

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

March 29, 2005

Present:

Ken Booth Carl Brunetti Joe Dziobek

Bob Ericson Cheryl Ethier Roberta Gosselin

David Hartley Claudette Lussier Jack Newman

Linda Noble

Absent:

Mary Varr

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting began at 7:40 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes available for approval.

Correspondence

Ken Booth expressed his dismay that there are some elected officials who are of the opinion that the Budget Board's views and opinions are not being objectively stated and expressed through the chair. Most recently questioned, were the letters that were sent to both municipal and school administration requesting personnel information. Budget Board members reiterated their support of those letters and noted that they had been sent with the knowledge and approval of the Board as a whole.

Town Administrator, Sue Sheppard, sent an electronic correspondence stating the need to adjust the Insurance & Surety line (Fixed Charges) from \$500,000 to \$625,000 in light of a recent correspondence from the insurer.

School Committee Chairperson, Jeffrey Weiss, sent a draft of a letter that he hopes the Budget Board will agree to support regarding the Teachers' Pension. This discussion was deferred in order to get to the business at hand – subcommittee work sessions.

An electronic correspondence was also received from Jeffrey Weiss regarding our request under the RIGL with regards to Access to Public Records. The school subcommittee felt that this discussion warranted that they, as the subcommittee, should discuss the matter further and make a recommendation as to the course that the Budget Board should follow in light of Mr. Weiss' recommended options.

Public Comment

Carol McCourt, a Northern parent, requested information as to how they could proceed to insure that their request for funds for the proposed playgrounds at NELC and Northern will be given consideration at the Financial Town Meeting. She also expressed concern that the dollars be restricted for the purpose that it was intended, if the Budget Board chooses to recommend the project. Cheryl Ethier explained that the school subcommittee was still

considering all requested capital items but that typically the request would be placed before the voters in the form a resolution, along with other similar items. Linda Noble said that the subcommittee usually groups items that will gain townwide support so that all of the projects within a resolution have a better chance of passage.

Benny Sisto commented that he did not feel that the school department had sufficiently answered his query about the Workers Compensation proposal.

Ken Booth noted that the Town Council will be asked to support an ordinance that will be recommended by the administration with regards to restricted accounts. More information will follow after this is introduced to the Council. Ken also suggested that the Budget Board set up a new line under the Town Council's budget as an emergency reserve account. This year, it could be funded minimally, as little as \$1, just to establish the account. This line could later be specifically funded on an annual basis through the budgeting process. The emergency nature of this line would need to be clearly stipulated in a Town Council ordinance. The ordinance would also need to stipulate exactly how and when any unused monies would be rolled into the surplus. Ken said that his ultimate support of such an ordinance would be determined by the actual language that the Council would adopt. Claudette Lussier asked how this would be affected by the existing ordinance that limits the surplus to 5% of the budget and disburses the balance into the restricted capital and open

space accounts?

Councilor, Jay O'Grady said that he is willing to entertain the idea but would require more detail.

Benny Sisto stated that conceptually it was a good idea but that he had some reservations.

Sub-Committee Meetings

At 8:25PM, the Board broke into its main sub-committees: Municipal and School.

Adjournment

By motion from David Hartley and seconded by Bob Ericson, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudette Lussier