

Town of Lyme
Preliminary Budget Public Hearing
November 6, 2008
6:30 P.M.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Supervisor Aubertine. In attendance: Supervisor Aubertine, Councilmen Johnson, Countryman and Madill, Clerk Wallace. Councilman Schreib was absent. Councilman Madill left the meeting due to Supervisor Aubertine not starting the meeting on time.

Supervisor Aubertine opened the Public Hearing by stating that the 2009 Preliminary Budget was available for tonight's meeting but we will be holding another Work Session and there will be some changes made to the existing figures.

Supervisor Aubertine went over the Summary of Funds page and went through the Appropriations and Revenues. He gave those attending the meeting, five minutes to review the Budget. He also mentioned the "County Adders" and the fact that the Town has no control over those figures.

Marsha Barton had a question on Water District #4 regarding the figure of \$30,382.00. The question has to be directed to the Bookkeepers and a response would come from them.

Charlie Mount – Needed some clarification on the Fire District budget figure.

Brad Pinsky – Attorney for the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department – He is here this evening on behalf of the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department. He is a 21-year fire fighter himself and represents over 250 Fire Departments. He is here to ask the Town Board to raise the budgeted amount they are providing the Fire Department in the 2009 Budget. The Fire Department has asked Mr. Pinsky to address the Board in a peaceful manor.

The Fire Department is missing a lot of the basic equipment and they are forced to do fundraising for what they need. They don't have a thermal imaging camera, it is needed, not wanted. Their newest vehicle is a 1991.

If the firemen are forced to continue to fund raise they will die out. The Town of Lyme currently appropriates one-third of the State average provided to Volunteer Fire Departments.

The Fire Department's maintenance budget is out of control and their equipment is very old. If a truck breaks down they are done. They need to be helped out.

The Fire Department has asked for \$106,000.00. Can Mr. Pinsky give the Board a solution? How can we offer the best fire protection most reasonably?

If the Town Board does not provide a reasonable budgeted appropriation to the Fire Department the Community will loose their fire department.

The Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department does not have any luxuries and the station is falling down around them. They are only looking for the basic equipment they need. Being forced to fund raise is killing the volunteers. At twenty-nine cents per \$1000.00 we are too low.

Councilman Johnson thought the two Fire Departments in the Town should discuss consolidation.

Mr. Pinsky stated that Consolidation is a possibility but it would affect response time.

With the most basic equipment provided it would provide for everybody's safety.

The Town Board scheduled a Work Session with the Fire Department Monday November 17, 2008 at the Chaumont Fire Hall. The Board will be conducting a Work Session at 6:30 and a Meeting with the Fire Department to follow at 7:30 p.m.

There were no more questions concerning the 2009 Preliminary Budget and the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by

Kim Wallace
Town Clerk