

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

Approved: September 21st, 2011

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Simon Carr, Laszlo Bardos, Earl Strout, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Morton Bailey, Tim Cook, Philip Barta, and Robin Taylor. School Representative: Scott May. School Board chairman: Mark Schiffman, Superintendent: Mike Harris. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

At 7:05 PM the meeting was called to order by Chair Brotman.

1. Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2011 Public Hearing. Seconded by Mr. Carr and vote unanimously in favor.
2. At this time Mr. Bardos wished to inform the budget committee that he has been hired as a .25FTE for the Lyme School. Mr. Bardos would like to have a discussion concerning a possible conflict of interest and find out how other budget committee members felt about this. After a lengthy discussion it was the sense of the committee that Mr. Bardos refrain from voting on teacher salaries. It was also the sense of the committee that Mr. Bardos should be able to express his opinion and this was important to many budget committee members. It was felt that Mr. Bardos being a teacher in the school needs to be made very public and needs to be communicated openly. The budget committee asked Ms. Cutting to check with Town Counsel concerning this matter and report back.
3. Nomination for Chair of the Budget Committee was opened.
 - Mr. Bardos moved to nominate Judy Brotman as the Chair of the Budget Committee. Seconded by Mr. Cook. There being no opposing opinions the motion was voted unanimously in favor.
4. Town 6-month budget update:
 - Questions were answered from the previous selectmen/budget committee joint meeting.
 - Mr. Carr reviewed the CRF spreadsheets that were sent out.
 - River Road status was reviewed and all budget committee members were encouraged to attend the September 14th public meeting concerning this matter.
5. School update:

Mr. Schiffman reviewed the end of the 2010-2011 school year. The School board feels once the surplus is put towards the new CRF and the high school tuition trust fund there should be \$13,271 to go to reduce taxes. The School will forward a Summary Report, outlining the details of the year-end school budget status, by email to Dina to forward on to the budget committee members.

The following topics were discussed:

- State changes to retirement funding, tuition costs, special education cost, out of district special education costs, and concerns about the 2011-2012 budget given this review.
- There are some additional not planned special education costs; the committee discussed the use of the special education trust fund and the high school education trust fund.
- The school board is contemplating holding a special school district meeting to raise an additional \$69,000.00.
- Followed was a discussion concerning the 4 trust funds, the balances in these funds, how they are used and what may be needed this year from these funds.

The 2 options for addressing these budget issues are:

1. To do nothing, pull money from the special education trust and freeze various accounts within the school budget.
2. Hold a special school district meeting and ask the town to raise an additional \$69,000 for the 2011-2012 school budget.

Mr. Schiffman informed the board about the funds the school will receive from the state for reimbursement of some of the special education costs, and that these funds come to the school the following year. Concerns about the special education trust fund being depleted were voiced.

Following an in-depth discussion concerning all options the majority of the budget committee would prefer to have the school board use the trust money, this is the purpose of the fund. Most budget committee members were not in favor of holding the special school district meeting to request more funds. It was the sense of the budget committee that the school board should have some form of communication with the community so that people know about this issue.

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

Next meeting: September 21, 2011 7:00PM at Town Offices

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting