

Town of Lyme
Selectmen's Meeting
August 5, 2009
7:30PM
Conference Room

Approved: August 13, 2009

JOINT MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD AND THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Present at this meeting: Selectmen: Simon Carr, Richard Jones & Charles Ragan. Budget Committee Members: Judith Brotman, Josh Kilham, Mark Schiffman, William Lewis, Earl Strout, Morton Bailey, Richard justice, Tim Cook & Elizabeth Glanshaw. Scribe: Dina Cutting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Chair Carr.

1) The 6 month review of the 2009 town expenditures and revenues was reviewed.

There were questions and clarifications on various line items.

- The Selectmen noted the Town had 2 active law suits at this time, the legal budget line would most likely be used up in the 2009 budget and the Selectmen would be requesting a significant increase in this line for next year.
- The Budget Committee would like to know how much money is left to collect in tax dollars from the 2008 tax bills.

After reviewing the various budget lines for the 2009 expenses it was the sense of the Selectmen and the Budget Committee that 2 areas of concern were the Highway budget and the legal expense line. It was noted that the County Jail project is still in limbo.

2) Mr. Schiffmen gave a brief review on the end of the school year finances. It looks like the School will have more funds left over than anticipated. The School Board feels the High school Tuition fund is well funded so they believe this money should go directly to reducing the tax rate. Followed was a brief discussion concerning tuition expenses, special education and a review of how the school money affects the tax rate.

3) Mr. Jones reviewed the handout Budget Plan: The handout reviewed the procedure in setting the tax rate for the town, the various forms related to this procedure and the Selectmen's goals for the 2010 budget. The Budget Committee should come back to the next meeting with questions.

4) Adoption of fiscal year: The handout from the Department of Revenue was distributed. This is an issue that will take planning and will need to be investigated. The Town will ultimately vote on this, but the Budget Committee felt it should be looked at as a possible option for the future.

5) Tax billing twice per year: The Selectmen noted they had looked into this previously. There are pros and cons. It was the Selectmen's sense that it would not save the Town money. The Budget Committee felt it should get a second look.

6) Mrs. Cutting will e-mail the dates for the coming Local Government Centers budget work shops.

7) Some Budget Committee members felt it was confusing as to what money is school money and what money is town money and how they both affect the Tax rate setting formula.

At 9:10 Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Mr. Ragan seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Cutting