

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

Approved: January 5, 2011

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judith Brotman, Simon Carr, Laszlo Bardos, Earl Strout, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Dick Justice, Tim Cook, Morton Bailey, & Robin Taylor. School Representative: Kate Semple-Barta. Superintendent: Gordon Schnare. Principal: Jeff Valence. School board chairman: Mark Schiffman. Community members: Barbara and David Roby, Robert Meyer. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

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

1. Mr. Carr moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2010. Seconded by Mr. Cook. Voted unanimously in favor.

2. School Budget:

Mr. Schiffman reviewed the following documents:

a) Cover Memo to Budget Committee members

b) Explanation of surplus FY 2010

c) The 2011-2012 draft proposed budget was reviewed and the following topics were discussed:

- Growing School Population in Lyme
- Teacher contracts
- State Retirement contribution costs
- Special Education
- High School Tuition
- Class size
- Comparative average salaries in the state of NH
- Restructuring of the SAU office after Gordon Schnare's retirement.
- Additional staff at the school
- The Spanish program
- Library/Media Program state staffing requirements.
- Proposed outside service contracts to assist with:
 - Understanding Lyme's growth in school population
 - Space assignments
 - Teacher contract negotiations
- The hiring of a new superintendent was discussed.
- Non-teaching staff raises
- A clarification was made by Mr. Carr concerning the undesignated fund balance and why it was used to stabilize the tax rate.
- The "bottom line" proposed increase to the total school budget is 7%.

The School board will be meeting again to review the proposed budget specifically to see if cuts can be made.

3. At this time Mrs. Brotman opened the floor for any Budget Committee member to comment on the proposed budget. Some concerns were expressed that the increase of 7% is too much for people.
4. Mr. Schiffman reviewed the state testing. Lyme has been chosen at random for a 3rd test. A level of feed back will come to the teaching staff from this test.

Followed was a discussion concerning an individual Budget Committee member that was not able to attend this meeting. The concern was that he would have questions that would need to be answered before an advisory vote was taken on this proposed budget. It was the sense of the committee to meet January 5th, 2011 for any remaining questions from the Budget Committee members and to review and discuss the final proposed school budget.

5. Mrs. Brotman will not be at the January 5th meeting. It was the sense of the Budget Committee to have Lazlo Bardos chair this meeting, with the advisory vote on the proposed school budget taking place the following week, January 12th.

At 9:00PM Mr. Strout moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting