

**Town of Lincoln**

**Budget Board Meeting**

**March 20, 2014**

**Present:**

**&#8203;Carl**

**Brunetti&#8203;&#8203;Rhonda**

**Lacombe&#8203;&#8203;Bob**

**Turner&#8203;&#8203;Paul**

**DiDomenico&#8203;**

**&#8203;Maria**

**Marcello&#8203;&#8203;Richard**

**Foster&#8203;&#8203;&#8203;Bill**

**DiBiasio&#8203;&#8203;Paul**

**Deutsch**

**&#8203;Mike Babbitt&#8203;**

**Absent:**

**&#8203;Hagop**

**Jawharjian&#8203;Bill**

**McManus&#8203;&#8203;&#8203;**

**Call to Order**

**The meeting began at 7:33 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**The minutes of March 19th were distributed for review.**

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

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

## **Correspondence**

**The Budget Board sent questions to the Town Administrator regarding the Library proposed budget and have not yet received a response.**

**The Superintendent responded to the Budget Board questions regarding the Education Budget.**

**It was noted that the State does require, and has been for at least 5 years, that they have an Athletic Trainer on staff.**

**In Equipment, it was noted that the copiers are leased and the lease fees include all related expenses except for paper.**

**The Superintendent had discussed the repair of the Lonsdale Roof, which could be approved to be taken out of surplus in the 4th quarter at the next School Committee meeting on April 14th but that would be after the Budget Board submits their recommended budget for approval of the Financial Town Meeting.**

## **Public Comment**

**Jessie Kamper, a parent of students at Central and Northern, noted that she was concerned about class sizes in the schools, especially in the early elementary grades as it appears they are all over or at their limit in Kindergarten – Grade 2.**

**She also discussed increasing costs, including taxes which included a 20% increase due to revaluations last year.**

**The Budget Board noted that the Budget Board looks at the School Committee's recommended education budget as well as the Town Administrator's recommended education budget in order to come up with a proposal of their own, which then gets voted upon at the Financial Town Meeting.**

**They only approve a bottom-line budget which then gets allocated by the School Committee.**

**This year, there is a \$1.2 million difference between the Town Administrator's and School Committee's recommendations and the Budget Board's proposal will likely fall somewhere in between the two.**

**Therefore, the Budget Board does analyze classroom breakdowns in order to come up with their bottom-line recommendation, but if there are questions or concerns about how education funds are allocated that would be an issue to take up with the School Committee.**

**Frances Guevremont, a member of the Senior Center, was present as an advocate for a new rowing machine for the facility as well as to propose the possibility of charging a fee of \$100 per year for non-residents as the facility is so successful that it is being overcome with attendees from out of town.**

**Councilman John Flynn was present and noted that it currently costs \$10 per year for membership for all members, and that when the Town toured other Senior Centers in the process of building the new one, the others also did not distinguish between residents and non-residents.**

**The Budget Board will discuss the possibility of charging fees when they meet with the Town Administrator at their next meeting on Tuesday, March 25th.**

**Councilman Ken Pichette was present and noted that Charter Schools are going to continue to exist, and the public schools have to be sure they don't become less desirable due to large class sizes or other budget cuts that affect the quality of the system.**

**The Budget Board noted that they have had discussions with the School Committee regarding the need for marketing.**

**Council President Keith Macksoud discussed the additional difficulty with education budgeting that state aid will be decreasing over the next 2 years before changing over to a per-pupil formula.**

## **Business**

### **Town Council, Boards and Commissions**

#### **Town Council**

**The Town Council had no questions about the Town Administrator's recommended budget.**

**They did note that they have unanimously approved a resolution for a Fire Study of \$25,000, so while that entire amount may not ultimately be spent, it would be important that that it stay in the final recommendation of the budget.**

## **Conservation Commission**

**Leslie Alexander, Recording Secretary of the Conservation Commission, was present to discuss the budget.**

**There were no changes recommended from last year's budget which the Conservation Commission is okay with as long as they can continue the projects that they have always been doing.**

**Leslie noted that as Recording Secretary, she has not yet submitted her time card yet because there have been some meetings cancelled due to lack of quorum because some members have resigned.**

**They now have 4 out of 7 spots on the Commission filled, with one more to be added soon.**

**It was noted that the charter does not specify that the 7 spots have to be filled specifically by district.**

## **FY15 Municipal Budget**

**The Budget Board began voting upon the budgets of the Boards and Commissions as follows:**

### **Department 4820 - Town Council**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the total budget for the Town Council be recommended at \$54,500.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### **Department 4830 - Town Solicitor**

**Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Town Solicitor be recommended at \$160,189.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Department 4840 - Probate Judge**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Probate Judge be recommended at \$4,352..**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Department 4850 -Town Sergeant**

**Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Town Sergeant be recommended at \$1,400.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Department 4860 - Board of Canvassers**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Board of Canvassers be recommended at \$1,700.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Department 4600 - Budget Board**

**Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Budget Board be recommended at \$2,250.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**After further discussion of the expenses of the Budget Board, Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, that the Expense line be decreased from \$500. to \$300.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, based on the decrease in Expenses to change the recommended total budget for the Budget Board from \$2,250. to \$2,050.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Department 4870 - Zoning Board of Review**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Zoning Board of Review be recommended at \$9,120.**

**The motion and second were withdrawn.**

**After reviewing the historical expenditures for Recording Secretary, Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that Recording Secretary be changed from \$4,000 recommended to \$3,000.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the new recommended total budget for the Zoning Board of Review be decreased from \$9,120. to \$8,120.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Department 4880 - Planning Board**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Planning Board be recommended at \$10,070.**

**The motion and second were withdrawn.**

**After reviewing the historical expenditures for Recording Secretary, Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that Recording**

**Secretary be changed from \$3,000 recommended to \$2,000.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Also after reviewing historical expenditures for Expenses, Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by Bill DiBiasio, that Expenses be changed from \$500. recommended to \$300.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the new recommended total budget for the Planning Board be decreased from \$10,070. to \$8,870.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Department 4890 - Board of Assessment Review**

**After reviewing the historical expenditures for Recording Secretary, Rhonda Lacombe made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that Recording Secretary be changed from \$500. recommended to \$300.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Board of Assessment Review be recommended at \$2,190.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Department 4910 – Tenants Board**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul Deutsch, that the total budget for the Tenants Board be recommended at \$1,388.**

**It was noted that the duties of the Tenants Board include working**

**with the tenants of the Housing Authority.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Department 4920 - Conservation Commission**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Conservation Commission be recommended at \$3,150.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Department 4940 - Personnel Board**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Personnel Board be recommended at \$1,600.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Department 4960 - Juvenile Hearing Board**

**After reviewing historical expenditures of Supplies, Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Maria Marcello, that Supplies be decreased from \$500. to \$0.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Also after reviewing historical expenditures of the Secretary, Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Bill DiBiasio, to decrease Secretary from \$1,000 recommended to \$750.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Juvenile Hearing Board be recommended at \$750.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Department 4970 - Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Parks and Recreation Commission be recommended at \$1,000.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Department 5200 - Land Trust**

**After reviewing historical expenditures of Expenses, Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that Expenses be decreased from \$300. to \$150.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Also after reviewing historical expenditures of Outreach and Education, Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to decrease Outreach and Education from \$500. recommended to \$250.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Land Trust be recommended at \$400.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Department 5300 - Municipal Court**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for the Municipal Court be recommended at \$20,500.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

## **Department 4500 - Grants and Contributions**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the total budget for Grants and Contributions be recommended at \$62,000.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**The Town Administrator will be meeting with the Budget Board at their meeting on Tuesday, March 25th to discuss the upcoming Town Facilities Tour and answer any questions they may have regarding his recommended Municipal Budget so far.**

**The first Public Hearing of the Town Administrator's recommended budget is scheduled for Thursday, March 27th and the Budget Board will check with the Town Clerk to see that it has been properly posted.**

## **FY15 Education Budget**

**The Budget Board will request a list of all positions that have been eliminated over the past 10 years due to retirements, etc.**

## **Public Comment**

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

## **Adjourn**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to adjourn.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.**