

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
October 19th, 2011
7:00PM
Town Offices Conference Room

Approved: November 9th, 2011

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Simon Carr, Laszlo Bardos, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Morton Bailey, Tim Cook, Philip Barta, Lisa Celone and Robin Taylor. School Representative: Scott May. Police Chief: Shaun J. O'Keefe, Road Agent: Fred Stearns and Fire Chief: Michael Hinsley. Library Trustees: Mardi Bowles & Nancy Snider. Librarian: Betsy Eaton. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

At 7:02 PM the meeting was called to order by Chair Brotman.

1. Mr. Carr moved to approve the minutes of the September 21st, 2011. Seconded by Mr. Barta. Vote unanimously in favor.
2. Proposed 2012 Department budgets:
 - Highway: Mr. Stearns reviewed the proposed budget and answered various questions pertaining to line items;
 - Building Maintenance
 - Road materials
 - Equipment rental
 - Vehicle maintenance
 - Road side maintenance
 - Fuel
 - Road side mowing
 - FEMA reimbursements
 - Revenues

Followed was a brief discussion on the conditions of various town roads and repairs to the dirt roads.

- Police: Chief O'Keefe reviewed the proposed budget and answered various questions pertaining line items;
 - Animal control
 - Vehicle repairs
 - New Employee hiring: followed was a brief discussion on how this process was proceeding. Police Academy regulations related to employee wages and scheduling was reviewed.
- River Road up-date:

Mr. Carr explained the budgeting process that needs to be used for the repairing of River Road and the stabilization of the river bank. In order for funds to be spent from the towns unassigned fund balance, the DRA has a procedure the town must

follow. First, the Budget Committee will need to hold a public hearing on the request to use the unassigned fund balance. Second, if approved by vote of the budget committee, the majority of the Budget Committee will be required to sign a letter to the DRA requesting an emergency expenditure for this specific purpose.

Discussion followed concerning the DRA requirements, the need to get bids on this project, the TAN interest amount and DES permit requirements.

It was the sense of the Budget Committee to hold a Public Hearing on November 9th, 2011 at 7:00PM at the Lyme Center Academy Building for the purpose of discussing and voting on the Board of Selectmen's request to DRA for an emergency expenditure from the unassigned fund balance. Mr. Carr also noted that FEMA will be looking at this project for possible mitigation funds to help with the expense of this repair.

- Fire: Chief Hinsley reported the fire department was in good shape.
 - The proposed budget is the same as 2011
 - He feels they have a strong membership, with support from the town officers, and the police department.

- Library: Ms. Eaton and Ms. Bowles reviewed the proposed budget and answered various questions pertaining to various line items;
 - Non- Taxpayer funds and the Library endowment.
 - Warrant articles to spend some of the endowment money on building repairs
 - New cataloging system
 - New water system
 - Hourly employee rate increase
 - Other expenses due to new Librarian search
 - Fuel oil costs
 - The Library wanted to note the importance of and the need for a regularly scheduled, part-time "Town Building Maintenance Employee" person to help with the on-going maintenance issues on all Town buildings, including the Library. The Trustees feel the way this work is currently contracted is not as efficiently done as it could be.

- Mr. Carr noted at this time that the northeast CPI for August was 3.8% and the Social Security COLA is 3.6%. The Board of Selectmen will be recommending a 3.8% raise for Town employees.

- At 8:40PM Mr. Bardos moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting, Scribe

- Next Meeting: November 9, 2011 – Public Hearing at the Lyme Center Academy Building. Followed by presentation of the Board of Selectmen proposed 2012 budget.