

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
PO Box 126
1 High Street
Lyme NH 03768
January 18, 2023
Conference Room & Zoom
Approved: January 25, 2023

Budget Committee Members: John Biglow, Jennifer Boylston (School Board Representative), Judith Brotman (Select Board Representative), James Graham, Richard Jones (chair), Sue MacKenzie, Wilkes McClave, Richard Brown, John Biglow and Brian Spence.

Administrator: Dina Cutting.

School Staff: Interim Superintendent: Frank Perotti. Principal: John D'Entremont (via zoom).

Coordinator of Business Services: Janet Mitchell.

School Board members: Elizabeth Glenshaw & Yoland Bujarski

School Board members on zoom: Vince Berk & Jonathan Voegle.

Community members: Mr. and Mrs. Roth, Leigh Prince, Toby Summerfield, Dave Schaffer, Scott May, Eric Furstenburg, Jean Ball, Connie Balch, Amelia (*no last name*), Hebe Quinton, Sebastian Carter, Rebecca Hanissian, Nunez, Nikki Snyder, Ellie Mudge, Mike Lepene, Scott & Elizabeth Bailey, Steve Rayes, Brian Cook, Kym Williams, J.Komarmi, Lynora Bolton, Bridgette (*no last name*) and 10 other community members not identified.

1. At 7:00 PM Mr. Jones opened the meeting.
2. Mrs. Brotman moved to approve the minutes of the January 11th 2023 meeting. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Voted unanimously in favor.
3. School: Ms. Boylston presented slides "Comparison of School Costs Across 17 NH Schools". This presentation was from the School Board finance committee. The School Board was presented with this report and authorized this committee to present it to the Budget Committee. (*See Attachment*)
4. Interim Superintendent: Frank Perotti presented revised school budget spreadsheets. These show a total of \$8,354,266.00 which is a 5.16% increase. The following topics were discussed and questions were reviewed and answered.
 - Senior teacher retirement savings.
 - Pulling \$100,000 from the Highschool Trust Fund
 - The Budget Committee making a recommendation of monetary amounts for the bottom line of the budget. Leaving the places to cut funding up to the school administrators and School Board.

- Concerns were noted from some members that they were worried this was cutting too much from the school budget.
- After a lengthy discussion it was the sense of the Budget Committee to take a vote on the amount to go to the public hearing.

Review and vote on Warrant Articles:

- **Operating Budget Article # 2** - Mr. Jones moved the amount of \$8,400,000 for the 2023-2024 School District Budget be brought to the public hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mrs. Brotman. Mr. Jones noted he was concerned that too much was being taken from the high school tuition trust fund. concerns that this presented budget was cut too deep. The motion was voted 6 in favor and 3 against (Boylston, Biglow & Malcolm) by a roll call vote. (6-3)
 - **Building Maintenance Projects # 3** – Mrs. Brotman moved in the amount of \$50,000 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Malcolm. This is for the purpose of engaging an architect to assess renovation needs and site safety issues of the school building beyond the annual Buildings and Grounds expenditures. The motion was voted 8 in favor with 1 abstention (McClave). (8-0-1)
 - **Transfer from Surplus to Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund #4** – Mrs. Brotman moved the amount of \$100,000 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Voted unanimously in favor. (9-0)
 - **Salaries of District Official # 6** - Mrs. Brotman moved the amount of \$1,025. be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Voted unanimously in favor. (9-0)
5. Town: Mrs. Brotman reviewed the Town unaudited final expenditure numbers for the 2022 operating budget. The warrant articles and the 2023 proposed budget were reviewed. Questions were reviewed and answered.
6. Town articles:
- **Article # 3-Operating Budget:** Mr. Malcolm moved the amount of \$2,759,997 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. McClave. Voted unanimously in favor.
 - **Article # 4-To Capital Reserve and Trust Funds:** Mr. Spence moved the amount of \$390,000 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Brown. Voted unanimously in favor.
 - **Article # 5-Block Grant Funds:** Mr. McClave moved the amount of \$95,000 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mrs. Brotman. Voted unanimously in favor.
 - **Article # 6-Fire Station payment:** Mr. Grahm moved the amount of \$81,717 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mrs. Brotman. Voted unanimously in favor.

- **Article # 7-Fire Truck payment:** Mr. Graham moved the amount of \$82,252 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mrs. Spence. Voted unanimously in favor.
- **Article # 8-Town Highway Plow Truck:** Mrs. Brotman moved the amount of \$243,700 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Boylston. Voted unanimously in favor.
- **Article # 9-Goose Pond Road to finish project:** Mrs. Brotman moved the amount of \$240,000 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Malcolm. Voted unanimously in favor.
- **Article # 10-Goose Pond Road Job # 1 Hewes Hill-:** Mr. McClave moved the amount of \$75,000 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Graham. Voted unanimously in favor.
- **Article # 11-Fire Fighting safety equipment Capital Reserve Fund withdrawal:** Mrs. Brotman moved the amount of \$38,250 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Spence. Voted unanimously in favor.
- **Article # 12-Independence Day Fund:** Mrs. Brotman moved the amount of \$6,983 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Brown. Voted unanimously in favor.
- **Article # 13-Milfoil Grant:** Mr. McClave moved the amount of \$25,960 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Malcolm. Voted unanimously in favor.
- **Article # 14-Cemetery gifts & Donations:** Mrs. Brotman moved the amount of \$15,991 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Malcolm. Voted unanimously in favor.
- **Article # 16-Petitioned warrant article:** Mr. Brown informed the Budget Committee that a petition would be coming asking the Town to perform a total Revaluation of Property in Lyme. Nothing to vote on now. The Select Board did inform this group that funds should be included in the article to cover this cost. Mr. Brown was unaware of this request. The issue is if the Town votes this petitioned article through there needs to be funding to cover this cost.
- **Article # 17-To fund a Total Town Wide Property Revaluation:** This article is only necessary if the petitioned article # 16 passes with no funding attached. Mrs. Brotman explained that the estimate the Select Board received was \$99,500 for the Town wide revaluation to be done by an outside assessing company. Mr. Jones confirmed that the DRA considers the Town of Lyme to be within the required range that set by the State. The DRA is not recommending and or requiring this revaluation to be done. Mrs. Brotman confirm this statement. Further discussion on the expenditure of \$99,500 and if this is necessary.

At this time Mr. Jones moved to not recommend the amount of \$99,500 be brought to the Public Hearing on January 25th, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Malcolm. Followed was a discussion. If the petitioners do not include the funds to pay for this in their warrant article the money will need to come from somewhere other than the operating budget. Mr. Brown reported the petitioners plan on asking for funding to come from the Property Appraisal Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Brown was informed that any funds to be used to pay for the total Town property appraisal needs to be included in the petitioned article or this article.

This motion was voted 6 in favor with 3 against (Brotman, MacKenzie and Boylston). There was further discussion on the 2021 revaluation process and procedures. It was mentioned the hopefully the January 26th, 2023 DRA informational meeting was coming right up and would hopefully address some of these concerns.

- The Budget Committee asked for additional information on the following articles: Goose Pond Road, Highway truck purchase and Fire Fighting safety.

7. At 9:05PM Mr. Graham moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Malcolm. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Cutting