

**Town of Lyme
Budget Work Session
November 18, 2008
6:30 P.M.**

Supervisor Aubertine called the Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Present: Supervisor Aubertine, Councilmen, Johnson, Schreib and Countryman, Superintendent Tom Parker, Attorney Gebos, Clerk Kim Wallace and approximately 30 others.

Tonight's Meeting was held at the Chaumont Fire Hall due to a conflicting meeting at the Municipal Offices.

Three Mile Bay Water Tower – On the bottom of the water tower (north side), it is all black and rusty. There is a question as to whether it is mold or paint flaking off. The tower has been there for approximately nine years and the Board feels it is time for some preventative maintenance. It was also brought up to the Board that the light on top of the water tower is out.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 169: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Schrieb approving an RFP for an engineering inspection of the Three Mile Bay Water Tower, inside and out. Four ayes. Motion carried.

Councilman Johnson - Has been hearing rumors that Councilman Schreib and himself were in attendance at the last Fire Department Meeting. If they had invited them, they would have been there. He would like to dispel any rumors of them being present at that meeting.

Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Supervisor Aubertine to move into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. Four ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Countryman to return to open meeting at 7:35 p.m. Four ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008 – 170: Motion by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Countryman appointing Mike Nichols as the Teen Center Director and rescinding the appointment of Nora LaChance. Four ayes. Motion carried.

Several of the Volunteer Firemen from both the Chaumont and Three Mile Bay Fire Departments along with David Harwood, (CVFD's attorney) were present at tonight's meeting.

The Firemen addressed the Town Board with concerns regarding the lack of funding from the Town, continual State Mandates and aging equipment have put them in, financially. Due to the rising cost of day-to-day operations, the Fire Departments are in a very volatile position.

In order to raise money for the replacement of antiquated equipment, building maintenance, mandates, etc; the Fire Departments must rely on many man-hours of volunteering only to continue to fall short financially.

With many of the volunteers having a regular forty-hour plus work week, there is not enough time to raise the amount of money needed in order to keep from ending up with a deficit at years end. If the situation continues, the Fire Departments will not continue. The Firemen have a job to do and they would like to do it as safely as possible. The service they provide to the community is indispensable.

The Town Board members took into consideration all the information provided to them by the Fire Departments and suggested a three-year plan to bring both Departments up to where everyone concerned felt comfortable with the amount of money needed to get themselves in compliance and be able to operate safely and efficiently.

Many of the Volunteer Firemen voiced their concerns and shared facts throughout the evening. The Town Board members worked arduously between themselves and the volunteer firemen devising a plan, that in the end, would give each Department the initial budgeted \$39,000.00 plus \$30,000.00 each from the Fund Balance, which would have each of them receiving, from the Town, \$69,000.00 for 2009. In 2010 the Fire Departments will each receive \$82,000.00 and in 2011 each Department will receive \$106,000.00. This three-year plan should have the Departments being self reliant and fully funded on tax dollars.

The Board Members continued to work on the 2009 Budget, cutting expenses where they could; resulting in a "bare bones" budget for next year. They focused specifically, on the taxpayers of this Community.

Motion by Councilman Johnson to adjourn tonight's meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by

**Kim Wallace
Town Clerk**