

Minutes
Lincoln Finance Committee
Second Budget Workshop
January 20, 2016
7:30pm

Present: Jeff Birchby, Eric Harris, Gina Halsted, Jim Hutchinson, Peyton Marshall (Chair) and Laura Sander.

Absent: Chris Kasper.

Also in attendance were representatives of a number of town agencies and committees and members of the public. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm in the Donaldson Room of the Town Offices. Mr. Marshall began the meeting by welcoming everyone and reviewing the agenda.

The first group to report was to be the Library. Mr. Marshall reported that the Library did not have any update, and were within budget guidelines at the First Workshop, thus there was not much to discuss.

Next was the update from the Town. Tim Higgins, Town Administrator, reported that the Town's preferred budget now is down to just \$48,000 for extra hours for an assistant to the planning board, and that this number was a "plug" number to regrade the position from admin support to a professional position to reflect increased responsibilities. Gary Taylor from the Planning Board then spoke about the benefit these extra hours would be in handling routine matters, speeding up residents' site plan review and processing, and freeing up valuable time for higher level activities, regional planning, and workshops. Mr. Birchby asked whether it was prudent to wait on this until after the newly hired Director of Planning had time to get used to her job and better know what help she needed, but Mr. Higgins and Mr. Taylor assured the Committee that they already had a good person lined up for this position and that the tasks needed to be done were already evident. Mr. Harris spoke in favor of the idea, and Mr. Marshall encouraged the Planning Board to articulate measurable outcomes for this position as they moved forward.

After a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to take the Town preferred budget forward as presented.

Next was the update from Minuteman. Mr. Higgins and Peter Braun, Selectman, discussed the fact that a working group has been created to study the options relating to Minuteman and its possible changes in governance and its new building project. Mr. Braun said Lincoln will have to pay the "old" assessment thru FY2017 regardless, which currently looks like \$150,972 in FY2016 and \$313,107 in FY2017 (not including any possible building project amounts). If Lincoln stayed in the district it would also have to pay roughly \$10,000 in FY2017 as its share of the \$500,000 first round of the building project costs. The costs beyond FY2017 will be covered in subsequent meetings as the Town prepares for the Special Town Meeting in February

regarding Minuteman. After some discussion amongst the Committee, we agreed to use a worst case number of \$325,000 for Minuteman for FY2017.

Next was the update from Lincoln Schools. Jennifer Glass, School Committee, Buck Creel, Administrator for Business and Finance, and Becky McFall, Superintendent, informed the Committee that there were no changes to their budget, which meets guidelines, and they will not put forward a preferred budget. They note that there are school building warrant articles on whether the Town would like to re-enter the MSBA process, and if not, should the Town reallocate \$750,000 to a town exclusive project.

Next was the update from Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. Bella Wong, Superintendent, and Peter Rowe, Director of Finance, informed the Committee that their budget had changed slightly but they were still within guidance. The change was due to excluding debt service per the request of the Sudbury Fincom. To compensate for this, they adjusted their circuit breaker assumption higher to compensate for the loss from excluding debt service. Ms. Wong noted that due to excluding debt service, their “real” increase in budget was only 2.04%. In any case, their numbers are currently based on expectations for moving forward in Sudbury, are unlikely to increase, and are appropriate to use in Lincoln’s Fincom report.

Next was an update from the Capital Planning Committee. Andy Beard, Chairman of CapCom, informed the Committee that CapCom has approved \$538,409 in projects from their \$650,000 operating budget, and were recommending an additional \$320,000 in projects, for a road sweeper and a loader, be financed via debt exclusion. Mr. Beard also briefly reviewed all items reviewed by CapCom.

After a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to take the Capital Planning Committee’s budget forward as presented.

Next the Committee discussed the appropriate OPEB contribution for the coming year. After some discussion about the merits of OPEB funding vs stabilization funding, after a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to keep the OPEB number at the originally planned number of \$750,000.

Next it was agreed that there were no minutes to approve.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.

Submitted by: Jim Hutchinson

Approved: