

**Town of Lyme
November 5, 2009
Public Hearing For 2010 Preliminary Budget
6:30 P.M.**

Tonight's Public Hearing was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Supervisor Aubertine.

Present at tonight's Meeting: Supervisor Aubertine, Councilmen Madill, Schreib, Johnson and Countryman and 3 others.

Clerk Wallace read the Public Hearing Notice as follows:

Notice is hereby given that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Lyme for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2010 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk at 12175 NYS Route 12E, Chaumont, New York, where it is available for inspection by any interested person during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. thru 4 p.m.

Further notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Lyme will meet and review said budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon at the Town Office at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday November 5, 2009 and at such Hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against any items therein contained. Pursuant to Section 113 of the Town Law the proposed salaries of the following Town Officers hereby specified as follows:

<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>\$10,300.00</i>
<i>Town Clerk</i>	<i>\$29,800.00</i>
<i>Town Justices</i>	<i>(2 @ \$8,000.00 each) \$16,000.00</i>
<i>Councilmen</i>	<i>(3 @ \$4,635.02 and Deputy Supervisor \$5,634.96) \$19,540.00</i>
<i>Assessor Chairman</i>	<i>\$ 9,300.00</i>
<i>Assessor's</i>	<i>(2 @ \$8,800.00) \$17,600.00</i>
<i>Tax Collector</i>	<i>\$ 5,000.00</i>
<i>Highway Superintendent</i>	<i>\$47,000.00</i>

The Public Hearing Notice appeared in the Watertown Daily Times on October 30, 2009.

Supervisor Aubertine opened the floor for public comments.

Dick Nagel - Point Peninsula – In the Town Boards deliberations on the 2010 Budget, Mr. Nagel hoped that the Town Board would take into account the ramifications of depleting the Fund Balance. Taking money from the Fund Balance to balance the budget forces a tax increase in the future when the fund runs out.

Mr. Nagel noted that the drafted budget included a 4% increase for Town employees. There are a great number of retirees in the Town of Lyme. As the cost of living has gone down 1.5% in the last year, there will be no increase in Social Security or military pensions. Those who depend on retirement income from savings in 401K's have seen significant reductions in the last year due to stock market decline. The unemployment rate is close to 10% and Lyme has its share of unemployed. Many people in the private sector have seen wage reductions.

In light of this situation, Mr. Nagel asked the Town Board to consider no wage increase for Town employees this year. With the cost of living going down, Town employees have already seen an increase of 1.5% in the spending power of their current wages this year.

On another point, Mr. Nagel applauded the Town Boards efforts to reduce paperwork and annoying fees by eliminating the Transfer Site Fee. However, I would prefer a \$35.00 increase in property taxes rather than taking the offsetting amount from the Fund Balance. Perhaps it would be better to delay this action and implement it with the tax increase that seems to be coming within the next several years.

Supervisor Aubertine agreed with Mr. Nagel and stated that if the Town continues to use its Fund Balance to buy down taxes, one year down the road the Town will get hit hard with raising taxes.

A Motion was made by Councilman Schreib and seconded by Councilman Countryman adjourning tonight's Public Hearing at 6:44 p.m. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Aubertine called the Budget Work Session to order at 6:44 p.m.

The Town Board deliberated over the rate of pay for the Deputy Highway Superintendent. The determination agreed upon unanimously by the Town

Board was to pay the Deputy Highway Superintendent one dollar more per hour while he is acting in the absence of the Superintendent.

RESOLUTION 2009 - 164: Motion by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Johnson scheduling a Budget Work Session on Tuesday November 10, 2009 at the Municipal Offices 12175 NYS Route 12E Chaumont. Five ayes. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Councilman Countryman and seconded by Councilman Schreib to move into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss Teamsters bargaining. Five ayes. Motion carried.

A Motion was made to move out of Executive Session and back into the open meeting at 9:35 p.m. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Councilman Countryman made a Motion to adjourn tonight's meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Tonight's Minutes Respectfully submitted by

***Kim Wallace
Town of Lyme Clerk***