

Town of Lyme  
Budget Committee  
January 23, 2019  
7:00 PM  
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room

**Budget Committees proposed school and town budgets  
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Budget Committee Members: Judith Brotman, Kevin Sahr, Chris Ramsden, Elisabeth Glenshaw, Richard Jones, Erik Colburg, Cybele Merrick, Erik Furstenberg, Scott May, Wilks McClave & Jennifer Boylston. Administrative Assistant Dina Cutting.

Select Board members: Sue MacKenzie & Bradford Keith

Librarian: Judy Russell

Principal/Superintendent: Jeff Valence. School Board member Matthew Hayden. Coordinator of Business Services: Janet Mitchell.

Community members: Earl Strout, David Shafer, David & Barbara Roby, others.

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

1. Minutes: January 9, 2019: Mr. McClave moved to approve the minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. The minutes were reviewed and changes were offered. Motion voted unanimously with changes as noted.
  2. Introduction: Chair Brotman reviewed the Public Hearing process. At the previous meeting there was an advisory vote on the budget. The budget committee can make changes to the budget at tonight's public hearing. If there is an increase to the budget, it will require an additional Public Hearing. (see hand out)
  3. Chair Brotman called for a motion to open the Public Hearing on the Town operating budget: At 7:07PM Ms. Glenshaw moved to open the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted unanimously in favor.
- Mr. Sahr review the proposed Municipal budget, noting that the board is working to keep the tax rate as flat as possible.
  - Members of the public commented on state school tax and various issues that affect the tax rate.
  - A preliminary draft of money warrant articles was circulated. This document is for informational purposes only.
  - Questions concerning options for financing of the vehicles and traditional payments to come from the Capital Reserve Funds were reviewed and discussed.
  - Road project articles were reviewed.

- Mr. Jones noted he wanted the budget committee to reconsider the \$13,000 library clerk position because it was a close vote. Library staffing was reviewed and discussed. Concerns over increasing the employee pool at the Library were noted.
- Public appreciation was noted concerning strategic financial options for purchasing equipment and keeping options for future funding available. The board and budget committee will be reviewing this Capital Reserve sheet each year.
- Librarian, Judy Russell spoke to how pleased she was at the budget committee's support of the part-time Library position. Ms. Russell noted most of the past 20 years the Library has had 3 paid staff members- in the past years there has been an increased in demands placed on the Library. Community members and the school use the library on a regular bases. We have a large section of adults utilizing the Library. It is a very busy place, being used by community members for meetings, space is used by the school, readers, and homework. The library provides a healthy, safe place for the children. Judy needs a hands-on person to help with the tasks in order to provide the level of service the community expects.

Mr. Valance noted the organization is central to the Town, citizens are attracted to the Library, and the School utilizes the library. Noted was the schools use of the library- much of the use is after hours and weekends.

Discussions continued, and a suggestion was made that this is something the town should put off this year given that the town needs to put these funds towards roads projects. Library does a wonderful job but can they solicit help and funding from other people?

Budget Committee vote:

- Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve \$2,348,558. 00. Motion seconded by Mr. McClave. A brief discussion ensued about the procedure for amending the motion.
- Mr. Jones moved to amend the motion by removing \$13,000 from row 310. Seconded by Mr. McClave. The amended amount would \$2,335,558.
- Ms. Merrick urged committee members to leave this money in- this is a wonderful value for our community.
- Again, concerns of adding new town employees were reviewed.
- The amendment to the motion was voted as follows:  
4 in favor- (Furstenberg, Colburg, McClave and Jones)  
6 against- (Merrick, Boylston, Ramsden, Glenshaw, Sahr and May)  
The amendment does not pass.

- The original motion was voted unanimously in favor. The proposed town operating budget for the 2019 warrant is \$2,348,558.

Chair Brotman closed the Town budget Public Hearing at 7:44PM

4. At 7:44PM Chair Brotman asked for a motion to open the School budget public hearing. Ms. Glenshaw moved to open the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. May. Voted unanimously in favor.

- Mr. Valance reviewed the school process to try and get to a 2.7% increase. After initial review, and excluding the roof project from last year, the budget is at a 5.3% increase.
- The following topics and comments were reviewed and discussed:
  - ✓ The budget committee reviewed each topic for funding (see hand out). Each \$5,000 reduces the budget by .07%
  - ✓ FTE data- increased 15.8% in Payroll-
  - ✓ 4 to 1 student to adult ratio. The budget committee suggested a target of 2.7% this year. There is concern at the rate of increase is too fast. Need to focus on FTE's and negotiations.
  - ✓ The School has a good number of 1 to 1 aides, and that is where the majority of the growth has been.
  - ✓ One of the largest drivers is in the High school because we pay for each Special Ed student
  - ✓ Some concerns were noted with the areas proposed for reductions.
  - ✓ Looking for the design lab put it back in.
  - ✓ Utilizing the tuition fund was discussed
  - ✓ Special Ed costs and legal issues were discussed
  - ✓ Guidance position, which is not a federal or state mandate. If it were to be mandatory the State would need to pay for the position.
  - ✓ There is possible grant funding for renovations
  - ✓ Concerns about legal cuts in a contract-negotiation year
  - ✓ Reviewed how they use the high school tuition trust and calculate children and what they may need for funds.
- At this time Jones moved to approve the proposed school budget at \$7,320,374.00. Seconded by Mr. McClave  
Motion voted as followed:  
8 in favor  
1 against (Ramsden)  
1 abstention (Furstenberg)
- At this time Mr. Furstenberg moved to add \$30,000 for the design lab, professional development and legal renovations. Seconded by Mr. May.  
Motion voted as followed:  
3 in favor (Boylston, Merrick, Furstenberg)  
7 against

- The school confirmed there would be no warrant articles that would increase the amount raised by taxes.
5. At 8:57PM Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. McClave voted unanimously in favor.

The next meeting will be on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - A Public Hearing on all warrant articles involving money.

Respectfully, Submitted,

Dina Cutting