

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

March 25, 2010

Present:

Linda Noble Carl Brunetti Joe Renning Bob Ericson

Claudette Lussier Jay O'Grady Hagop Jawharjian Sheila Chisholm

Absent:

Cheryl Ethier Greg Leonard

Call To Order

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

There was a motion by Carl Brunetti, seconded by Joe Renning, to change the order of the agenda so that Boards and Commissions that were present could discuss their budgets prior to Approval of Minutes, Correspondence, and Public Comment.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mike Alexander was present on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

The Town Administrator's Recommended budget for the Commission is \$3,500.

Mr. Alexander noted that costs related to the Commission are mainly for the Secretary's salary.

It was noted that 4 out of 5 of the Conservation Commission members are attending a conference at the University of Rhode Island regarding Open Space.

Although the Commission is not requesting more funding than is recommended by the Town Administrator, it was noted that they will be doing things like replacing a memorial tree that did not live through the winter and replacing a pump system that was vandalized as well as smaller projects with the assistance of the Boy Scouts.

SEWER APPEALS BOARD

Derek Meiklejohn was present on behalf of the Sewer Appeals Board. Mr. Meiklejohn noted that the Sewer Appeals Board only meets when called by the Town Clerks Office, which is only when there is a dispute to a sewer hookup and has only happened maybe 3 times in the years since he has been on the board.

Therefore, he is not requesting increased funding than the Administrator's recommended budget for the Board.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 13th and March 18th were distributed for review.

Bob Ericson made a motion, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian, to

approve the minutes of March 13th.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 6-0 with Hagop Jawharjian and Claudette Lussier abstaining because they were not present on March 13th.

Bob Ericson made a motion, seconded by Claudette Lussier, to approve the minutes of March 18th.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0 with Joe Renning abstaining because he was not present on March 18th.

Correspondence

There was none at the time

Public Comment

There was none at the time

Bob Ericson made a motion, seconded by Jay O'Grady, to again change the order of the agenda so that School Capital could be discussed before the Municipal Budget.

Old Business

SCHOOL REQUESTED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

It was noted that of the amounts requested to complete capital improvements last year, the actual costs came in at about 89% of the requested costs, and based upon that the Budget Board discussed recommending a figure that was 90% of the schools requested capital

improvements.

Additionally, the Budget Board discussed recommending improvements only for safety, structural and code enforcement reasons.

Based upon this, they reviewed the requests and agreed upon the following amounts for improvements at the individual schools:

High School \$ 69,550

Northern \$115,950

Middle School \$ 21,700

Central \$ 12,300

Lonsdale \$ 64,750

Saylesville \$ 95,800

Administration \$ 1,550

Grounds/Maint \$ 25,000

Total \$406,660

X 90% of requested as discussed

\$365.940

Adding in High School Parking Lot Paving, Bob Ericson made a motion, seconded by Joe Renning, that the Budget Board recommended total School Capital Improvements would be \$508,040

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Budget Board has not yet heard back from the RI Department of Education to determine whether Fairlawn could be considered a non-recurring expense and therefore deductible from the Maintenance of Effort.

MUNICIPAL REVENUES

The Budget Board discussed the Motor Vehicle Phaseout and the fact that it is still unknown what the state legislation will do.

If the legislation leaves the motor vehicle tax revenues in, and the town plans as if there will be none, it would be taxing for a surplus, whereas if the town plans to receive the revenue and the state takes the motor vehicle tax revenues away, the town would have to make up that money somehow.

The Budget Board will mention this issue in their annual budget message.

The Budget Board also had discussion, and some questions for the Town Administrator regarding the following municipal revenues:

Building Rental – This is for the lease of Fairlawn, however it seems to be shown in two places.

Medicaid – There is no written estimate from the consultant because it is too early in the season, and based on the fact that there was \$800,000 received last year and have received \$500,000 in 8 months

this year, the Town Administrator suggested \$750,000 as an estimate. The Budget Board felt that \$700,000 was more attainable.

In State Education Aid, the Governor's recommendation in January was \$5,714,364, and the Budget Board wanted to know how the Town Administrator came up with his recommendation since it differed.

Interest from taxes has come down because of aggressive collection, and as of the middle of the fiscal year had been \$130,000. so it seems reasonable that the estimate for the year total be \$260,000.

Fines and Costs appear to come in more in the latter part of the fiscal year, so the mid-year figures may not be a true example of what will be collected for the entire year.

"Other" Revenues of \$600,000 is for Police Details and is offset by expenses.

It was suggested by the Auditors to show this in the budget, but the Budget Board discussed the ramifications of taking it out and treating it as an enterprise fund.

Library Fines have been reduced by \$3,000.

Linda Noble will be meeting with the Library Director and will ask about this revenue, as well as ask about staffing levels.

Rescue Receipts figures are not yet up to date, so the Budget Board

will ask for newer information.

Building Inspections were discussed, including the possibility of keeping the Town Administrator's recommendation of \$200,000.

The Budget Board wanted clarification of the rental of Fairlawn, including lease details and whether the figures shown are net or gross.

The Municipal Court recommendation from the Town Administrator was to double revenues received as of the mid-year numbers, but the Budget Board wanted more information as to more current figures to see how they are trending now.

Other

The Budget Board discussed the upcoming public hearing of the budget.

It was noted that the Budget Board normally just presents the Town Administrator's recommended budget at the Public Hearing because they have not yet completed deliberations to the point where they can present their own recommendations.

It was noted that there is a 2.5% increase in municipal salaries across the board, and the Budget Board questioned which were discretionary and which were contractual.

The Budget Board discussed salary inequities between municipal and school employees, and in particular the comparison of the Finance Directors, and the possibility of consolidating some of those departments and positions in the future.

Public Comment

There was none at the time

Adjourn

Sheila Chisholm made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.