Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
September 16th, 2026

Present for all or part of the meeting:
Budget Committee Members: Richard Jones, Select Board rep. Ben Kilham, Phil Kinsler, Rich Brown, Bill Malcolm, Stacey Summerfield, Katie Stokes, Hebe Quinton, School Board rep. Fielding Essensa
Administrator: Dina Cutting
School: Superintendent Mary Beth Banios
Community members (via zoom): Budget Committee member: Jennifer Boylston (for part of the meeting)
Community members present: Karen Keene

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Richard Jones.

1. Mr. Kinsler noted two changes on the minutes from February 4th, 2026. The spelling of Margaret Johnston was revised and the vote under item six was revised to show the unanimous vote 9-0.
    - Mr. Malcolm moved to approve the public hearing minutes from the meeting of Wednesday February 4th, 2026. Mrs. Summerfield seconded. Voted 6 in favor with Kilham, Quinton and Fielding abstaining as they were not present.
    - Mr. Kinsler moved to approve the public hearing minutes from the meeting of Wednesday February 9th, 2026. Mr. Malcolm seconded. Voted 6 in favor with Kilham, Quinton and Fielding abstaining as they were not present.
2. Motions were offered as followed-
    - Mr. Kilham moved to nominate Richard Jones as the Chair. Mr. Brown seconded. No other nominations were offered at this time. The motion was voted unanimously in favor.
    - Mr. Jones nominated Bill Malcolm to be the Vice Chair. Mr. Kilham seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.
3. Reviewing of the draft Budget Committee schedule.
    - October 14th is somewhat early for certain departments to be ready to meet with the Budget Committee. Chair Jones stated that departments can adjust which meeting they come to, if the meeting on the 2026-2027 schedule does not work. The idea is that every department head gets a chance to sit before the Budget Committee and discuss their budget.
4. Superintendent Mary Beth Banios reviewed the final financial numbers for the 2025-2026 school year. The year ended with a $0 balance left in the budget. $31,000 was drawn from the Highschool Trust Fund. HB 1300 was briefly reviewed, noting this bill passed this summer and will be on the November ballot for the Towns consideration. This will cap the total school budget. Ms. Banios reviewed the student enrollment as 162 in K-8 & 79.5 attending Hanover, 9 attending Thetford Academy and 3 attending Saint Johnsbury.
5. Mrs. Cutting gave a brief overview of the Town Budget and the percentage spent and left to be spent. As of now departments are in a good position.
6. Discussion on having a five-year plan for Town department. Understanding department needs over time can help the Budget Committee/Town plan accordingly.

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7. Chair Jones reviewed rules for the committee members (i.e.: email communication, Listserve postings, questions about budget items, absences from meetings, etc.).
8. At 8:07 PM Mr. Brown moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Malcolm. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Gray