Budget Committee
January 24th, 2018
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
Approved: February 15th, 2018

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON
SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TOWN OPERATING BUDGETS

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Charles Ragan, Cybele Merrick, Eric Furstenberg, Erik Colberg, Dick Jones, Scott May, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Susan MacKenzie, Wilkes McClave. Select Board members Jay Smith, Bradford Keith. Administrative Assistant Dina Cutting. School Principal/Superintendent Jeff Valance. Library Trustee Patricia Hudson.
Community members: David and Barbara Roby, Kevin Sahr, Deborah Robinson.

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

1. Ms. Brotman asked if there were any public comments at this time. There were none.
2. The minutes of January 17th, 2018 were reviewed:
    - Mr. McClave moved to approve the minutes of January 17th, 2018 Seconded by Mr. May. Mr. Jones offered the addition of "to go to public hearing" after the school and town budget amounts. Minutes as amended were voted 7 in favor with 1 abstention (Merrick).
3. Chair Brotman reviewed the agenda for this meeting.
4. The public hearing for the school budget was opened at 7:10 PM.

School operating budget:

- Mr. Valance reviewed the proposed school budget as presented at the previous meeting. The Budget Committee reviewed and discussed the high school trust funds and the school board's plan to utilize these fund in the future.
- Ms. Brotman polled the budget committee members for questions, there were none at this time.
- Public Comment: Questions and comments concerning private funding of loans for construction to the school building were briefly discussed. A discussion of the K-8 budget and how that has changed in the past years would be beneficial information.
- At 7:22 PM Mr. May moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted unanimously in favor.
- Mr. McClave moved to recommend $6,979,882 for the 2018-2019 Lyme School District budget. Seconded by Mr. Jones.

    Before voting on the motion, the budget committee and Mr. Valance reviewed possible warrant articles, including an upcoming public hearing for the roof financing, and a parent group that will be bringing forward a petitioned article addressing all-day kindergarten. The School Board has discussed the possibility of establishing a scholarship trust fund in order to enhance the school's ability to make sure after-K program is all inclusive.

The motion to recommend the School District operating budget in the mount of $6,979,882 was voted unanimously in favor.

5. The public hearing for the town budget was opened at 7:28 PM.

Town operating budget:

- Cutting noted an error in the previously provided Town operating budget. 2 cells did not get picked up so the budget will need to be adjusted. This is an increase of $3,235.00 from the previous budget figure. The revised operating budget is $2,248,027.00.
- Ms. Brotman polled the budget committee members for questions, there were none at this time.
- At this time Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve the town operating budget at $2,248,027.00. Seconded by Mr. Ragan.
- Public Comment: Deborah Robinson informed the budget committee of her request to the Select Board to increase the wage for the Pond Program Coordinator to $5,000. Ms. Robinson expressed her issues with the past program. Concerns of making sure there was a qualified instructor present and a qualified swim lesson teacher were expressed. Ms. MacKenzie noted that the request to have a full day program at Chase Beach was considered by the Select Board and was voted down for a number of reasons. Ms. Brotman noted the Budget Committee is not the proper venue for discussions of program expansion and employee compensation, however she encouraged Ms. Robinson to bring her concerns and requests to town meeting for a discussion and vote with the legislative body. Although Town Meeting could vote to increase this line item, the Select Board would ultimately have the final say on this matter.
- Ms. Brotman polled the Budget Committee on their sense of increasing the amount of compensation for the Pond Program Coordinator. The vote was 4 in favor, and 5 opposed.
- At 7:50 PM Mr. Jones moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Furstenberg. Voted unanimously in favor.
- At this time the motion on the town operating budget was called. The motion to recommend the town operating budget in the amount of $2,248,027.00 was voted unanimously in favor.

6. At 7:51 PM Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Furstenberg. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully,

Dina Cutting