

## **Town of Lincoln**

### **Budget Board Meeting**

**January 30, 2014**

#### **Present:**

**&#8203;Carl Brunetti&#8203;&#8203;Paul  
Deutsch&#8203;&#8203;Hagop Jawharjian&#8203;&#8203;Bob Turner  
&#8203;Rhonda Lacombe&#8203;Bill  
McManus&#8203;&#8203;Richard  
Foster&#8203;&#8203;&#8203;Maria Marcello**

#### **Absent:**

**&#8203;Bill DiBiasio&#8203;&#8203;Paul DiDomenico&#8203;Mike  
Babbitt&#8203;**

#### **Call To Order**

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**The minutes of January 9th were distributed for review.**

**Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner to accept the minutes.**

**The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.**

#### **Correspondence**

**The Superintendent of Schools sent correspondence noting there had**

**been 2 workshops for the Operating and Capital Budgets and their complete recommended 2014-2015 budget has been submitted to the Town Administrator.**

### **Public Comment**

**There were no public comments or questions at the time.**

### **School Department Capital Projects**

**Members of the School Committee were present to discuss the School Capital Project Budgets.**

**There were 2 resolutions in the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year.**

**The status of the Technology Project according to School Committee Chair Kristine Donabedian is that \$500,000 has been returned to Fund 50.**

**The Project came in \$211,000 under budget without factoring in a grant that was received.**

**That grant was anticipated at the time the resolution was written and was provided for in the wording.**

**Each part of the project has been or is in the process of being completed.**

**Only \$42,000 worth of work still needs to be done.**

**In the current 2013-14 Fiscal Year there were 2 major resolutions.**

**The Roof Project at Northern came in slightly under budget but ended up being \$100,000 over after including Architect fees.**

**With the Security Upgrade Project, there were several schools that finished way above the original estimates.**

**There was the specific example of the High School which was put forward for a total of \$28,000 and ended up coming in at \$158,000.**

**The Budget Board discussed that they would like to be made aware if any projects will exceed the estimates, whether it was due to a change in scope of work or otherwise.**

**They also discussed that they would like to receive more information and better estimates when projects are requested and noted that they would be willing to support a line in the budget for Engineering Expenses in order to provide for that.**

**For the Upcoming 2014-15 Fiscal Year, The School Committee has voted on and approved a proposed Operating Capital Budget that they will submit to the Town Administrator.**

**The Town Administrator will then propose his own recommendations to the Budget Board prior to February 15th per charter and they will take both his recommendations and those of the School Committee into consideration.**

**Included in the School Committees proposal is the complete renovation of Ferguson Field.**

**The Roof Assessments have been completed, and no roof renovations are proposed even though in the Assessment Report there are some roof issues at the High School, at Saylesville and at**

**Central that should be priorities to be addressed within 1-2 years.**

**There were also no requests for items that had been put off from last year's requests including flooring replacement and the paving of certain areas.**

**In talks with the School Committee the following was noted:**

**The roofs at Saylesville and Central are dry, they are just getting out of alignment**

**They spoke with the consultant who completed the assessment and he agreed that it did not make sense to do the work on the roof at the High School until the future of the school is decided.**

**25% of the roof at Lonsdale tested wet, and portions had been replaced under warranty in 2011.**

**They have not ruled out any work to do be done on roofs, it just is not part of their initial proposal until they know how much they will have in earmarked capital funds.**

**The new Head of Grounds and Maintenance feels that there are things that could be done in-house that could help the roofs and he has a plan to address any issues including mold concerns.**

**The Budget Board noted that they feel all such projects should be vetted out, go through the proper procedure and be put forth to the Budget Board through resolution.**

**The School Committee put forward only the renovation of Ferguson Field first because they feel it should be a priority because if it is not**

**done this year it continues to present safety hazards and the Town will continue to pay to try to fix it temporarily.**

**The Budget Board discussed that before such a project is put forward through the budget process, they would like to see a complete cost-benefit analysis and more information of what it would entail.**

**A similar field, Tucker Field in Cumberland, cost \$1.2 million to resurface, which did not include the track.**

**For the Ferguson Field Project, the initial Architect estimate came in at \$1.78 million, and the School Committee has recommended \$1.5 million because the \$200,000 was for contingencies.**

**Things to consider when looking at cost would be what kind of contaminants may be found in the soil once construction begins and what it will cost to properly dispose that material.**

**It was noted that there is not a lot that they can currently do to try to make the field better temporarily because it is used constantly.**

**The size of the track is outdated, which will be expanded if the field is redone and there is room to do that.**

**A 5-year plan was submitted to the RI Department of Education but Lincoln will not be held to do only those projects that were submitted because the Town approves it's budget by Financial Town Meeting on a yearly basis.**

**The field project would be reimbursable because it is considered a**

**safety issue.**

### **Public Comment**

**Amy Grace noted that in Lincoln the education system is a good one, but that the Town needs to look at their fields more because the children do need a proper place for exercise and sports as well.**

**Guy Williams, a Taxpayer involved in Town Football, noted that part of his duties are to watch the status of the fields and that a lot of games are cancelled due to their condition after a little bit of rain.**

**There could be less permanent remedies but they would be more costly so he thinks the investment in a turf field would benefit the Town.**

**He also worked extensively with the previous Head of Grounds and Maintenance and was surprised to hear that projects this year came in higher than estimated as that was not what usually happens.**

**Marla Barrett, Teacher and Parent, noted that for several years now the people that use the field are told renovations are in the budget and then they end up getting cut.**

**Therefore, she was present in support of the new field on behalf of future athletics because not only is it not safe anymore, but it's an embarrassment for other Towns to come and use Lincoln's Field.**

**The Budget Board noted that the project had never been put forth to the Budget Board and only started discussion last year.**

**The original discussion was the possibility of an overhaul of the**

entire campus including press boxes, bleachers, restroom facilities, etc.

Mike Ethier, Coach, noted that the condition of the field has been talked about a lot in the past few years between parents, coaches, players, etc.

He noted also that the Boys Lacrosse team requires more playing space than is available currently, and that sports get a lot of support in town because students, families and residents take a lot of pride in it.

According to members of the School Committee, the construction period of a new field would be 6-8 months and it would be expected to be completed in September of 2015.

Based upon knowledge of other projects, it might be possible to do a field renovation in as little as a few months but it would come at a cost premium.

The Budget Board would like to see core samples taken of the soil regardless of when the project would break ground because it would show what kind of contamination the Town would be dealing with and help better estimate the cost associated with that.

Also factored in would have to be the cost of renting other facilities for sports so that teams would not lose a season of the field goes down for renovations.

**On the revenue side, discussion ensued of whether private organizations that use the fields and other school facilities should pay some sort of fees towards the maintenance of the new field as well.**

**Mike Cavanaugh noted that he disagrees that organizations should have to pay to use the Town fields because the taxpayers pay enough that they should be easily upkeep, and he did not think it was asking too much for the kids to have a nice field to play on.**

**It was noted that all Budget Board Meetings are Public Meetings that everyone is encouraged to attend, with meetings being held 2 or 3 times a week once the Town Administrator's recommended budget is submitted.**

**The next scheduled meeting of the Budget Board is on February 6th.**

**Adjourn**

**There was a motion to adjourn by Richard Foster, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian,**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.**