

Town of Lyme  
Budget Committee  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
7:00PM  
Town Office Conference Room

Present - Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Simon Carr, Laszlo Bardos, Earl Strout, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Richard Jones, Robin Taylor, Charles Ragan, Morton Bailey & Phil Barta. Selectman: Charles J. Smith. Public: David & Barbara Roby. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Brotman.

1. There were no public comments at this time.
2. Minutes of subcommittee meetings of June 18<sup>th</sup> & August 1<sup>st</sup> were approved. Motion made by Mr. Jones, Seconded by Mr. Bardos and voted unanimously in favor.
3. Mr. Carr moved to approve the minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Seconded by Mr. Jones, voted unanimously in favor.
4. Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Seconded by Mr. Carr, voted unanimously in favor.
5. Town Budget:  
Mr. Carr reviewed both the Selectmen's budget memo and their proposed 2013 budget. Various individual line items were questioned and discussed.
6. Members of the committee expressed concern that both the Town and School budgets are increasing at a rate that is not sustainable. The Budget Committee members discussed several alternative ideas for the budget:
  - a. The idea of asking the Town (and also later asking the School) to come in with a maximum % increase to the "bottom line" of the budget.
  - b. Budget committee members discussed as an alternative a percentage increase CAP to the proposed budget(s).

The committee felt that both these ideas would be counter-productive to a positive discussion of the services needed for the Town and School – and the current and increasing cost of those services.

- c. Also discussed was the idea of asking the Town (and later the School) to present reduced alternative budget requests – an 'alternative scenarios' budget.

The committee felt that none of these ideas should be undertaken at this time.

7. The Budget Committee welcomes and encourages all department heads and other concerned individuals to attend next week's budget committee meeting where the proposed 2013 Board of Selectmen's proposed budget will be discussed in detail. A memo inviting all the department heads to next week's budget committee meeting will be sent out tomorrow (Thursday).
8. There being no further business at this time, Mr. Jones moved to adjourn at 8:40PM. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting, Scribe

**Next meeting: Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Discussion of the proposed 2013 Board of Selectmen's budget.**