

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
December 1, 2010
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station
Conference Room

Approved: December 15, 2010

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judith Brotman, Simon Carr, Laszlo Bardos, Earl Strout, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Dick Justice, Tim Cook, Morton Bailey, William Lewis & Robin Taylor. School Representative: Kate Semple-Barta. Selectman: Richard Jones. Police Department: Sergeant O'Keefe. Library Trustees: Nora Gould & Mardi Bowles. Scribe: Dina Cutting. Mascoma Valley Health Initiative representative: Alise Ely

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

- 1) Mr. Bardos moved to approve the minutes of the November 10th, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Carr. One attendance correction was noted. The minutes were approved as corrected, with 2 abstentions (Lewis and Bailey).
- 2) Mr. Lewis handed out a copy of a spreadsheet he had done concerning the Capital Reserve Funds chart that Mr. Carr distributed. Mr. Lewis is concerned that the Town is building up funds without specific spending allocations. Mr. Carr responded that the spreadsheets are only accurate for 2011. Anything projected beyond 2011 is simply an estimated expenditure based on past practices.
- 3) Simon announced that Pauline Field will be stepping down as Police Manager as of December 25th, 2010. Shaun O'Keefe will be the Lyme Police Chief as of January 1st, 2011. Sergeant O'Keefe made various reductions to the proposed Police budget as a result of these changes. A brief discussion followed.
- 4) Alise Ely, executive director of Mascoma Valley Health Initiative, explained their budget request. This group had made a late submission and she was coming to inform the Budget Committee of what MVHI does. The Budget Committee asked various questions concerning the goals and projects this group has worked on. It was noted by the Budget Committee that in the past the Selectmen and Budget Committee have supported groups with direct services to the town.
- 5) The following areas of the proposed 2011 budget were reviewed and discussed:
 - Library: Ms. Bowles reviewed the libraries budget requests
 - Employee wages
 - Voting on the bottom line for each departments budget
 - Discussion concerning the merit raises and the automatic COLA for all employees.
 - Followed was a lengthy discussion attempting to identify the total amount of a 1.4% COLA increase
 - It was the sense of the Budget Committee to move ahead and take an advisory vote on the individual department's budgets.

- It was noted that if there had been an earlier discussion concerning the amount of the 1.4% increase, the Selectman's budget spreadsheet could have reflected the accurate amount.

Advisory Vote on proposed 2011 budget:

Executive:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$144,822.25. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 6 in favor, 5 against (Lewis, Cook, Bailey, Strout, and Justice). The motion passed.

Elections, Registration & Vital Statistics:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$82,303.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 6 in favor, 5 against (Lewis, Cook, Bailey, Strout, and Justice). The motion passed.

Financial Administration:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$46,487.00. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Revaluation of Property:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$24,430.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Legal:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$45,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Personnel Administration:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$47,056.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 8 in favor, 2 against (Lewis and Bailey). The motion passed.

Planning & Zoning:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$80,084.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 6 in favor, 5 against (Lewis, Cook, Bailey, Strout, and Justice). The motion passed.

General Government Buildings:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$22,050.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 9 in favor, 1 against (Bailey). The motion passed.

Cemeteries:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$41,656.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 7 in favor, 3 against (Cook, Bailey, Strout). The motion passed.

Insurance:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$51,420.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Advertising & Regional Association:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$2,385.00. Seconded by Mr. Strout. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Police:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$179,707.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Ambulance:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$42,620.00. Seconded by Mr. Strout. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Fire:

Mr. Justice moved to approve the amount of \$39,775.00. Seconded by Mr. Carr. Mr. Lewis suggested the Fire Chief be given a raise. After a brief discussion Mr. Lewis

moved to offer an amendment to increase the Fire Chiefs Salary by \$200.00. Mr. Justice seconded this amendment. There was further discussion.

The amendment was voted 3 in favor, 7 against (Carr, Bailey, Bardos, Semple-Barta, Strout, Glenshaw, Taylor). The amendment failed.

The original motion was voted 8 in favor with 2 against (Justice & Lewis). This motion passed.

Emergency Management:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$1,150.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Other Public Safety:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$21,097.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Highway & Streets:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$550,450.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos.

Followed was a discussion pertaining to the pros and cons of salting our roads, keeping our roads in too-good a condition with too much money being spent on material. After a lengthy discussion the question was called.....Motion voted 6 in favor, 4 against (Lewis, Cook, Bailey, and Strout). The motion passed.

Street Lighting:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$2,747.00. Seconded by Mr. Justice. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Solid Waste:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$35,212.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 9 in favor, 1 against (Lewis). The motion passed.

Solid Waste:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$46,300.00. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Health Agencies & Hospitals & Others:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$16,467.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Administration and Direct Assistance:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$10,389.83. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Parks & Recreation:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$62,736.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 6 in favor, 4 against (Lewis, Cook, Bailey, and Strout). The motion passed.

Library:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$134,409.00. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion voted 8 in favor, 2 against (Lewis and Strout). The motion passed.

Patriotic Purposes:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$700.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Administration and Purchase of Natural Resources:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount of \$1,850.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 8 in favor, 2 against (Lewis and Strout). The motion passed.

Principal:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$70,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Interest:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$55,299.50. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Interest on Tax Anticipation Note:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$5,800.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Total Operating Expenses:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$1,864,402.58. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. After a brief discussion Mr. Lewis offered an amendment to reduce the bottom line of the proposed 2011 budget by \$10,000.00. Seconded by Strout. Followed was a brief discussion concerning this amount representing the 1.4% COLA. Motion voted 5 in favor, 6 against (Carr, Bardos, Semple-Barta, Glenshaw, Taylor & Brotman). The motion failed.

The original motion was voted 6 in favor with 5 against (Lewis, Cook, Bailey, Strout, and Justice) the original motion passed.

Machinery, Vehicles and Equipment:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$16,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Improvements other than buildings:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$13,020.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

To Capital Reserve Funds:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$286,750.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 8 in favor, 2 against (Lewis and Bailey). The motion passed.

To expendable Trust Funds:

Mr. Carr moved to approve the amount \$30,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 9 in favor, 1 against (Lewis). The motion passed.

6) Following the advisory vote, the school's year-end information was discussed. Ms. Brotman reminded Budget Committee members they had received the cover letter and information from the school in an earlier email.

There were funds left over from the 2009-2010 school budget. Ms. Semple-Barta was asked to find out where this money came from.

7) Next meeting December 15th, 2010 – proposed 2011-2012 School Budget presentation.

At 9:35PM Mr. Strout moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully,
Dina Cutting