

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

July 29, 2009

Members Present:

Linda Noble Greg Leonard Jay O'Grady Bob Ericson

Cheryl Ethier Carl Brunetti Hagop Jawharjian

Absent:

Sheila Chisholm Claudette Lussier Joe Renning

The meeting began at 7:35 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was noted that Jay O'Grady is hereby appointed by the Town Moderator to the vacant Budget Board seat previously held by Roberta Gosselin.

The minutes of May 14, 2009 were distributed for review.

Greg Leonard made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0 with Greg Leonard, Jay O'Grady and Bob Ericson abstaining because they were not present on May 14th.

The following notes were made about the Budget Board season based upon the minutes:

-It was suggested that the Budget Board learn more about “Robert’s Rules of Order” in order to more effectively run the Financial Town Meeting. Hagop Jawharjian

-The press releases that kept the public more informed were a positive thing and should be continued.

-At any one point during deliberations there were several versions of the budget due to updates as information became available. This made it difficult for the Budget Board to work together and everyone should work off of one version only.

-Each of the Budget Board Meetings should be publicized in the Valley Breeze and town calendar on the website.

In correspondence, the Budget Board received a letter from Town Administrator Joe Almond regarding the veto of a resolution for \$517,000 for Special Education.

Teacher lay-offs were discussed and it was noted that all but two lay-off notices were rescinded.

The meeting was open to public comment and questions. There were none at the time.

The Budget Board discussed officer appointments.

Bob Ericson nominated Linda Noble for Budget Board Chair. Greg Leonard seconded the nomination.

Linda Noble became Budget Board Chair by unanimous vote.

Cheryl Ethier nominated Greg Leonard as Vice Chair of the Budget Board. Linda Noble seconded the nomination.

Greg Leonard became Budget Board Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

Linda Noble nominated Claudette Lussier for Secretary of the Budget Board. Bob Ericson seconded the nomination.

Claudette Lussier became Secretary of the Budget Board by unanimous vote.

The Budget Board discussed a list of changes made to the school budget including supplies and substitute teachers.

Also discussed were school capital expenditures.

Historically, the estimated numbers for capital projects are always higher than the actual costs end up being.

The Budget Board will need an official updated report of those numbers, and maybe copies of the bid awards.

Also, if the costs end up being more than estimated, it was suggested that the schools should tell the Budget Board where that extra money will come from.

Municipal Budget updates were also distributed and discussed.

These changes will show in the audited numbers next year.

There will be a Charter Review Committee this year and Jay O'Grady will represent the Budget Board as a member.

There has been no progress yet on legislation previously discussed that would affect the budget.

The Budget Board discussed some work still being done at the Middle School including a storage trailer, chain link fence and poured cement. It was believed that these items were paid for from the bond proceeds.

The Budget Board decided to put a press release out regarding meeting in July to let the public know that they did meet to elect officers, as well as to reflect on the previous budget process and the new budget year's preparations beginning as this will be another challenging year.

Public comment within the budget board meetings was discussed. For now it will continue to be offered both at the beginning and at the end of the meetings.

The order of business at a typical Financial Town Meeting was discussed.

The next meeting of the Budget Board will be on Thursday, September 17, 2009.

Jay O'Grady made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg Leonard.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.