

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

September 21, 2011

Present:

**Linda Noble Claudette Lussier Carl Brunetti Domenic Ricci
Richard Foster Paul DiDomenico Hagop Jawharjian Bob Turner**

Absent:

Mike Babbitt Peter Fucci

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes of July 12th and August 17th were distributed for review.

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Claudette Lussier to accept the minutes of July 12th.

The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, to accept the minutes of August 17th.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 6-0 with Carl Brunetti and

Domenic Ricci abstaining because they were not present on August 17th.

Correspondence

A letter of resignation from the Budget Board by Peter Fucci was received.

Old Business

End of Year Report

It was noted that the schools' amended budget is \$331,000 higher than was originally allocated, and it was questioned whether this was due to additional federal funds received.

The Budget Board noted that they will need the annual audit in a timely manner in the coming budget season to assist in their deliberations.

Use of Surplus

There were two major municipal projects done for which the Town Council transferred funds out of surplus.

This included the completion of Manville Park renovations and the renovation of Chet Nichols Field.

The Budget Board discussed the charter regarding the transfer of funds and one interpretation which seemed to indicate that any expenditures over the initial appropriation, even if incidental, should go before the Financial Town Meeting.

The Town Solicitor's opinion, however, seems to indicate that the Town Council does have the authority to move funds from surplus for such expenditures.

The Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond was present and discussion ensued with the Budget Board regarding the allocation of surplus funds.

The Administrator's position is that the Town Council can take additional budget controls and would not be superseding the Financial Town Meeting in allocating surplus funds.

There had originally been \$850,000 in revenue allocated for Manville Park renovations and the project to renovate Chet Nichols Field had been approved and committed by the Town Council over a year ago. The Budget Board noted that they believe that even though the surplus funds are restricted and will be used for capital, allocation should go before the Financial Town Meeting for approval by taxpayers.

The Administrator feels that while if possible, those allocations should go before the Financial Town Meeting, it is not necessarily required because one of the reasons for having a Town Council is to take such action when necessary.

The Town Charter Article 5 Section C58 was discussed regarding Town Council authority.

The Budget Board discussed the project of fixing the roof at the

Hearthside.

The actual cost of the work was \$3,000 higher than the original bid, and one option would be to have the Friends of Hearthside pay the difference.

Administrator Almond noted that the audit results should be on time this year, even though there have been some setbacks with the template of the information that will be needed to perform it.

The Budget Board will draft a letter and meet with the Town Council in Work Session and at their regular meeting to discuss the appropriation of surplus for capital projects and their concerns that they feel taxpayers should hear regarding practices that have been followed.

Election of Officers

Bob Turner nominated Linda Noble as Chairperson of the Budget Board.

The nomination was seconded by Hagop Jawharjian and approved by unanimous vote.

Bob Turner nominated Carl Brunetti as Vice Chairperson of the Budget Board.

The nomination was seconded by Hagop Jawharjian and approved by unanimous vote.

Bob Turner nominated Claudette Lussier as Corresponding Secretary of the Budget Board.

The nomination was seconded by Hagop Jawharjian and approved by unanimous vote.

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that Candice Larson be retained as Recording Secretary of the Budget Board.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Subcommittee Assignments

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to postpone subcommittee assignments until the next meeting of the Budget Board.

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Carl Brunetti, to postpone discussion of Bond and Sewer items.

The next meeting of the Budget Board will be on Thursday, October 6th tentatively at the Senior Center.

Adjourn

Carl Brunetti made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Domenic Ricci.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm.