

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
December 19th, 2018
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
Approved: January 9th, 2019

Budget Committee Members: Kevin Sahr, Chris Ramsden, Elisabeth Glenshaw, Richard Jones, Erik Colburg, Cybele Merrick, Scott May & Jennifer Boylston.

Administrative Assistant: Dina Cutting.

Select Board members: Sue MacKenzie & Bradford Keith

Principal/Superintendent: Jeff Valance.

School Board member: Matthew Hayden

Community members: David and Barbara Roby, Earl Strout.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by acting Chair Jones

1. Ms. Glenshaw moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 14th, 2018. Seconded by Mr. May. The minutes were approved unanimously in favor.
2. Public comments: Mr. Strout asked what the makeup of the school board was as far as members with children in the Lyme School and members with no children in the Lyme School. Valance answered. Mr. Strout expressed his concern that with an answer of 5 of 7 members with children as students that the School Board was not representative of the community as a whole.
3. School Budget review: Mr. Valance reviewed the present budget and what process the School board used to build a budget.

2019-2020 proposed budget was reviewed. A handout was presented and a presentation was reviewed. The following topics were discussed:

- Increase of 2.36%
- Teachers negotiations
- Class room aides
- Gym floor refinishing
- Special Education

The following topics were presented as controllable costs that could be adjusted to reduce the budget.

- Enrolment aides
 - Negotiations legal counsel
 - Draw down from the Trusts
 - Reduce any renovations
 - Do not resurface the gym floor
4. The Budget Committee reviewed the funds left from the 2016-2017 school year; discussed the withdrawals from the trust funds and how they are managing them, and grants were reviewed.

5. The following budget items in the proposed budget were reviewed:
 - Tuition students and revenue from them, and
 - SAU business office costs

6. At this time Ms. Glenshaw moved that the sense of the Budget Committee is comfortable with the 2.36% increase. Seconded by Ms. Merrick. The discussion included:
 - options of cutting more funding from this proposed budget;
 - why the \$180,000 from the roof constructions is included in the budget to budget comparison. If you remove the \$180,000 the budget increase is 4.9%.
 - members of the committee would like the budget presented in a budget to budget format;
 - discussion of controllable and uncontrollable costs with Mr. Valance; and
 - the budget committee reflected on the per student costs and requested the calculation be done after pulling out special education, high school costs, etc.

At this point a vote was taken on the motion:

2- favor: Ms. Glenshaw and Ms. Merrick

4-against: Mr. May, Mr. Sahr, Mr. Colburg and Mr. Ramsden

1 abstained: Ms. Boylston.

7. Town budget discussion of vehicle and equipment purchase options:
 - Mr. Sahr reviewed the information presented to the budget committee. Financing the vehicles over a 5-7-year span at a 3% interest rate would allow for the upcoming vehicles to be purchased and not increase the “into” funds for the capital reserve funds. The Budget Committee and Select Board have been researching this change in funding for some time. It was felt that financing was a sensible way to move ahead with the purchasing of these vehicles. The capital reserve fund spreadsheet would need to be reviewed and up dated every year.
 - The financing will need a 2/3rds vote at Town Meeting. Concerns were noted that this may be more difficult to secure. This will be discussed further but the budget committee was in support of this form of financing.

8. The Select Board was not ready to discuss the funding needs for the proposed Town Clerk/Tax Collector full-time deputy position at this time.

9. At 9:20 PM Ms. Glenshaw moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. May. Voted unanimously in favor.

R. G. Jones
Vice Chair