

SCHOOL TAX RATE STABILIZATION AND QUALITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 9, 2018

Members Present: Thomas Smith, Diana McGrath, Gwen Selleck, Raymond Doubleday, Craig Simpson, Cathy Colby, Michael Colby, Beth Carignan, Tim Carignan, Sheila Post, Lori Williams, Reegan Hubbard, Nancy Simano, Jim Trudell-Selectman

Others Present: Donna Clark-AA

Chairman Thomas Smith call the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The minutes of the June 18, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved. Chairman Thomas Smith signed the minutes on behalf of the Committee.

Sheila Post reported the President's 2018 Education Budget has been partially approved but not signed into law. She will let the Committee know what grants still apply to Lyman's situation. The conversation then moved to local opportunities for mentorship and apprenticeship such as New England Wire, Littleton Coin Company, banks, trades, the medical field, etc. Beyond internships, it takes money to create and enlarge programs to benefit more students. Could more businesses be used for alternate funding such as adopting a school as a tax deduction, adopting a student, giving cash donations to be used to reduce school taxes, or giving donations of equipment in lieu of cash? Tim Carignan noted that large corporations have people that oversee "giving" that we might look into. DonorsChoose.org also allows public school teachers to request materials and experiences for their students and people can go online and donate any amount towards them.

Questions - What is the protocol to solicit and receive donations that would be applied to Lyman's school tax burden only? Could funds be used for Lyman only or would they have to be used for the entire school?

Tim outlined the application process for a basic grant such as property improvement / building repairs. It would include the grant's terms, stipulations, mission and goals. We need to find creative ways to fund education such as STEM Grants (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and other education grants.

Many in the group also believe that equal representation on the LRS School Board is important to pursue.

The Committee then discussed the school costs and cost share formulas presented by Craig Simpson at the last meeting. Ray suggested that scenario #2 is the best for Lyman and scenario #4 is the second best. Tim believes the school needs a capital plan for large expenses. Cost sharing is less favorable for Lyman because of the small school population. 100% ADM (average daily membership) is best for Lyman but we could settle for 90% ADM and 10% Equalized Valuation for all expenditures. Someone

will have to work with the SAU to get the most recent figures before this formula is formally proposed.

The group drafted a few questions regarding grants, donations and changing the school apportionment formula that Jim Trudell and Craig Simpson will ask an attorney who specializes in school matters. Craig will formalize the questions and send them out to members for review before proceeding.

The Chairman thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

The next meeting of the School Tax Rate Stabilization and Quality Education Committee will be held at a date to be determined after Jim Trudell and Craig Simpson have answers to the above questions.

Approved:

Chairman

Date

Signed on behalf of the Committee