

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

February 26, 2014

Present:

**​Carl Brunetti​​Hagop
Jawharjian​​Mike Babbitt​​Bob
Turner​​​​Rhonda Lacombe​Bill
McManus​​​Paul Deutsch​​Maria
Marcello
​Richard Foster​​Bill DiBiasio**

Absent:

​Paul DiDomenico

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:34 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 20th were distributed for review.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to accept the minutes.

The minutes were accepted by a vote of 7-0 with Maria Marcello, Mike

Babbitt, and Paul Deutsch abstaining as they were not present on February 20th.

Correspondence

The Budget Board received responses to their questions and requests from the School Superintendent including the status of surplus and a detailed worksheet.

The annual School Tour was confirmed for Saturday, March 1st.

It was noted that the Budget Board wants to view all schools with a list of last year's capital improvement projects, anything that was high priority but not done in the past year, as well any areas of question during the tour.

Correspondence was also received from the Town Administrator who prefers to answer any Budget Board questions in person.

A meeting was set for next Thursday, March 6th with the Town Administrator as well as the Architect of the Police Department project.

Business

Capital Improvement Project Resolutions

Resolution I

\$1.5 million to be designated for unspecified School Capital Improvement Projects.

The Budget Board still has not received a detail of revenues or a

cost-benefit analysis of the new field.

More information requested would be the life expectancy of the field, whether any organizations would pay to use the field, and who would be in charge of scheduling and maintenance.

Resolution II

\$175,000 for designated for a restroom structure at Albion Park contingent upon the Town receiving a matching grant.

If the grant is not received the appropriation would be returned to Fund 11.

The Budget Board will ask whether the grant has already been applied for, and when they will be notified if it is approved.

Resolution III

\$20,000 designated for solar powered restrooms at Chase Farm.

They would not require plumbing because they would not have running water.

Resolution IV

\$3.3 million designated for a 2-story, 5,000 square foot addition to the Police Station.

The Budget Board would like details of the project, and discussed the fact that the Town should also consider whether a free-standing building might be a better option given the increased cost of building the addition.

The Budget Board questioned why there was \$125,000 in operating

capital for police furnishings and it was not included in the addition capital project.

They will discuss with the Town Administrator when they meet so that he can answer their questions.

Resolution V

\$13,500 to be designated to the Chase Farm House for renovations to make it habitable.

The Budget Board requested a detailed plan of what would be done to the house and questioned whether the \$13,500 would be enough to complete the necessary work.

The Budget Board discussed that for all capital projects in general, they would need backup with estimates and detailed plans of the work to be done.

Resolution VI

\$25,000 designated for the renovation of the Hot Potato School House and relocation to the Chase Farm Property with another \$22,000 for the project coming from the Citizens Celebration Committee.

The Budget Board questioned what would be done with the land that the schoolhouse sits on currently.

If the Town sells it, the proceeds should go back into Fund 11 to offset the cost of the renovation and relocation project.

Municipal Revenues

In the Town Administrator's recommendations:

Incentive Aid was decreased by half.

Motor Vehicle Phaseout was decreased by \$23,271

Video Lottery is budgeted at \$5.2 million which represents no change. If the amount received in Video Lottery goes down at all, a clause in the state legislature will give the Town 1% to make up the difference, but that would only last for 4 years.

School Bond Housing Aid is decreased by \$103,899

Statistical Revaluation Reimbursement has been at 0 for long enough now that the line can be deleted from the budget.

RI Open Space Recreational Grant is also close to being able to be taken off.

Open Space Restricted Surplus – Fund 11 has been increased by \$70,000 to fund capital improvement project resolutions.

In Local Revenues, "Other" has been increased by \$30,000.

The Budget Board wanted the detail of what revenues were being charged to the "Other" account.

The Budget Board will begin analyzing the Education Budget at their next meeting tomorrow, February 27th including staff and enrollment in particular.

The Budget Board discussed whether, if they did not receive sufficient backup information on capital project recommendations, that they would consider not approving or recommending some of the capital projects in their submittal because they feel the taxpayers rely on them to do the work and fully analyze projects before they recommend them.

They will discuss with the Town Administrator and decide as they deliberate over the coming 2 months or so how to proceed if that is the case.

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Adjourn

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.