

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

October 23, 2014

Present:

​Carl

Brunetti​​Rhonda

Lacombe​​Bob

Turner​​Paul

Deutsch​

​Maria

Marcello​​Felix

Fernandes​​Bill

McManus​​Chris

Weggeland

Absent:

​Richard

Foster​​Bill

DiBiasio​​​Mike Babbitt

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 4th were distributed for review.

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Rhonda Lacombe, that the minutes be accepted.

The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

There was no new correspondence at the time.

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Old Business

FY 14 Education Budget

The auditors are currently working on the FY14 Education budget, and should have a better health insurance claims estimate and more information by the November 10th Town Council Meeting.

Health Insurance Claims are expended at about 28% so far in the current year.

Municipal Capital Projects

All municipal capital projects have been bid and are being completed on schedule except for the Chase Farm project which was rebid.

School Department Capital Projects

The Ferguson Field Project has been delayed because the School Department is trying to obtain permission to get reimbursement for part of it based on health and safety.

The project is expected to begin by May with hopes that only a few football games will be missed in the fall.

New Business

The Budget Board Meeting Schedule Draft has been submitted to the

Town Clerk.

Municipal and School Contracts

The Municipal contracts have been approved by the Town Council and are awaiting approval of the Union.

Discussion of the School Contracts is still ongoing.

School Committee FY 16 Budget

The Finance Subcommittee has been meeting and doing comparison of like-size communities as well as the number of administrative staff and their pay, etc.

They have also been looking at class sizes.

Proposed Charter Changes

The Budget Board discussed proposed changes to the charter that will be on the ballot for the elections on November 4th and the possibility of writing a letter regarding their position on those changes.

The changes were proposed by Town Council Resolution with wording approved by the Town Solicitor and pertain to the appointment of Budget Board positions and quorum at the Financial Town Meeting.

One of the changes would make it so that the Town Council appoints members of the Budget Board rather than the Budget Board itself.

It was noted that the Budget Board could still choose members if necessary in their own open meetings if the concern is transparency,

and this would retain the Board's autonomy from any other part of the Town.

The Budget Board discussed the budget process and the need to better educate new residents as to how the Town operates as it is not a City Council form of government, but rather one that invites participation in the entire process.

The second change would require 500 signatures, rather than 100, in order to put a Resolution forward to the Financial Town Meeting.

The 100 signature rule coincided with the quorum of the meeting, and it was noted that requiring 500 signatures may make it difficult for the common taxpayer submit counter motions to large items they don't agree with.

The Budget Board discussed the proposed charter changes with Town Council President Keith Macksoud, who was present at the meeting.

Rhonda Lacombe made a motion, seconded by Felix Fernandes, to write a letter to the newspapers with more detailed information about the questions that will appear on the ballot.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Bill McManus, to add information about the Budget Board's position of opposition to the questions to that letter.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Budget Board did not draft a letter at the time as that item did not appear on their original meeting agenda, and instead decided that individual members of the Budget Board, less than a quorum as provided by charter, will draft and submit a letter.

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

The next meeting of the Budget Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 13th at 7:30 pm.

Adjourn

Rhonda Lacombe made a motion, seconded by Maria Marcello, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.