

**Town of Lincoln**

**Budget Board Meeting**

**March 29, 2016**

**Present:**

**Carl Brunetti Mike Babbitt Rhonda Lacombe Bob Turner  
Dave Hartley Bill McManus Paul Deutsch Felix Fernandes  
Mike O'Connell Bill DiBiasio**

**Absent:**

**Maria Marcello**

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**The minutes of March 22nd were distributed for review.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Dave Hartley, to accept the minutes.**

**The minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 9-0 with Bill McManus abstaining as he was not present on March 22nd.**

**The minutes of March 23rd were distributed for review.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Dave Hartley, to accept the minutes.**

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

## **Correspondence**

**Information was received from the Town Administrator.**

**Questions had been forwarded to the Town Administrator regarding the recommendations for the Animal Shelter, which he noted was only in the initial proposal stage and that those questions could be answered in later phases when specifications are noted for the project.**

**The Budget Board discussed that they request detailed backup information for all capital project requests, just as they do for the education budget,**

**It was noted that it generally does not cost anything to have interested prospective contractors pre-qualify for a project and give their ideas of what should be done so that the Town can use that information to come up with a scope of work.**

**The Budget Board sent a list of questions to the Superintendent and received some answers specifically regarding the breakage worksheet.**

**At a Special School Committee Meeting, it was discussed that the schools had applied for reimbursement for health and safety purposes for the concession stands and field renovations at Ferguson Field, which was denied.**

**They may now submit a waiver, which is unlikely to be granted, or**

**proceed without the possibility of reimbursement.**

## **Public Comment**

**Fred Hoppe discussed the voucher system of education and how it would affect school funding across the state as Towns would be forced to pay the difference for students coming in from lower-cost districts.**

**It would also likely impose a maximum number of students that each class could accept.**

**He noted that currently, teachers have to purchase some of their own supplies.**

**Also discussed was whether each individual school would have their own final say on how they would handle voucher system enrollment, etc. and whether such a system would encourage sports recruiting or whether it would strictly be done by lottery for placement at particular schools.**

**It was noted that in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, some communities have not accepted charter schools because their own public schools are performing so well that they would not be necessary.**

**Charter schools are different than private schools because they are considered schools of choice but still under the public school umbrella.**

**It was also noted that the severity and necessity of services and class**

**sizes are not decreasing.**

## **Business**

### **Municipal FY17 Budget**

**The Town Administrator and Finance Director met with the Budget Board at their last meeting, and the Budget Board reviewed some of the items that they had not yet voted upon pending that meeting and discussion.**

### **Department 4140 – Town Clerk**

**Based on the request from the Town Council, the Budget Board had moved Ordinance Codification to the Town Clerk’s budget and had voted to reduce it to \$1,000 based on historical expenditures.**

**The Town Administrator and Finance Director discussed that it should be left in the Town Council budget for \$2,500.**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to remove Ordinance Codification from Town Clerk budget where it had been added for \$1,000.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, that the new total bottom line recommendation for Town Clerk be \$238,634.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### **Department 4820 – Town Council**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, that Ordinance Codification be recommended at \$2,500.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that the new total bottom line recommendation for Town Council be \$59,500.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Department 4830 – Town Solicitor**

**The Budget Board had voted to reduce their recommendation for Litigation and Research from the proposed \$100,000 to \$80,000.**

**After discussion with the Town Administrator and Finance Director, they did not change that vote or recommendation.**

#### **Department 4310 – Engineering**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Rhonda Lacombe, to restore Engineering Aide to a full-position for \$47,762.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, that the recommendation for a total bottom line for Engineering be \$91,901.**

#### **Department 4700 – Fixed Charges**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, that total Fixed Charges be recommended at \$4,694,253.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

## **Department 4500 – Grants and Contributions**

**The Town Administrator and Finance Director had suggested that \$5,000 be removed from the grant for RSVP and moved to Senior Services.**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Dave Hartley, to adjust the recommendation for RSVP by \$5,000.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to increase the recommendation for Senior Services from \$5,000 to \$10,000.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

