

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

March 6, 2008

Present:

Ken Booth Claudette Lussier Linda Noble Joe Renning

Carl Brunetti Sheila Chisholm Cheryl Ethier Bob Ericson

Absent:

Jack Newman Roberta Gosselin Greg Leonard

The meeting began at 7:40 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ken Booth read a copy of correspondence sent from the Budget Board to the School Department and Town Administration.

Ken Booth noted that he did receive a telephone call in response from the Superintendent of Schools, noting that the School Committee does have a meeting on Monday, March 10th, and then there will be a meeting with the Budget Board on Tuesday, March 11th followed by another meeting of the School Committee later in the week to discuss the budget cap.

The next meetings of the Budget Board will be on Tuesday, March 11th (with the School Department), and Thursday, March 13th.

Linda Noble noted that the main objective of the meeting with the School Department should be that an amount is agreed upon as the

total amount that can be allocated for the school budget, and also whose responsibility capital improvements will be.

Ken Booth noted that the Budget Board could also discuss the rescheduling of the annual school tour with the School Department.

Ken Booth noted that there may be a motion from the floor of the Financial.Town Meeting to place money in the amount of approximately \$250,000 to repair the tennis courts.

Bob Ericson gave an update of the Capital Development Committee, and noted that the most recent issue discussed was the School Administration Building. The architect who had done work on the new middle school was paid to do a study and came to the conclusion that it would cost \$9,000,000 to build a new building, or \$10,000,000 to completely renovate the existing building.

Bob Ericson believed that the \$50,000 for the Family Literacy Center should be moved over to the Municipal Budget.

Linda Noble noted that the High School has spread out into the old middle school space, and she believes that there should be a more definitive use for the space, and she noted the example of the gym class participants having to travel to the end of the building to use the weight room.

Bob Ericson noted that the modular classrooms should be evaluated as to their life expectancy and how they usually tend to fail to see if

some money could repair them to give them a longer life.

The minutes of February 28th and March 5th were distributed for review.

Bob Ericson made a motion, seconded by Carl Brunetti, to accept the minutes of February 28th.

It was noted that the Maximum Municipal Contribution to the school budget was actually \$41,063,582.

The motion to accept the minutes of February 28th was passed by a vote of 5-0 with Claudette Lussier, Linda Noble and Joe Renning abstaining because they were not present on February 28th.

Claudette Lussier made a motion, seconded by Joe Renning, to accept the minutes of March 5th.

The minutes were amended for clarification and passed as amended by a vote of 6-0 with Joe Renning and Claudette Lussier abstaining because they were not present on March 5th.

The Budget Board split into Municipal and School Subcommittees. Notes from the School Subcommittee meeting can be found as an addendum.

The Budget Board then reconvened as a whole.

Bob Ericson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl Brunetti.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

3/6/08 – School Subcommittee Meeting

The subcommittee decided that they will question staff reductions because in the total spreadsheet in the back of the requested budget, it does not show any but there are specific instances that were pointed out where there will be reductions.

Cheryl Ethier wanted the subcommittee to look at all salaries, and Linda Noble agreed noting that in the past the subcommittee has found errors that do add up to substantial amounts.

In order to analyze the budget, the subcommittee decided to split it into schools or portions of the budget and evaluate them individually.

The decided breakdown is as follows:

Carl Brunetti – Health Care and Lonsdale Elementary

Joe Renning – Middle School

Linda Noble – Saylesville Elementary, Fairlawn Early Learning Center and Central Elementary.

Sheila Chisholm – Northern Elementary and Northern Early Learning Center.

Cheryl Ethier – High School