

Town of Lincoln Budget Board Meeting January 29, 2015

Present_

Carl Brunetti Chris Weggeland Mike O'Connell

Bill DiBiasio Bob Turner

Richard roster Rhonda Lacombe

Paul Deutsch Mike Babbitt

Absent:

Felix Fernandes; Bill McManus

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:35 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 13, 2014 and January 8, 2015 were distributed for review.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster to accept the minutes of November 13th.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 6-0 with Rhonda Lacombe, Mike Babbitt and Paul Deutsch abstaining as they were not present

on November 13th.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Roster to accept the minutes of January 8th.

The minutes were approved as amended by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from the Town Administrator regarding the OPEB study.

Also received was the State revenue update which is projecting a FY 2015 deficit of \$34.5 million.

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Old Business

Open District 3 Position

Mike O'Connell was appointed by the Town Council to the open District 3 Budget Board position.

Status of Municipal Capital Projects

The Chase Farm House and Police Station Addition are progressing.

The plumbing and heating for the farm house project do need to be rebid, and they are now taking on a curator and an additional tenant once the house is habitable.

The moving of the Hot Potato School House was met with some challenges from National Grid but those are expected to be

overcome.

Status of School Department Capital Projects

There were budget meetings scheduled for the School Department but they were cancelled due to the weather.

Status of the FY14 Audit

There were no new updates regarding the audit.

It is included on the agenda for the January Town Council meeting as part of the Finance Director's report to them.

While it was not provided by the 12/31 deadline, it is near completion and the auditor will provide explanation for the tardiness.

Tax collections at midpoint of the fiscal year are at 55%, and table game revenues are at \$478,336.

In discussion of the Ferguson Field project, it was noted that if the contract is written within 30 days of the end of the fiscal year, those funds would be considered encumbered.

FY16 Budget Schedule

School Committee Budget Workshops were added to the schedule as well as confirming the dates of the School Department Buildings Tour and Town Facilities Tour.

The Town Administrator will present his budget recommendations to the Budget Board on Thursday, February 12th in advance of the deadline of February 15th set forth by the charter.

The School Committee received an extension of their deadline to get their recommendations in to the Town Administrator due to cancellations of meetings caused by the weather.

The Superintendent will be recommending a 4.3370 increase, 01-\$2,214,110 above the allocation at the 2014 Financial Town Meeting.

The School Committee Chair has indicated that their recommendation will be closer to a 2% increase. .

Medicaid revenues are anticipated to go down with the understanding that they only receive reimbursement for out of district placements.

The Budget Board will ask for clarification of Medicaid revenues from the School Department.

New Business

FY16 School Committee Proposed Education Budget

The Schedule of School Committee Budget Workshop Meetings was distributed for those members of the Budget Board that would like to attend.

The Budget Board will also ask for the electronic copies of any documents regarding the education budget once it has been proposed to the Town Administrator.

The Budget Board discussed retirement rates and it was noted that the retirement age in FY 2015 is increasing to

65. There will be a number of employees (reportedly as many as 30)

who will be anticipated to retire before that change occurs.

Based on that expectation, the Budget Board will be looking at breakage and retirement more conservatively for savings when analyzing the education budget.

The Budget Board also discussed Health Care costs.

The Town is self-insured through Blue Cross and health care claims are received and paid on a weekly basis with an annual fee from Blue Cross for the management of the policies, and a \$250,000 cap per person after which the Town is insured through the Interlocal Trust. Workers Compensation is also insured through the Interlocal Trust.

The Budget Board discussed the possibility of establishing a restricted account in the education budget for health care, which would make distribution of payments smoother.

The Finance Director is in favor of it, but it would require approval of the state legislature.

It would be funded at the beginning of the fiscal year with the estimated cost per employee and any surplus in that account at the end of the year would be rolled over and kept in that account.

The next meeting of the Budget Board will be on Thursday, February 5th.

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Adjourn

Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by Bill Di Biasio, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm