

Budget Committee
September 7th, 2016
7:00PM

Town Office/Police Station Conference Room

Approved: November 9, 2016

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Susan J. MacKenzie, Richard Jones, Greg Lange, Charles Ragan, Wilkes McClave, Cybele Merrick, Phil Barta, Erik Colbeck, Eric Furstenberg and Elizabeth Glenshaw. Select board member: Jay Smith & Patricia G. Jenks. Superintendent: Mike Harris. Administrative Assistant: Dina Cutting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Brotman.

1. Chair Brotman welcomed new budget committee member Mr. Furstenberg and Ms. Merrick. The Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed them.
2. The Budget Committee reviewed the proposed meeting schedule: After a brief discussion it was the sense of the Budget Committee to move ahead with this schedule realizing that some changes may need to be made as they move through the budget process.
3. Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of February 12th, 2016 Public Hearing. Seconded by Ms. Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.
4. At this time the floor was open for nominations of Chair: Mr. McClave moved to nominate Ms. Brotman as Chair of the Budget Committee. Seconded by Mr. Barta. Ms. Brotman opened the floor to any other member who may be interested in being chair. There being no other nominations the motion was voted unanimously in favor.
5. School update: Mr. Harris handed out a memo touching on the following items:
 - Did not withdraw funds from Special Education CRF
 - Final surplus of \$916.00 surplus transferred to the Special Education Fund
 - Reviewed current balances of the reserve funds
 - Enrollment fund of \$100,292 liquidated and split into enrollment fund and Retiree pay-out funds
 - Reviewed the start of 2016-2017 year-budgeted for 86 high school students and have 90, personnel seems fine, Special Education out of district seems fine at the present time. Budgeted to pull \$60,000 from Special Education Fund and \$20,000 from construction fund
 - Challenges:
 - ✓ High school tuition- 2 large classes entering and there will be three large classes at once
 - ✓ Repairs to the gymnasium roof
 - ✓ Possible all-day kindergarten
6. Select Board update: Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the budget spreadsheet. As presented, the year-to-date figures represent 2/3rds of the budget cycle, with 63% spent over all.
 - Ms. MacKenzie reviewed Fire, Police, and Highway budget items.
 - The Transfer Station is going to be an ongoing issue. The board will be recommending adding funds to the CRF for relocation of the Transfer Station in the near future. The Transfer Station Committee is actively working on this issue.
 - The highway department has had many challenges with the River Road and it continues to have challenges with numerous erosion problems north and south on this road. Army Corp of Engineers are going to be helping with one of the sections, developing plans for

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repairs and offering a 65% grant for this total cost to fix. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the various locations at each erosion site along the River Road.

- Gravel Roads have been worked on, with magnesium chloride applied and rolled. These roads are holding up well. Acorn Hill Road had a large culvert replacement. Emergency repairs to the Hidden Valley site were done in 2016. 3 culverts on Grafton Turnpike were replaced.
 - The Road Agent has recommended the grader replacement be moved up a year. 2017 will be the year to purchase a grader. There are funds in the CRF for this. The board is considering keeping the old grader, using the wing to do rough work in order to save on the new grader. Followed was a discussion concerning pros and cons to keeping the old grader.
 - Ms. MacKenzie noted the 1st priority of the Board is to get River Road opened back up for vehicle traffic.
 - Paved Roads are a big money item and expensive to keep up, when you do not have a road bed built properly it is a waste of funds to keep pulling asphalt on top. The Class V Roads Committee will be holding a public information meeting to present a cost benefits analyses of all paved roads maintenance and up keep.
7. The Tax Advisory Committee will be holding a public information meeting (on November 14, 2016) to review their findings on ways to help the town not only stabilize taxes but also reduce the tax burden so that Lyme remains affordable to its long-term residents. The latest Tax Advisory Committee minutes will be sent out to the Budget Committee members.
8. Upcoming meeting reminder: November 9 - Selectboard presents proposed 2017 operating budget.
9. At 7:52PM Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully,

Dina Cutting