

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
February 15, 2012
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station
Conference Room
PUBLIC HEARING ON MONEY WARRANT ARTICLES

Present at this meeting:

Budget Committee members: Judy Brotman, Simon Carr, Laszlo Bardos, Earl Strout, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Tim Cook, Scott May, Morton Bailey & Phil Barta. Scribe: Dina Cutting

Selectmen: Richard Vidal.

School Board: Chairman, Mark Schiffman; Superintendent, Michael Harris. Principal, Jeff Valance.

Public: David Roby, Jay Smith, Janet Baker, Carole Lea, John Mudge, Donna Anderson, Deloris & Richard Drew, and Don & Julia Elder..

The Budget Committee meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Brotman.

1. Mr. Strout moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2012 Public Hearing. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.
2. Mr. Strout read from a prepared statement (see attachment)
3. Chair Brotman opened the Public Hearing on Warrant Articles involving money at 7:10PM

Public Hearing

Town Warrant Articles:

Article 4: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 4, Block Grant Appropriation, in the amount of \$86,130.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. These funds will be used towards finishing Goose Pond Road construction. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 5: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 5, To Capital Reserve Funds and Trust Funds, in the amount of \$376,388.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 6: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 6, Withdrawal from Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds, in the amount of \$4,000.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 7: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 7, Appropriate Funds from the Unreserved Fund Balance to Repair River Road Wash Out, in the amount of \$590,700.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Followed was a discussion touching on NRCI funding, contractor bids, and the highway crew helping out with this project to keep costs down as much as possible. The topic of opening the River Road before the work is complete was discussed again. Safety issues surrounding this option were noted.

At this time the following public members spoke:
Donna Anderson, Julia Elder, Don Elder, Carola Lea, Mark Schiffman, John Mudge, and David Roby. The following topics were discussed: (1) the prospects for this article passing; (2) the cost of the project; (3) the proposed funding from NRCS; (4) the perception that the cost of this

project is too high; (5) the Selectmen were asked to be active participants in the re-licensing of Wilder Dam; and (6) the procedure for changing the amount of money in specific warrant articles and how to “ear mark” funds for specific items at town meeting.

The motion was voted 7 in favor with 2 against (Bailey & Cook).

Article 8: Mr. Strout moved to approve Article 8, Appropriate Funds from the Unreserved Fund Balance to Repair River Road Wash Out, in the amount of \$90,000.00 Article 8 is a back-up article. If this warrant article is approved, it shall only be effective if Warrant Article 7 is NOT approved. Seconded by Mr. Carr.

Concerns were voiced about the confusion town meeting participants may have over 2 similar articles. The specifics of the engineering and the plans for this project were discussed. It was noted that the budget committee is being asked to vote here on the funding of this one project only. The Selectmen feel sufficient data has been collected for the project as proposed in Article 7 to take place. If Article 7 does not pass, the Board feels that the whole project should be re-assessed.

This motion was voted 6 in favor with 3 abstentions (Mr. Cook, Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Glenshaw). The motion passes.

Article 9: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 9, Withdrawal from the Cemetery Maintenance Gifts and Donations Fund, in the amount of \$15,663.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 10: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 10, Transfer Funds from the Cemetery Special Revenue Fund into the New Cemetery Capital Reserve Fund, in the amount of \$1,600.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 11: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 11, Independence Day Celebration Special Revenue Fund, in the amount of \$8,400.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 12: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 12, Appropriating Monies for the Blisters for Books Expendable Trust Fund, in the amount of \$6,003.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 13: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 13, Town Forest Management Plan, in the amount of \$10,000.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 14: Mr. Bardos moved to approve Article 14, Withdrawal from Converse Free Library Unexpended Non-Current Operating Funds, in the amount of \$8,000.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 15: Mr. Strout moved to approve Article 15, Milfoil Treatment for Post Pond, in the amount of \$6,250.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. The state will pay for the first treatments which Lyme had last year. We will wait to see what they find in the spring and may not even need this treatment. Voted unanimously in favor.

Article 17: Mr. Strout moved to approve Petitioned Warrant Article 17, in the amount of \$15,300.00. Seconded by Mr. Cook. Petitioner Donna Anderson explained that this article was presented because the Selectmen have no back-up plan in case Article 7 fails. If Article 7 passes this article will not be needed. Mr. Carr reported this will be an advisory vote only as Town Meeting does not have the authority to do what this petition is seeking. A discussion followed concerning the safety issues of this section of River Road prior to it being fixed, as well as the condition of the land bordering the Connecticut River and its banks. Voted 4 in favor with 5 against. This motion did not pass.

Article 18: Mr. Taylor moved to approve Petitioned Warrant Article 18, Appropriate Funds to Take Land Abutting River Road by Eminent Domain and to Relocate River Road for Two-way Traffic, in the amount of \$163,600.00. Seconded by Mr. Strout. Petitioner Donna Anderson explained that this Article was presented to allow the road to be worked on even if Article 7 does not pass. This Article will allow the town to still put in a road if the river bank is not repaired. Town Counsel has advised the Selectmen this is not a valid Article. If the river bank is not repaired the Town will not be able to take the land needed by eminent domain and will not receive any funding from NRCS. The Upper Valley Land Trust and the Department of Agriculture will not agree to the easements necessary to allow this to happen. Voted 4 against with 5 abstentions (Barta, Mayo, Bailey, Strout, Taylor). This motion did not pass.

School Warrant Articles:

The Budget Committee reviewed the previous vote in the amount of \$5,500,372.00. Warrant Article 2, in the amount of \$5,400,372.00; and Warrant Articles 6 & 7, both Capital Reserve/Trust Fund articles for \$50,000.00 each, were previously voted in the affirmative. The vote will be explained in presentation at School District Meeting and noted in the School warrant.

Article 3: Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 3, to fund the cost attributed to the increase in salaries and benefits, in the amount of \$28,669. Seconded by Mr. May. A brief discussion followed concerning the difference between this new contract and the past contract. Voted 8 in favor and 1 abstention (Bardos).

Article 4: Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 4, to procure temporary classroom space and to allow the Lyme School District to conduct modifications to the school and/or rented property to accommodate increased students, in the amount of \$55,000.00. Seconded by Mr. May. Mr. Schiffman gave a brief review of the need for this Article. The motion was voted unanimously in favor.

Article 6: Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 6, for the enrollment response capital reserve fund, in the amount of \$50,000.00. Seconded by Mr. May. Some concerns were expressed that monies would be going to this fund before it went to the Special Education CRF. The motion was voted 8 in favor and 1 against (Strout).

Article 7: Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 7, for the Special Education Reserve Fund, in the amount of \$50,000.00. Seconded by Mr. May. The motion was voted unanimously in favor.

Article 8: Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 8, to determine and fix the salaries of school district officers, as follows: School District Treasurer \$800.00, School District Clerks \$75.00, School District Moderator \$75.00. The amounts in this Article are included in Article 2. Seconded by Mr. May. The motion was voted unanimously in favor.

The public hearing was closed.

There being no further business, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting