

## **Town of Lincoln**

### **Budget Board Meeting**

**February 16, 2011**

#### **Persent:**

**Linda Noble Joe Renning Carl Brunetti Hagop Jawharjian Mike  
Babbitt Domenic Ricci Greg Leonard Bob Turner Paul  
DiDomenico Peter Fucci**

#### **Absent:**

**Claudette Lussier**

#### **Call To Order**

**The meeting began at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions of two new Board Members.**

**Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian that Minutes and Correspondence be deferred until after the Town Administrator's presentation of his recommended budget.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **New Business**

##### **2011-2012 Recommended Budget**

**The Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond was present and distributed his recommended budget to the Budget Board, and then discussed the following:**

**His Total Combined Budget Recommendation is \$70,427,042.**

**Total Municipal Operating Budget recommendation is \$17,352,199**

**His recommendation for Town Capital Improvements is \$498,740.**

**In addition, there will be a resolution set forth at the Financial Town Meeting for \$400,000 for a 2,000 sq. ft. expansion of the Library.**

**It was noted that there was a reduction last year in bond payments, and that the difference was put towards road repairs. This is expected to be repeated in the coming budget for \$850,000.**

**Total Educational Operating Budget recommendation is \$48,032,645.**

**This is a 4.1% increase, or \$1.9 million, over the current operating budget and is agreed upon by the School Department and Committee. They originally requested \$722,000 in capital improvements, which the Town Administrator reduced in his recommendation because some of the items requested, such as painting, were not considered capital improvements.**

**It was noted that the town had an increase in taxation and a decrease in spending which improved the town fiscally.**

**One of the things that will be looked at in work sessions is Unfunded Liabilities, including Post Retirement Benefits for teachers.**

**Also discussed was the judgment against the Town regarding**

**assessment of Twin River.**

**The Administrator noted that his recommended budget allows for the judgment that passed out of surplus, but not for any interest or future liability associated with it.**

**This year, negotiations will occur for contracts of the schools both teaching and non-certified staff, and also the Police for the Town.**

**The Town Administrator noted that the Town of Lincoln is in the Top 1 or 2 % in the state for Fiscal Health, and has been able to absorb \$4.7 million in reductions of aid in 3 years while keeping an 8% reserved surplus protected and improving their bond rating.**

### **Public Comment**

**There was none at the time.**

### **Minutes**

**The minutes of January 6th were distributed for review.**

**Greg Leonard made a motion, seconded by Carl Brunetti, that the minutes be accepted.**

**The minutes were approved with clarification by a vote of 8-0 with Bob Turner and Mike Babbitt abstaining because they were not present on January 6th.**

### **Old Business**

**The Schools' Maintenance of Effort was discussed in depth.**

**Hagop will research and determine for verification what the Maintenance of Effort should legally be.**

**It was noted that the closing of Fairlawn Early Learning Center did not allow for a lowering of the Maintenance of Effort last year because enrollment and cost per student did not provide for it.**

**The School Budget is still going through a transition to the Uniform Chart of Accounts.**

**The Budget Board discussed Charter Schools and Out-of-Tuitions and whether an increase in those would require less staff in the town's school system.**

**It was noted that the Town does not currently have a Pension Board, but that the Administrator is looking into setting up a Town Trust next year to look at certain things including the pension system.**

**The next meeting of the Budget Board will be Thursday, February 24th at 7:30 pm.**

**Adjourn**

**Joe Renning made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to adjourn.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.**