

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
January 13th, 2010
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station
Conference Room

Approved: January 20th, 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 Glenshaw. School: Jeff Valance & Gordon Schnare. Selectmen: Simon Carr. Public: Jane Fant, Marcia Armstrong, Jeff Lehmann. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

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

1) Ms. Swan moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. The minutes were corrected to show that Elizabeth Glenshaw was present at this meeting. The minutes were voted unanimously in favor with the corrections noted.

2) School Budget:

Mr. Schiffman explained the changes made by the school board, per the recommendation of the Budget Committee, for the 2010-2011 school year. The bottom line budget is \$4,784,927. This would be an 8.01% increase to the tax rate. Followed was a lengthy discussion with questions and answers concerning the following budget areas:

- Externally funded enrichment programs
- Teachers salary increases
- Non contracted personnel increases
- Approaching the teachers this year to see if they will forgo the negotiated raises
- Improvement of instructors
- School Administration
- Speech services

Mr. Lewis moved to approve line 299 of the school budget at \$4,784,927. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw.

A question concerning tenure for teachers was clarified. Benefits, rising administrative costs, additional high school students, high school tuition increases, Spanish program, and the policy concerning class size were discussed.

The motion was voted 4 in favor and 6 against (Swan, Bailey, Justice, Strout, Cook & Lewis). The motion did not pass.

Followed was a discussion concerning the up-coming public hearings and the timing of the process ahead. Ms. Brotman noted she thought the budget committee's recommended budget is what will be presented to voters. The school district meeting warrant will note if the budget committee budget is recommended by the school board or not recommended

by the school board. The final budget needs to be voted at a public hearing in order to go to the legislative body for a vote. Ms. Brotman will check with the town's attorney to make sure this is done correctly. Mr. Schiffman requested the budget committee give the school board some direction of where they felt the bottom line budget should be.

Mr. Lewis moved to approve line 299 of the school budget at \$4,743,506. Seconded by Mr. Strout.

Followed was a discussion concerning possible cuts to the budget.

The motion was voted 8 in favor, 2 against (Schiffman & Glenshaw).

It was noted the administration should find this money in the areas that would have the least impact to the school and students. The following areas were reviewed by administrators Schnare and Valance:

- Class size
- Amount of support staff
- Surplus figures
- The administrators are always looking for way to save money
- Trust Funds were discussed

3) Town Budget:

Mr. Carr gave a brief description and review of the fund balance policy, the undesignated fund balance, and how it can be used. Mr. Carr noted the Selectmen realize they will need to apply more of the undesignated fund balance in order to keep the tax rate as level as they can.

4) The 1st Public Hearing is next Wednesday January 20th, 2010 @ 7:00pm in the conference room of the Town office building at 1 High Street.

5) The Capital Improvement Plan and how the 2nd highway truck was taken out of this plan were discussed. It would be helpful to hear from the Road Agent at the next meeting to review and discuss the need for this truck.

At 9:15pm Ms. Swan moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting