

Town of Lyme  
Budget Committee  
January 4, 2012  
7:00PM  
Town Office/Police Station  
Conference Room

Approved: January 18, 2012

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

The Budget Committee meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Chair Brotman.

1. Mr. Carr moved to approve the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. Changes were offered: strike the last 2 sentences in 3 b. Voted unanimously in favor of the minutes as amended.
2. Mr. Schiffman reviewed the proposed school budget and noted that the School Board may need to make small adjustments to a few areas in this proposed budget before the Public Hearing.
3. Mr. Schiffman then responded to a number of specific line item questions, including the following:
  - a. The proposed budget includes staff raises but no teacher raises; teachers' raises will be in a separate warrant article;
  - b. The overall class size policies, teacher and aid FTE's were reviewed.
  - c. Psychological and Occupational services were reviewed;
  - d. Pre-school consultant budgeting was discussed;
  - e. Contracted services for transportation; teacher reimbursements; and performance bonuses were discussed;
  - f. Computer network maintenance,; janitorial supplies and food service issues were reviewed;
  - g. The position of Library Medial Specialist was reviewed.
4. The Budget Committee discussed way that surplus funds could come back to the tax payers.
5. Within the next year or two, the School Board is looking at the need for a possible addition to the school. Plans are not yet firm, but the concept is that a small addition of approximately 2,000 sf. Would be added, being constructed in such a way that a future addition could be added onto the proposed new addition if the school population continues to grow.

6. The Budget Committee questioned the establishment of the separate role/duties of the school's Library Media Specialist and the role/duty of the Library with respect to its school function. Much discussion ensued, with general concern being voiced about a possible duplication of efforts. Given the continuing level of concern over this issue, the Budget Committee has requested that the Library Trustees be invited to attend the Public Hearing scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup> so that this discussion can be continued with their advice and input.
7. At this time it was the sense of the Budget Committee to take an advisory vote on the proposed school budget at this meeting.
  - a. Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve the amount of \$5,500,372.38 for the school's FY 2012-2013 budget. Seconded by Ms. Celone.
  - b. Motion voted 8 in favor, 1 abstention (Bardos).
8. The Budget Committee would like an up-dated spreadsheet of Town expenses and revenue from the Board of Selectmen for the upcoming Public Hearing. If the School Board changes their proposed budget, an updated budget spreadsheet will be available as well.
9. The Public Hearing on both the Town and School budgets will be held on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.\*
10. Following the advisory vote on the School budget, the committee again took up the issue of the Library. The Budget Committee discussed how they would like to see more cooperation between the School and the Library. There are concerns about the overall cost of the Library and the seeming duplication of costs between the library and the school.
11. At 8:30PM Mr. Strout moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely,

Dina Cutting, Scribe

\*Because an advisory vote was taken on the school budget, the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting will be canceled. The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:00PM in the town offices conference room.