

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
November 14th, 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, Nancy Snyder, Judy Russell, Mike Harris, Jeff Valance, Shawn O’Keefe, Andrea Colgan, Mike Hinsley.

Scribe: Dina Cutting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Brotman.

1. There were no public comments at this time.
2. Minutes of meeting of November 7th were approved. Motion made by Mr. Bardos, Seconded by Mr. Carr and voted unanimously in favor.
3. Chair Brotman reported she and Mr. Harris responded to an e-mail question about the school tax rate.
4. Police: Chief O’Keefe reviewed the Police Department 2013 budget requests. Chief O’Keefe had requested additional overtime hours and part-time hours for his department, which the Selectmen later reduced. The Budget Committee members asked several questions and discussed several alternative ideas for the police department budget.
5. Fire: Chief Hinsley reviewed the Fire Department 2013 budget request. There are no new programs being proposed, however software costs are up approximately 2%. The Budget Committee discussed the status of the building and lack of insulation (especially the heating costs for the building).
6. Library: Judy Russell reviewed and explained the 2013 requested budget. Mr. Valance noted the school and Library are having on-going discussion concerning goals in the future. Concern was expressed about the amount of the library budget and whether there could be a reduction in hours or services to help contain the costs of operating and running the library. An energy audit was also suggested as a way to determine if there could be cost savings there.

7. Members of the committee expressed concern that both the Town and School budgets are increasing at a rate that is not sustainable. Members spoke of areas of concern with respect to holding down the overall operating expenses - program reductions, energy use reductions, capital budgeting – to name only a few. The budget committee discussed conducting some kind of town-wide survey to get feedback on costs and how it is affecting taxes verses programs and what people may or may not want cut.
8. The budget committee also discussed their commitment to follow through with the various committees and the information they reported on earlier this fall, and developing other areas for in-depth study.
9. Mr. Carr reported the Selectmen will have an amended budget for the committee's next meeting on December 5th, showing a savings of approximately \$20,000.
10. The budget committee will take an advisory vote on the Selectmen's proposed (and revised) Town budget at its next meeting.
11. There being no further business at this time, Mr. Jones moved to adjourn at 9:20PM. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting, Scribe

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 5, 2012