

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
January 9, 2013
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station
Conference Room

Present –

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Simon Carr, Laszlo Bardos, Earl Strout, Richard Jones, Charles Ragan, and Elizabeth Glenshaw.

Superintendent: Mike Harris. Principal: Jeff Valance. School Board Chair: Mark Shiffman.

Selectman: Charles J. Smith. Community members: Barbara and David Roby.

Scribe: Dina Cutting.

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

1. Charles J. Smith commented he had various community members approach him with concerns of increases in school budgets and concerns that a continued increase at the rate we have been going will tax people out of town.
2. The Minutes of the meeting of December 12th were approved. Motion made by Mr. Jones, Seconded by Mr. Carr and voted unanimously in favor.
3. Mr. Schiffman presented the Lyme School Board's proposed renovation/addition and the proposed bond (see attachments). The following topics were discussed:
 - Privately funded bonds
 - Length of Bonds
 - High school costs
 - Lack of grants or other outside funding for construction costs
 - Construction costs increase by approximately 8% a year
 - Separating the wants from the needs concerning new construction
 - This bond will be roughly a \$100,000 increase in the budget
 - At completion the new building project will accommodate 280 to 300 students
 - Energy efficiency for the building(s)
 - Will be getting 10,000 sq feet of new building, with 20,000 sq feet total constructions because 10,000 sq feet of project will be the part of building that was already there and is being re-built.
 - The Budget Committee will not be voting on the bond until after the school board has a public hearing.
 - The budget committee urged the school board to hold meetings to inform as many people as possible of the bond information.

4. School Budget:
 - The proposed operating budget has a \$50,000 reduction.
 - Reduced staff by ½ FTE
 - Capital Reserve Fund will be funded only if there is a surplus
 - Concerns were expressed over the projected increases in salary costs, including Step-Track and COLA
5. At this time it was the sense of the Budget Committee to take an advisory vote on the proposed 2013-2014 school budget.
 - a. Mr. Strout noted he would be abstaining from this vote. Mr. Carr noted he would like to have a discussion with the Board of Selectmen prior to voting on this budget so he would also be abstaining.
 - a. Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve the amount of \$5,478,903 for the school's FY 2013-2014 budget. Seconded by Mr. Bardos. Motion voted 4 in favor with 2 abstentions (Strout & Carr)
6. The Public Hearing on both the Town and School budgets will be held on Wednesday, January 23rd, 2013.
7. At 8:45PM Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Carr. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely,

Dina Cutting, Scribe

*Because an advisory vote was taken on the school budget at this meeting, the January 16th, 2013 meeting will be canceled. The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on January 23rd, 2013 at 7:00PM in the town offices conference room, and will be a public hearing on the proposed Town and School District operating budgets.