

TOWN OF LYME  
Select Board Meeting  
July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
7:00 PM

Town Office Conference Room

Approved August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

The following people were present for part of all of the meeting: Select Board members: Susan MacKenzie and Bradford Keith. Present: Budget Committee members: Judith Brotman (Chair) Cybele Merrick, Erik Colberg, Greg Lange, Richard Jones, Wilks McClave and Scott May. Jeff Valance (Principal). Sam Levey (School Board member). Community members: Julie McCutcheon, Kevin Sahr and Mike Smith.

MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

1. MacKenzie noted concerns from the last budget season. Missed meeting, coming to meetings not prepared. Concerns that the town budget is picked apart and the school is not. The Select Board and the Budget Committee had a lengthy discussion concerning the budget committee's statutory responsibilities and how people perceive these differently. Mike Smith reviewed what had taken place in the past and talked about how important it is to have a "Vision" for the Town. Goals and objectives should be discussed, department heads should be coming to the budget committee with what they need and want (wish list). The Capital Improvement Plan needs to be updated. The board and budget committee talked about wanting to work together to come up with budgets the town can support and afford. The school noted some concern over negative remarks concerning the school budget. It is difficult to hear these comments in the community when everyone is trying to work together to come up with a solid budget that can be supported.
2. The board and budget committee discussed different ways to gather information and ideas on setting a schedule for future budget meetings. Ms. Brotman noted it was her perception that the budget committee had been working hard. The budget committee has been inviting all department heads over the past years to come and meet with them. She stated "it was unfortunate that the Select Board felt they needed to take the budget committee to the woodshed over this". It is her understanding that the statutory responsibility for the budget committee are being met. Followed was a discussion on the statutory responsibilities and how people are perceiving them differently. It was noted by some members that it needs to be mandatory for department heads to meet with the budget committee. It was noted the budget committee would like a broad view of the financial picture for the Town and School.
3. 2017 midyear review: The board and budget committee reviewed the following topics and needs:
  - Fire Station
  - Transfer Station
  - Legal budget
  - Utilities assessments and abatement appeals
  - Mud season financials
  - Contracted services for the highway department
4. July 1<sup>st</sup> Storm event:
  - River Road south will need to be re-engineered because of the way the storm effected the bank.
  - 14 projects that need to be completed due to the storm, plus numerous roads need

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material, grading, ditching etc. before winter.

- FEMA funds and what may help Lyme fund these numerous projects.
  - Lyme has over 50 roads and 44 of them have some kind of damage due to this storm.
  - The board is hoping to find a way through Hazard Mitigation to upgrade some of the areas that were hit hard.
  - The Town will need to contract some of these projects out.
  - The town has spent \$85,553.00 on material, leased equipment, and subcontractors due to the storm. These funds have come from the Emergency Highway repair Capital Reserve Fund.
  - This will be a long recovery for the Town. The group thanked the Highway personnel for all their hard work.
  - Funding the road repairs and the challenges. The town has to fund all the repairs, the FEMA reimbursement happens later and only if it is declared a disaster. Mascoma Saving's bank is offering a line of credit to fund anticipated FEMA disaster funding unfortunately the Town cannot take advantage of this without a town vote. The Board will need to hold a special Town meeting or wait until March 2018.
5. Julie McCutcheon: Ms. McCutcheon gave a brief presentation concerning High school tuition. The Budget Committee and Select Board members had received handouts prior to this meeting. Ms. McCutcheon touched on the need for more transparency concerning high schools for the community, she suggested the School Board tighten up the high school choice and tuition policy. The need to figure out how to save money on high school costs. The need to keep looking at controlling special education cost at the high school level. She reviewed the legislative changes recently and the possible changes in the near future. It was noted it is important to create a situation that will avoid the kids having to play musical schools.
  6. At this time Mr. Valance and Mr. Levey both reviewed the schools information concerning cost of special education in the high schools and the high school choice policy. They noted the School Board and legal council had reviewed the policy of school choice and tuition and are confident it is a working document. The school board wants transparency on all issues. Because of confidential issue it is difficult to show the special education high school information. Followed was a discussion concerning the Budget Committees roll in school policy making. It was noted this was not the budget committees job but when it can and does effect costs to the tax payer they need to know and be part of the discussion.
  7. The Select Board thanked all budget committee members for coming.
  8. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:17PM.

Sincerely,

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Dina Cutting