

Town of Lyme  
Budget Committee  
December 15, 2011  
7:00PM  
Town Office/Police Station  
Conference Room

Approved: January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Simon Carr, Laszlo Bardos, Earl Strout, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Tim Cook, Mort Bailey, Scott May, Lisa Celone, Phil Barta & Robin Taylor. School Board Chairman: Mark Schiffman; Superintendent: Michael Harris; School Principal: Jeffrey Valance.

Community members: Barbara & David Roby. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

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 16, 2011 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Strout. Voted unanimously in favor.
2. Barbara Roby inquired as to when the Town's Income information would be available.

Mr. Carr replied that it would be available before the public hearing on the Town's proposed budget.

3. Mr. Schiffman, School Board Chair, presented a preliminary look at the upcoming proposed School Budget for FY 2013 (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013).
  - a. This core budget shows a 6.9% increase from the current year's budget, primarily due to a \$250,000 special education increase.
  - b. Currently the school is in negotiations with the teacher over a new 3-year teacher contract.
  - c. If the teacher contract is approved, the total increase will be 7.8% over the current year's budget. The special education increase is 4.8% of this amount.
  - d. The New England CPI, averaged over the year, is used as a basis for salary increases.
  - e. 2 part-time para-professionals have been made full time
  - f. High school tuition has been estimated to increase by 3%.
  - g. The School Board is looking at space reconfigurations due to the increase in enrollment, especially in the lower grades.
  - h. Revenue and specific aid from the State is lower this year. The cost of the lower state funds is increasing the local school costs each year.
4. The Committee felt that the School Board should let the Town know the trends being experienced (the costs associated with) the State's new fiscal policies. The Committee

also felt that the School Board should start planning now for future offsets from the diminishing State funding.

5. Mrs. Roby had several questions about the School budget:
  - a. She inquired about the Spanish program, and whether or not the Lyme foundation Grant is still in place. Mr. Valance replied that the cost of the Spanish program is still being underwritten by the Lyme Foundation.
  - b. She inquired about the Library teacher/aid. Mr. Valance replied that the library teacher is now fully certified instructor, per the original agreement with the Library.
  
6. Mr. Roby had several questions about the School budget:
  - a. How do we ensure that children enrolled in school are actually residents of Lyme. Mr. Schiffman said that the State RSA defines and regulates residency status. The school does check carefully into residency.
  - b. Would it benefit the school/budget to offer early retirement plans? This is something the School Board has thought about, but they have not gone forward with any special enticements for early retirement.
  - c. Would it be possible to look for private funding for some of the special programs?
  
7. The Budget Committee will take up the details of the budget at their next meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>. An updated spread sheet will be provided prior to the meeting so the committee can review the details ahead of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Judith Lee Shelnuttt Brotman  
Temporary Scribe!