

**LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: October 4, 2017
TIME: 6:00 PM
PLACE: Lincoln High School Library
135 Old River Road
Lincoln, RI 02865

School Committee Members Present: Kristine Donabedian, Chair; Joseph Goho, Vice Chair;
John LaFleur, John Picozzi, Mary Anne Roll, Julie Zito
Absent: Staci Rapko-Bruckner, Clerk

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Armand Milazzo, Lori Miller

I. Consideration and Vote to Approve Upgrades to Chet Nichols Field

Lori Miller reported they have been trying to upgrade the field as long as she has been here. It is a safety issue. The infield is almost concrete, there are holes in the outfield; it needs to be fertilized; the bases aren't right; the lips on the field aren't right. There is a lot wrong with the field. Armand, someone from the Town and Kevin McNamara did a lot of research to come up with what would make this field playable again and it needs to be maintained. The infield needs to be raked after every game. Miller reported that Alan Moreau, Town park and Rec Director, said he would make sure that would happen during the summer. The cost is a little over \$18,000 to have a professional company come in and improve the whole infield by putting new mix into the infield, make sure lips are the right height, rebuild mounds, fix the base line and adjust the bases. The outfield needs an irrigation system so seed can be put out there, which will cost \$12,000. Temporary water will be set up the next few weeks when the seed is planted. Armand has an aerator and a slice seeder that school employees can use to do that work. Then it has to be fertilized, limed and grub control applied. The town will clean up around the fence area. Each year it would cost \$2,500-\$3,000 to have a professional contractor come in to verify everything is correct, plus regular upkeep. Lastly, a piece of equipment needed to keep the field free from geese droppings is needed and is on sale for \$6,205. It will thatch at the same time and can be used on other fields.

The Business Manager also received notice from Town Administrator Almond that one of the lights is out. Mice chewed the wiring inside the pole. The cost of repair is \$10,500. If money isn't put into field update request, they won't have that light working next spring. Almond did say he would put reimbursement in his Capital and if voted, they would be reimbursed. Maryanne Roll asked about reimbursement under Health and Safety and Lori said she did have calls into the State but isn't sure it is eligible. Lori Miller explained they had a professional company look at the field, plus Armand, Kevin, Greg. The Chair asked if the \$6,000 fully covers all the ongoing maintenance for that field? The Business Manager said it covers all they know of now. The Chair stated she didn't mind paying for it, but noted Little League uses the field as well. Lori reiterated the Town said they have no money for it this year but will put it in their resolution and if the Budget Board approves it, they will be reimbursed for the \$36,000 and the \$10,500. John Picozzi stated when he met with Parks and Rec in April they talked about getting a waiver form or putting a deposit down so they would be responsible for proper maintenance.

Armand Milazzo stated anyone using the field will have to watch a video that will show how to maintain the field. Joseph Goho suggested having a meeting with the Town to see how to share the maintenance of the field; Lori stated they could have that conversation. Mary Anne Roll expressed concern for Ferguson Field. The Chair stated that should be an agenda item for the budget subcommittee. Motion to approve the funding for the Chet Nichols Field upgrades as recommended, by Picozzi. Seconded by Goho. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

II. Consideration and Vote to Approve Funding Source for Chet Nichols Field Upgrades

The Chair stated the recommendation for funding is out of accumulated surplus. She assumed there was no room in the operating budget. The Business Manager suggested funding up to \$50,000, so she can take it first from the operating budget.

Motion to approve up to \$50,000 for the Chet Nichols Field Upgrade to come from accumulated surplus by Goho. Seconded by Picozzi.

Julie Zito commented that while she supports this, this is a Town field and the accumulated surplus was called educational funds at a previous meeting and now it's being spent on a town field that some of the students use. The Chair agreed, saying that is absolutely true, but the difference is that students use it. While this could be a subject of disagreement she feels this is a form of a classroom, not a concession stand. It is also a safety issue. There is also a commitment from the Town Administrator to support reimbursement.

All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

III. Community Comments

Fred Hoppe commented, as a former baseball coach that has had issues on the field, it's nice to know they still have the issue.

IV. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Goho. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

KRISTINE DONABEDIAN, CHAIR

DATE