## **Department 4800 – Public Library**

**Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Rhonda Lacombe, that the total Public Library budget be recommended at \$1,118,759.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

## **Capital Improvement Resolutions**

### **Thibaudeau Barn**

**Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Dave Hartley to recommend that a resolution be put forward for \$50,000 for Thibaudeau Barn Structural and Utility Work with funds that were already encumbered from last year.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**The Budget Board discussed that when the building was sold to the Town, there was a stipulation that it could not be knocked down.**

### **Chase Farm Visitor Center**

**Bob Turner made a motion for discussion purposes, seconded by Rhonda Lacombe, to recommend that a resolution be put forward for \$100,000, with grants of \$400,000 for a total of \$500,000 for an addition to the garage at Chase Farm.**

**Along with the proposal for the addition to the garage, the Town Administrator included an estimate for expanding the parking lot for informational purposes, but was not recommending for that to be done in the coming year.**

**If the grants are not received, the project would not get done.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### **High School Stage II Study**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Bill DiBiasio, to recommend that a resolution be put forward for \$125,000 for the second stage of the High School campus study.**

**The Budget Board discussed that they do not have detail of how that figure of \$125,000 was arrived at, and the motion and second were withdrawn pending discussion with the Town Administrator regarding the amount.**

### **Hot Potato Schoolhouse Renovation**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Bill DiBiasio, to recommend that a resolution be put forward for \$15,000 for the renovation of the Hot Potato Schoolhouse.**

**After discussing what the renovations would entail, including lead abatement and some plastering and floor work, the motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Albion Park Swingset Replacement**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to recommend that a resolution be put forward for \$10,000 for the replacement of the swingset at Albion Park.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Hearthside Porch Roof Repairs**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Bill DiBiasio, to recommend that a resolution be put forward for \$15,000 for the Town's portion of the cost of repair of the Hearthside porch and roof.**

**This project would also include \$15,000 from the Friends of the Hearthside and a grant for \$15,000**

**The motion passed by a vote of 9-0 with Bill McManus abstaining.**

#### **Rescue Truck and Trash Collection Truck**

**The Budget Board discussed the balance of capital reserve funds, and also whether trucks should be purchased as capital items or out of the operating budget.**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Bill DiBiasio, to remove**

**Rescue Truck from the proposed municipal capital resolutions in the amount of \$75,000.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Bill DiBiasio, to remove Trash Trucks from the proposed municipal capital resolutions in the amount of \$84,674.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

### **Animal Shelter Addition/Renovation**

**The Budget Board deferred voting upon the recommendation of the Animal Shelter Addition pending further information and discussion with the Town Administrator.**

### **Operating Capital**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Dave Hartley, to recommend \$75,000 for a Rescue Truck.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Rhonda Lacombe, to recommend \$84,674 for Trash Trucks to include a second one.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Bill McManus made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to change the way the operating capital budget appears so that Curbing and Road Repair will reflect a 0 budget going forward because those items are**

**not obligated**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Mike Babbitt made a motion, seconded by Rhonda Lacombe, that the bottom line in operating capital be reflected as follows:**

**2017-2018 \$204,674**

**2018-2019 \$204,674**

**2019-2020 \$ 40,000**

**2020-2021 \$ 40,000**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Education FY17 Budget**

**In breakage, there are 3 employees that have put in for retirement this year.**

**Positions to be filled are being budgeted at the Bachelors 4 step.**

**The Budget Board discussed that by adding a floating custodian, the substitute custodian line should be able to be reduced.**

**The .6 FTE Athletic Director has been requested to be made full time.**

#### **Public Comment**

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

#### **Adjourn**

**Dave Hartley made a motion, seconded by Rhonda Lacombe, to**

**adjourn the meeting.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.**