

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

April 5, 2012

Present:

**Linda Noble Mike Babbitt Carl Brunetti Bob Turner
Paul DiDomenico Maria Marcello William DiBiasio Hagop
Jawharjian**

Absent:

Claudette Lussier Richard Foster Domenic Ricci

Call to Order

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 pm.

Minutes

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, to defer the review of the minutes of April 4th.

Correspondence

The Town Administrator and Town Solicitor were present to discuss the opinion of resolutions for expenditures that occurred for Chet Nichols Field and Manville Park.

The Budget Board and Solicitor have differing opinions of whether such resolutions should be placed in the budget for the Financial

Town Meeting since the funds were already spent.

There was a letter given to the Town Council that summarized the Solicitor's opinion regarding this.

The Solicitor noted that there only a few specific instances where spending can occur that did not go before the Financial Town Meeting including court judgments and settlements.

It was noted that the Solicitor does not place a line for settlements in the budget, but he does give a report and analysis of all liability to the auditor which is a privileged document.

The differing opinion of the Budget Board and Town Solicitor included the following:

The Budget Board noted that the charter says that any and all expenditures must be approved by the Financial Town Meeting.

The Solicitor noted that the charter only provides that the Financial Town Meeting deal with the ensuing fiscal year.

The Solicitor noted that the Town Council has the right to establish restricted funds and allocate them for a particular purpose only.

The Budget Board noted that the Town cannot transfer funds over and above the amount that was appropriated at the Financial Town Meeting.

The Town Administrator noted that once funds are allocated, the Budget Board does not have the purview to manage those funds or exercise controls.

The Administrator also noted that the spending in question was

allocated at a public meeting of the Town Council, so the public was aware of it.

The Town Administrator noted that he was not opposed to disclosure of the spending of the funds for Chet Nichols Field and Manville Park, but that he does not feel it should be done by resolution where it is subjected to a yes or no vote because the funds were already spent.

The Budget Board noted that there are resolutions every year that are submitted that are procedural and necessary, so resolutions for funds already spent could be treated the same way.

The Town Solicitor noted that the Financial Town Meeting is unpredictable and referenced a case in Tiverton where the voters voted against a necessary resolution.

The Solicitor noted that there are instances when the Town legally obtains funds outside of the Financial Town Meeting, such as state bonds and impact fees which are governed by state legislature.

The Budget Board noted that in the past, the Financial Town Meetings would put in supplemental resolutions to avoid the extra expense of a Special Financial Town Meeting.

The Town Administrator noted that as a way to resolve the issue, his policy is to ensure that all capital expenditures going forward are proposed to the Budget Board, and that there be a statement or disclosure regarding the funds for Chet Nichols and Manville, but not

a resolution.

In closing, the Town Solicitor referenced the Charter Section C-3-2 which says the Financial Town Meeting should deal only with the ensuing year, and he noted that he does act as counsel for the Budget Board as well so he welcomed them to ask him if they ever had any questions or something they wanted him to analyze.

The Town Solicitor adjourned from the meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

Discussion/Final Vote

Capital Resolutions

Roof at Fairlawn

It was noted that the roof is near the end of its life and there is a breach of about 15% of the roof.

The roof has a membrane that cannot be compromised or it will cause further damage.

The Administrator noted that he did get 3 estimates with scope of work from companies and he will provide that worksheet for the Budget Board, but that the Town does not do pre-bids.

The Administrator also noted that he plans to come back next year with a request to do repairs to a different roof.

Senior Bus

There are 2 buses currently.

The primary bus has over 100,000 miles on it and the secondary is used by Parks and Recreation.

The Administrator noted that the secondary bus could be sold and the primary could be handed down as the new secondary.

The Budget Board questioned whether the Town would be better off with a vehicle that uses diesel for a job that has the vehicle running constantly.

The Administrator noted that the Public Works Director was very knowledgeable about the use of such vehicles and said that he would check with the Director about the use of diesel.

Rescue Grant

The town's share would be \$34,000 because the grant is an 80/20 grant.

They will receive 2 automatic CPR machines and truck monitors that communicate with the emergency rooms.

The value of the equipment is \$136,000, however the town won't spend the money on this resolution if they do not receive the grant.

Lime Acres

This will be a matching grant, and the Town does not yet have the approved list of what they will be able to do with the funds.

This is because the matching grant is reimbursed, so therefore:

The Town would have to spend \$350,000 on a project, which cannot

deviate from the approved list.

Once they complete it, they can submit for reimbursement which can take up to 3 months turnaround.

Once the Town is reimbursed for \$175,000 they can either keep it as revenue or spend it on anything they choose.

The Town is planning to spend it which is why the project will be \$525,000 altogether.

The \$525,000 would complete the project, and the grant does give a time frame in which it must be completed but it is usually fairly liberal.

Demo of Modulars

It was noted that once they are not used by the schools, the modulars will become property of the Town, and the Budget Board discussed whether there was value left to them besides just for scrap.

The Town Administrator noted that every resolution should include wording that states that if the money is not spent, it should return to the general revenue.

Town Operating Budget

It was noted that all pension reports are one year behind because of when they are reported.

The Finance Director will attempt to correct that in the coming year by changing when the funds are transferred.

The Budget Board and Town Administrator discussed the possibility

of condensing the pensions and enrolling in a larger plan eventually.

In an OBEP update, it was noted that last year the actuary stated a \$24 million liability total with the schools taking on \$6 million and the Town \$18 million.

Ways to reduce the liability were discussed including funding smaller amounts over time, or reducing benefits such as pushing the age for retirement back.

If the state does require the Town to join a state pension system, any existing Town OBEP funds would be turned over at that point.

If the Town decides to complete all proposed capital projects, it would leave a balance of \$156,798 in Fund 50.

The Town Administrator noted that he would provide the Budget Board with specification information for the Senior Center Bocce Court Canopy, as well as bid information for the rest of the proposed resolutions.

The Town Administrator adjourned from the meeting.

Capital Resolutions

Resolution VII - Barney Pond

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Carl Brunetti, to approve the resolution for presentation to the Financial Town Meeting.

The Budget Board will ask the Town Administrator for clarification about what funds have been spent on the dams so far and how they were spent, because there seems to be a balance remaining of previous dam funds.

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution VIII – \$350,000 from Fund 12 for Road Repairs

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to approve the resolution for presentation to the Financial Town Meeting.

There is also \$150,000 in the operating budget which is separate because it will be for separate repairs that are paid for by the tax levy. The Budget Board deferred voting on this resolution until more information is received regarding a plan of which roads will be repaired and a schedule.

Resolution IX – \$60,000 from Fund 12 for Fairlawn Roof

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to approve the resolution for presentation to the Financial Town Meeting.

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution X - \$80,000 from Fund 12 for Senior Bus

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to approve the resolution for presentation to the Financial Town Meeting.

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

Resoluton XI – 34,000 for Matching Grant for Rescue Equipment

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian, to approve the resolution for presentation to the Financial Town Meeting.

The Budget Board discussed whether the Rescue Equipment is actually worth \$136,000 or \$170,000 in order to write the resolution properly.

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, to defer the vote on this resolution until more information is received.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution XII – \$350,000 for 50/50 Grant for Lime acres

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Carl Brunetti, to approve the resolution for presentation to the Financial Town Meeting.

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution XIII - \$31,300 for Modular Removal

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Carl Brunetti, to approve the resolution for presentation to the Financial Town Meeting.

The Budget Board discussed whether the removal of the modular classrooms should be funded by the schools.

The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

Town Operating Budget

There are 3 pension plans, 2 of which are on a fee basis for Police and Town Hall which is advised by the unions and goes by ours worked.

The Town Hall plan is funded at approximately 80%.

The Town has been funding at 100% of the minimum funding required by the actuaries, and are looking at molding all three systems into one system, which currently gets funded at approximately 12.7% of the payroll.

For health benefits, the Town self-insures for the first \$200,000 of each employee, which is administered by Blue Cross.

For companies that don't self-insure, the increase was going to be 15%, but for the Town and others that do self-insure, it seems an 8% increase is a good estimate for the coming year.

Blue cross administers the plan, but town pays insurance out

Department 4100 Town Administrator

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Town Administrator Department be recommended at \$125,680.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4110 Town Planner

Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Town Planner Department be recommended at \$119,296.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4130 Personnel

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Personnel Department be recommended at \$112,106.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4140 Town Clerk

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Town Clerk Department be recommended at \$254,098.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4150 Finance

Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Finance Department be recommended at \$471,909.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4160 Tax Assessor

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the Evaluation line be recommended at \$300,000.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Tax Assessor Department be recommended at \$439,043.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4170 Information Technologies

Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the IT Department be recommended at \$165,665.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4200 Public Safety - Police

Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Police Department be recommended at \$3,833,510.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4200 Public Safety - Animal Control

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Animal Control Department be recommended at \$78,439.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4210 Public Safety - Rescue

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Rescue Department be recommended at \$1,439,281.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4230 Human Services

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that Human Services be recommended at \$298,613.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4300 Public Works - General

Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the

Public Works General Department be recommended at \$109,644.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4310 Engineering

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Engineering Department be recommended at \$88,091.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4320 Code Enforcement

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that Code Enforcement be recommended at \$182,988.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4330 Parks and Recreation

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Parks and Recreation Department be recommended at \$594,867.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4350 Tree Warden

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Tree Warden Department be funded at \$46,600.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4400 Public Buildings

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that Public Buildings be recommended at \$395,200.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4400 Central Services

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that Central Services be recommended at \$2,943,723.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 5000 Recycling

Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that Recycling be recommended at \$164,100.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4800 Library

Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that the Library be recommended at \$1,065,277.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4500 Grants and Contributions 62,000

The Town Administrator had noted that Senior Meal should remain in grants and not be moved to Grants and Contributions.

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that Grants and Contributions be recommended at \$62,000.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Fixed Charges

William DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, that

Fixed Charges be recommended at \$4,221,934.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Capital

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico to defer discussion and voting of capital projects until the remainder of the budget had been discussed.

Department 4950 Debt Service

There were questions about why there was a negative balance showing, and the Budget Board was going to request more information from the Town Administrator.

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, to defer the vote on a recommendation for Debt Service until more information has been received.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

Minutes

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to postpone the review of the minutes of April 4th until the next Budget Board Meeting.

Adjourn

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl Brunetti

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.