

Budget Committee
February 8th 2017
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
PUBLIC HEARING
Approved: September 20th 2017

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Susan J. MacKenzie, Phil Barta, Erik Colberg, Greg Lange, Richard Jones, Charles Ragan, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Cybele Merrick and Wilkes McClave. Select Board member Jay Smith. Administrative Assistant Dina Cutting. School Superintendent Mike Harris and School Principal Jeff Valance. Community members: David & Barbara Roby, Phil Kinsler, Margaret Johnston, Elaina Marshall, Beau Marshall, Hoyt Alverson, Michael Mundy, Michael Prince, Jeff Little, Katie Jenks, Tim & Lynn Cook & Kevin Peterson (Town Moderator).

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

Mr. McClave moved to approve the minutes of January 10th, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. Voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of January 18th, 2017. Seconded by Mr. Lange. Voted unanimously in favor.

The Public Hearing on the “money” warrant articles for the School was opened at 7:04PM.

Ms. Brotman opened the floor to public comments. There being none at this time the hearing moved on to discuss the school warrant articles.

The following School Warrant Articles were voted as listed below:

- Mr. Harris reviewed article 2 – There were no public comments.
Article 2 Collective Bargaining –Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 2 in the amount of \$43,906. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw Motion voted unanimously in favor. 9-0
- Mr. Harris reviewed article 3 – There were no public comments.
Article 3 Operating Budget- Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 3 in the amount of \$6,774,007 for the operating budget for 2017-2018 Lyme School District. Seconded by Mr. Barta. Motion voted unanimously in favor. 9-0
- Mr. Harris reviewed article 4 – There were no public comments
Article 4 Transfer Surplus to Post Retirement Benefit Capital Reserve fund.
– Mr. Ragan moved to approve Article 4 in the amount of up to \$10,000 as stated in article. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Motion voted unanimously in favor 9-0.
- Mr. Harris reviewed article 5 – There were no public comments.
Article 5 Transfer Surplus to High School Tuition Expendable Trust fund. – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 5 in the amount of up to \$25,000 as stated in article. Seconded by Mr. Lange. Motion voted unanimously in favor 9-0.
- Mr. Harris reviewed article 6 – There were no public comments.

Article 6 Transfer Surplus to Special Education Capital Reserve fund. Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 6 in the amount of \$70,000 as stated in the article. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Motion voted unanimously in favor 9-0.

- Mr. Valance reviewed the problems with the school roof, and stated that the school was going to wait a year before this funding was requested.
- Mr. Harris reviewed article 7 – There were no public comments.

Article 7 Salaries of district officials. - Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 7 in the amount of \$1,025.00 as stated in the article. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Motion voted unanimously in favor 9-0.

- **By Petition - Article 8 Full Day Kindergarten** -Mr. Prince reviewed article 8, a request for \$58,115 to fund the additional operating costs for full day kindergarten. A number of questions were asked, including possible class splits and kindergarten statistics. Mrs. Glenshaw and Mr. Valance explained why the School Board did not support this article. The school looked at the bigger picture and had to make some decisions based on funding restrictions and consideration of support for a wider group of students. After a lengthy discussion Mr. Jones moved to not recommend this article. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. Motion voted unanimously in favor 9-0.
- **By Petition - Article 9 Establish a Trust fund for Kindergarten.** Mr. Valance and Mrs. Glenshaw explained the need for this article. If article 8 fails this article will be null and void. – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 9 in the amount of \$30,000. Seconded by Mr. Jones. After further discussion the motion was voted 7 in favor, 2 against (Colberg & McClave). The motion passed.
- **By Petition - Article 10 Additional Kindergarten Costs** – Mrs. Glenshaw moved to approve Article 10 in the amount of \$19,000. If article 8 fails this article will be null and void. Mr. Valance reviewed the need for this request, which covers the potential additional cost if all day kindergarten is approved. Seconded by Mr. Barta. Motion voted 8 in favor, 1 against (McClave).

At 8:05PM Chair Brotman closed the Public Hearing on the School Warrant Articles involving money and opened the Public Hearing on the Town Warrant Articles involving money.

Ms. Brotman opened the floor to public comments. There being none at this time the hearing moved on to discuss the town warrant articles.

The following Town Warrant Articles were voted as listed below:

- **Article 8 (operating budget)** Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 8 in the amount of \$2,191,249. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. It was noted this operating budget has been previously voted (4-3). Jones withdrew his motion and Glenshaw withdrew her second.
- **Article 9 (Block Grant)** Mr. McClave moved to approve Article 9 in the amount of \$90,000. Seconded by Ms. Mackenzie. Mr. Jones noted he would like to see these funds designated for the River Road Slump project. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed various projects these fund would be used for involving pavement preservation. Mr. Ragan noted he also would like these fund to go to River Road. After discussion the motion was voted 7 in favor, 2 against (Jones & Ragan).

- **Article 10 (To CRF & Trust Funds)** Ms. Mackenzie moved to approve Article 10 in the amount of \$489,500. Seconded by Mr. McClave.
Mr. Jones noted he would like the \$50,000 for the Class V roads Capital Reserve Funds removed. It is a difficult year with large dollar amounts going to roads. This fund could go a year without being funded and it would save the tax payer some money. Mr. Smith reviewed the purpose of the Class V roads Capital Reserve Fund. After discussion the motion was voted 8 in favor and 1 against (Jones).
- **Article 11 (Withdrawal from CRF & Trust Funds)** Ms. Mackenzie moved to approve Article 11 in the amount of \$402,200. Seconded by Mr. Colberg. After a brief discussion the motion was voted unanimously in favor 9-0.
- **Articles 12 (Lease of Roller)** Mr. Ragan moved to approve Article 12 in the amount of \$18,081. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. Motion voted unanimously in favor 9-0.
- **Article 13 (River Road Reroute)** Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 13 in the amount of \$755,143. Seconded by Ms. MacKenzie. In addition, this Article authorizes \$605,143 to be withdrawn from the undesignated fund balance. This withdrawal is a combination of \$400,000 to come from the unassigned fund balance and \$205,143 to come from the remainder of \$245,000 voted at the 2016 Town Meeting for this project. If these funds are not designated for use prior to 12/31/2017 they will be lost. This vote will enable all funding in this warrant article to carry over to the year 2022. Mr. Tensen, owner of the property associated with the River Road rerouting, spoke about the eminent domain procedures, his concerns with not getting what is a fair price for the purchase of his land, wildlife, wetlands, and possible legal issues. Numerous other River Road residents spoke to the need to solve this problem soon. A lengthy discussion ensued, with many comments from the public. It was noted that the River Road is going to be a problem for years to come and the Town needs to get a plan to deal with these issues. Chair Brotman noted that while the public is invited to make brief comments on the proposed warrant, tonight's hearing is limited to requests for funding, not the details of a specific project. Mr. Jones called for a vote on the motion. The motion was voted 6 in favor 2 against (Lange & Wilkes) and 1 abstention (Barta).
- **Article 14 (River Road North Thetford Road)** Ms. Mackenzie moved to approve Article 14 in the amount of \$70,000. Seconded by Ms. Merrick. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the problems with this section of River Road. It was noted that some members of the Budget Committee would like to see Block Grant funds used for this repair. The motion was voted 4 in favor, 5 against (Jones, Ragan, Barta, Glenshaw and Lange). The motion did not pass.
- **Article 15 (River Road Grant Brook)** Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 15 in the amount of \$100,000. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Budget Committee members and the public noted they felt this location was more important to fix than article 14 as it has been a problem for some time, is dangerous and would eliminate road access to some properties if the River Road relocation is not completed. The motion was voted 8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention (Barta).

- **Article 16 (Solarization of the Town Office building)** Ms. Mackenzie moved to approve Article 16 in the amount of \$45,750. Seconded by Mr. Lange. Mark Bolinger reviewed the details of this project, including costs, grants, donations and savings to the Town. The motion was voted 7 in favor, 1 against (McClave), 1 abstention (Jones).
- **Article 18 (Funds into New Cemetery CRF)** Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 18 in the amount of \$850.00. Seconded by Mrs. Glenshaw. The motion was voted unanimously in favor 9-0.
- **Article 19 (Withdrawal from Cemetery Gifts and Donations Fund)** Mr. Jones moved to approve Article 19 in the amount of \$16,486. Seconded by Mr. Wilkes. The motion was voted unanimously in favor 9-0
- **Article 20 (Independence Fund)** – Mr. McClave moved to approve Article 20 in the amount of \$7,328. Seconded by Mr. Barta. The motion was voted unanimously in favor 9-0.
- **Article 21 (Milfoil Treatment for Post Pond)** Mr. McClave moved to approve Article 21 in the amount of \$28,841 for the purpose of milfoil treatments. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. This is funded in part with a grant from the State of NH (up to \$8,652), with \$10,602 to be withdrawn from the unassigned fund balance (a carryover) and \$9,587 to be raised by taxation. An update was given on the previous treatments and this past year's success in attempting to control the milfoil. The motion was voted unanimously in favor 9-0.

The Public Hearing was closed at 9:06.

The Budget Committee signed the MS-27 for the School.

The Budget Committee signed the MS-737 for the Town.

Upcoming meeting reminders:

- Little Town meeting March 7th, 2017 @ 7:00PM
- School District Meeting March 9th, 2017 @ 6:00PM
- Town Meeting March 14th, 2017 @ 9:00AM.

At 9:15 PM Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely,

Dina Cutting