

# SCHOOL TAX RATE STABILIZATION AND QUALITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 4, 2018

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

Others Present: Donna Clark-AA, Selectman Bruce Beane, Selectman Steve Moscicki

Chairman Thomas Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The minutes of the October 2, 2018 Public Informational Meeting were reviewed and approved. Chairman Thomas Smith signed the minutes on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee discussed the Oct 10<sup>th</sup> presentation to the Lisbon School Board and the follow up meeting on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. Jim Trudell noted there was little discussion after the Committee members left the last meeting. Some may feel Lyman is not getting a fair deal but are struggling with their own taxes as Lisbon property owners. He believes a decision will likely be made on Lyman's request for a warrant article to change the current cost sharing formula at the Dec 12<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting. They may agree to put it on the warrant, but perhaps not recommend it.

The following were topics of conversation:

- Does Lyman need the School Board on its side? No, but a 2/3 vote is required and that will be difficult without the Board's support or recommendation.
- Lyman's 2018 local school tax rate was up \$1.57 while Lisbon saw a \$ .26 decrease.
- Some residents say they may have to move if the tax rate keeps increasing.
- How can Lyman elicit the School Board's support?
  - Not asking to share financial aid.
  - Even going with 100% ADM Lyman will still be paying more per student.
  - The graphs provided by the SAU show the inequity has been going on for years.
  - Over the past 8 years, Lyman has paid \$1.9 million more than Lisbon on a per-student basis.
- Sheila Post then led a discussion of school choice and how it might work.
- Additional representation on the School Board was also discussed. Sheila referenced RSA 195:19-a Apportionment of Cooperative School Board and believes Lyman is entitled to more seats on the Lisbon School Board, however,

finding people willing to commit to running for those possible seats may be difficult.

Plans were then finalized for the Dec 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Committee Chairman Tom Smith will make introductory remarks, Beane will speak on the Selectmen's behalf and Craig Simpson will handle questions on the financial research the Committee has done. If the request to put an article on the Annual School Warrant to change the apportionment formula to 100% ADM is not supported, the Town may still proceed with a petition warrant article.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next meeting of the School Tax Rate Stabilization and Quality Education Committee will be at the December 12<sup>th</sup> Lisbon School Board Meeting at 6:00 pm in the school library.

Approved:

---

Chairman

---

Date

Signed on behalf of the Committee