

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
September 22nd, 2010
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station
Conference Room

Approved: October 20, 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. Community Members: Steven Campbell & Michael Hinsley. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

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

Mr. Bardos moved to approve the minutes of the September 15th, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. Changes were offered. The minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Mr. Carr gave a presentation concerning the option of changing to a July 1st fiscal year. The following pros and cons were discussed:

- The State and School contracts are on a July 1st fiscal year - it would be helpful for the Town to have a similar fiscal year.
- A fiscal year would mean that there would be no spending of Town appropriations until they were voted at Town Meeting.
- The highway budget would include a full year's budget.
- The tax anticipation note (TAN) would not have to be borrowed.
- The Town would need to come up with an 18 month budget for the first year. To do this the unassigned balance would be used to cover the additional six months.
- There is some concern that we do not have enough history on this proposal.
- It may be difficult to persuade the community to support this change.
- Also, an option would be to move Town meeting to a May meeting.

The Board of Selectmen will be working on this and come back to the Budget Committee with a recommendation.

Heads up from the Budget Workshop:

- The State has no money
- The Rooms and Meals contribution is okay for this budget year.
- The Shared contribution was to come back to the towns in 2011 but it will not be distributed.
- The public needs to be educated on what the State is passing down to the Towns, and the additional costs of these added responsibilities on town budgets.

There was a brief discussion concerning what the obligations are for health benefits and retirement benefits of town employees.

- A brief discussion on the merits of collecting Taxes 2 times per year took place.
- Unassigned fund balance was discussed. Could this money be used to help bring the under-funded Capital Reserve Funds up to where they need to be?
- There as a discussion on the process and how the unassigned fund balance can be used.

At this time Chair Brotman asked if any Budget Committee member had a recommendation for the Selectmen to bring to department heads concerning the 2011 proposed budget. It was noted by some Budget Committee members that they would like to see a 0% increase and others said they would not want to put that kind of restriction on the Selectmen right now. No recommendations were made.

The next meeting will be October 20th, 2010 when the budget committee will be meeting with department heads.

Mr. Lewis moved to adjourn at 8:10PM. Seconded by Mr. Cook. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting