

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

April 7, 2014

Present:

​Carl

Brunetti​​Hagop

Jawharjian​​Mike

Babbitt​​Bob

Turner​​

​Maria

Marcello​​Paul

Deutsch​​​Paul

DiDomenico​Rhonda

Lacombe​

​Richard

Foster​​Bill

McManus​​​Bill DiBiasio

There were no members absent.​

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 3rd were distributed for review.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico to accept the minutes.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 10-0 with Richard Foster abstaining as he was not present on April 3rd.

Correspondence

The Budget Board received an email with some answers to questions that had been sent to the Town Administrator.

Sewer Budget detailed information was received as part of the initial budget recommendation package.

Updated information regarding Debt Service was received from the Finance Director.

The Budget Board received an email from Roland Lussier regarding the automatic ballot counting system that he has run for the Financial Town Meeting in the past.

The Budget Board expressed that they would like to borrow the system again this year.

The Budget Board received another letter from a concerned parent in support of the Superintendent's proposed budget and asking for no cuts that would be detrimental to the school system.

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Bill DiBiasio, to discuss the letter received from Dean Lees (regarding concerns with Town spending and the Sewer Department budget being taken out of the budget) that had previously been tabled.

The Budget Board discussed that they are not able in their capacity to challenge the way the Town spends funds.

They will respond to the letter by saying it was received and discussed but they are not able to take action, and suggest that those

kinds of concerns can be brought to the Town Council who might be able to take action.

The Town Moderator noted that if the issue of the Sewer Department budget being taken out of the actual budget book to become a separate fund on its own comes up at the Financial Town Meeting he would have to rule it out of order as that action was taken in 2010 and cannot be reversed. Also the Financial Town Meeting is intended only to deal with the proposed budget.

The Budget Board received updated information about the Charter Schools, and it noted that there are 13 more students expected to attend Charter Schools than last year.

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Business

FY15 Municipal Budget

FY15 Education Budget

The Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond was present to discuss questions of the Budget Board and provide information.

He wanted to discuss in particular the Schools' Self-Insured Medical with the Budget Board

It was noted that the Town provides money to Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI to manage/administer their health care program and for stop loss insurance for large claims.

The Town Administrator noted that in the School Committee's request from last year they stated that their costs for Self-Insured Medical had not exceeded \$4 million in the past 4-5 years and they requested a decrease in that line to prevent larger surpluses.

The invoices that have been paid have actually been \$4.5 - \$4.8 million during that 4-5 year period, which means the \$4 million they were spending was a net cost with Co-Shares (the employee contributions) offsetting that total cost by about \$600,000 or more but not showing in the budget.

The Town Administrator noted that according to his information, the schools have spent \$4.8 million last year and \$3.9 million so far this year (with another approximately \$700,000 expected by the end of the year) for health care.

The Budget Board also noted that when they analyzed the budget detail for health care, the formulas used were inconsistent with some showing the correct 15 or 16% Co-Shares and many others showing the wrong numbers.

The Co-Shares when those errors are fixed should be \$1,012,784 instead of the \$905,654 they had originally requested.

The Town Administrator noted that the Budget Board could get more details about health care and the co-shares from the School Business Manager and that he would get a copy of the detailed expenditures/invoices that have been paid out for informational purposes for the Budget Board.

The Budget Board will table voting upon Self-Insured Medical until more information is received.

The Budget Board reviewed the Education Budget detail to make adjustments as follows:

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Bill McManus, to reduce the Technology Department budget by \$75,231. in the Data Manager line.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Bill McManus, to reduce the High School budget by \$38,754 in the Reform Consultant line.

The motion passed by a vote of 9-2 with Hagop Jawharjian and Maria Marcello opposed.

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to add \$17,600 to Maintenance and Repairs – HVAC because an error had been made by the School Department in line adjustments.

After discussion the motion and second were withdrawn.

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Maria Marcello, to increase Maintenance and Repairs – HVAC by \$13,600 based on historical expenditures.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Budget Board discussed the fact that there are 2 Vice Principals at the High School, and the justification of that would be a question for the School Committee.

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Bill DiBiasio, that Total Municipal Capital be recommended at \$1,175,000. based on the approved resolution amounts already voted upon at the last meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Budget Board reviewed and voted upon the wording of all of the proposed Capital Resolutions as follows:

Resolution I

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Rhonda Lacombe, to approve the wording of Resolution I as proposed.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution II

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to approve the wording of Resolution II as proposed.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution III

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian, to approve the wording of Resolution III as proposed.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution IV

Voting on Resolution IV will be tabled until the final Budget Board recommended budget is voted on so that the numbers can be used in

the Resolution.

Resolution V

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian, to approve the wording of Resolution V as proposed.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution VI (Police Addition)

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to approve the wording of Resolution VI as proposed.

The Budget Board discussed that the resolution approved last year for this project would have had to have been spent or encumbered by June 30th to not go back to surplus.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution VII – (Albion Park)

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Rhonda Lacombe, to approve the wording of Resolution VII as proposed.

The Budget Board discussed the matching grant for this project and that funding approval from DEM, before receipt, would be sufficient to begin working on the project.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution VIII – (Chase Farm Solar Restrooms)

Bill DiBiasio made a motion to approve the wording of Resolution VIII as proposed.

The Budget Board discussed that they would like more information on the cost estimates of this project as the proposed \$120,000 total seems very high.

The motion to approve was withdrawn.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, to table voting on this Resolution until more information on the cost is received.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution IX – (Chase Farm House Renovations)

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, to approve the wording of Resolution IX as proposed.

The Budget Board discussed whether the project would be a good one for the Town because the property is not historical and at the end of the 5-year curatorship the maintenance and expenses would fall back to the Town.

The motion and second were withdrawn.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian to table voting upon this Resolution pending further information and discussion.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution X – (Pullen’s Corner “Hot Potato” Schoolhouse Restoration and Relocation)

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, to approve the wording of Resolution X as proposed.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution XI (Ferguson Field and Track Renovations)

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, to approve the wording of Resolution XI as approved.

Richard Foster noted that he does not believe the Budget Board has enough information on this project to recommend it to the Financial Town Meeting.

The motion passed by a vote of 9-2 with Bill DiBiasio and Richard Foster opposed.

Resolution XII (High School Campus Study)

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Paul DiDomenico, to approve the wording of Resolution XII as proposed.

The Budget Board discussed that the wording needs to be revised for this Resolution.

The motion and second were withdrawn.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Hagop Jawharjian to table voting upon this Resolution pending discussion and changes to the wording.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Town Administrator will need the numbers of the budget the Budget Board has come up as a recommendation so far in order to provide his tax levy estimates/information.

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.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.