

**Town of Lyme
Budget Work Session
Tentative Budget Presentation
October 6, 2011
6:30 P.M.**

Supervisor Aubertine called tonight's Work Session to order at 6:30 P.M.

The Lyme Garden Club had representatives present at tonight's meeting requesting \$3,000 budgeted funds for the 2012 fiscal year. The Garden Club provides plants throughout the Town in the way of the pots, Veterans Memorial and various flower gardens. It takes approximately 430 volunteer hours to maintain the flowers around the Town. The Volunteers of the Garden Club pay for their own gas and use their own tools. They feel that the money provided by the Town goes right back to the Town in the way of supplying and maintaining the flowers.

Warren Barkley – President of the Library Board – Provided a copy of the Library Budget. Mr. Barkley indicated that this year has been the biggest ever, in the way of patrons and programs. They are currently considering an expansion project but it will most likely be contingent upon the amount of State Aid that becomes available.

The bulk of expenditures for the Library comes in the way of payroll, they have four paid employees. Purchasing new books results in expenditures of approximately \$11,000 per year.

General giving is down and they have cut hours, they are asking for more volunteers.

Lyme Community Foundation – Julie Bocciolette – Jack Miller could not attend tonight's meeting, Julie was present on his behalf. The Community Foundation has a vibrant board, they are establishing long range plans and looking into the future. Money is tight, it takes a lot just to keep the house heated, they are running on the bare minimum and it's harder than ever to make ends meet. Julie is respectfully asking the Town Board to give what they can. The Community Foundation will continue to do what they can to meet their shortfalls. She thanked the Town Board for their time and consideration.

Julia Gosier – Stated that she is in the uncomfortable position of asking for something new. The State Law requires Towns to be responsible for mowing and fencing of abandoned cemeteries, there are no legal responsibilities for anything else. We have a problem in our cemeteries, Point Peninsula being the worst one. It used to be in such bad shape that people weren't even aware that it existed. Chuck Calhoun went in with a crew and decided to do something about it, he found 87 buried stones, it was a huge discovery. A tombstone is a legal record, prior to WWI, very often the only record was a tombstone. With no foundations under the stones, the ground being soft and with a constant wind blowing out there, the stones are tipping more and more each year. There is no way of permanently fixing the stones without putting them on foundations. Following standard procedure the stones must be placed below the frost line. It is a very expensive and slow process. Henry Wilson wrote up an estimate totaling \$33,000.00. Mr. Wilson would work with the Town any way possible. If the Town Board would consider putting a few thousand dollars into the budget each year eventually we could get the cemeteries back into good shape. Julie realizes times are tough and that she is asking for something new but she feels it is definitely worth considering. The process will not be cheap. Wilson's have the expertise we need. Julie is asking for a new line item.

Councilman Villa had the idea of having the proceeds generated from the recyclables taken in at the Transfer Site go toward the Town's Cemeteries and Ball Fields. Keeping a sign at the Transfer Site indicating that all the revenues generated from recyclables will go toward ball fields and cemeteries. Maintaining a visible running tally will let residents see how the funds are growing. Residents will be more apt to bring recyclables to the Transfer Site knowing the revenues generated will be benefiting the Town.

Dave Bourquin – Three Mile Bay Fire Department – Due to the current economic climate both of the Fire Departments are in agreement to receive annual budgeted funds in the same amount as 2011, which would be \$77,000.00 per department for the fiscal year of 2012. Three Mile Bay would like to request \$35,000 for the Ambulance Fund, up \$3,000 from 2011.

RESOLUTION 2011 - : Motion by Councilwoman Harris and seconded by Councilman Villa utilizing the \$500.00 from the Chamber for the reimbursement for the Community Days insurance to put five trees in the

business district of the Village of Chaumont. Charges will come from the Town Development Fund. Five ayes. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Villa adjourning tonight's meeting at 8:45 p.m.