

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
December 17, 2014
7:00 PM

Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
Approved January 21st, 2015

Present:

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Charles J. Smith, Richard Jones, Charles Ragan, Greg Lange, Phil Barta, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Robin Taylor and Earl Strout.

Select board member: Susan MacKenzie. Superintendent: Michael Harris. Principal: Jeff Valance. School Board member: Jay Davis.

Administrative Assistant: Dina Cutting.

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

1. Public Comment: there was none at this time.
2. Mrs. Glenshaw moved to accept the minutes of November 12, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. Some minor corrections were offered. Minutes voted 7 in favor and 1 abstention (Mr. Taylor was not present for this meeting) with corrections noted.
3. School proposed 2015-2016 budget: Mr. Harris reviewed memo (see attachment).
 - Total proposed budget of \$5,981,026, which is a 4.5% increase in expenses.
 - Followed was a lengthy discussion concerning revenues, salary increases, health insurance increases, controllable costs and special education increases.
 - It was noted the proposed budget does not include the potential changes in teachers' salaries and/or benefits that may occur as a result of the negotiation of a new contract. This will be a separate warrant article.
 - Decreases in heat, expenses from portable classrooms and expenses for the SAU office.
 - The following topics were reviewed and discussed:
 1. High school tuition
 2. High school Special Education
 3. Staffing
 4. Teacher benefits
 5. Regular Instruction
 6. Food Service
 7. Debt Service
 8. Revenues
 - Mr. Harris noted the administration and school board had deliberated at length over this budget because of pressures exerted by mandatory and contracted expenses in special education and health and retirement costs.
 - They expressed concerns over having to cut items from this budget. One of the items was math textbooks. Followed was a discussion concerning problems created by this potential cut. Mr. Valance explained the math curriculum and how this would affect it.
4. Mr. Strout moved to add \$20,000 to the text book line. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Budget Committee members discussed the effects of not having these textbooks. A lengthy discussion took place touching on a variety of subjects: Special Education trends, funding special education, high school tuition costs. The potential of Lyme School drawing tuition students now that there is room for them. It was noted other items were considered for reductions in the budget. The Budget Committee requested a prioritized list of items considered. The motion was voted 6 in favor with 2 opposed (Mr. Jones and Mr. Smith).

5. At this time the sense of the committee was to take a preliminary vote on the 2015-2016 proposed school budget. Mr. Barta moved the 2015-2016 proposed school budget to be considered at the Public Hearing on January 21st 2015 at \$6,001,026.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.
6. At 9:09PM Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Barta. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely,

Dina Cutting