get them an end of the year budget for the 2009-2010 school year to review as soon as possible. The Budget Committee will then have plenty of time to review this material before beginning review of the proposed school budget.

5) Mr. Carr reviewed the unassigned Fund Balance with the Budget Committee.

6) Mr. Strout presented information he had gathered by talking to community members concerning how the Budget Committee could help the public feel welcome at the meetings.

The next meeting is September 22, 2010 @ 7:00PM. The Budget Committee will review and discuss the information on amending of the fiscal year.

At 8:31pm Mr. Strout moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting