

Minutes
Lincoln Finance Committee
March 14, 2016
7:30 pm

Present: Jeff Birchby, Gina Halsted, Eric Harris, Jim Hutchinson, Chris Kasper, Peyton Marshall and Laura Sander.

Absent:

This meeting was scheduled as a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen in the Donaldson Room at Town Offices. In attendance were Noah Eckhouse, Peter Braun and Renel Frederickson of the Board of Selectmen and Jennifer Glass, Becky McFall and Buck Creel as representatives of the Lincoln School.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm in the Donaldson Room. Mr Eckhouse and Mr. Marshall opened the meeting.

Ms Glass reviewed the history of recent discussions and plans in Town relating to a building project at the Ballfield Road Campus at the Lincoln School. She reviewed the work of the School Building Advisory Committee and the actions taken at Town Meeting 2015 to approach the MSBA for funding for a major renovation/building project at the Lincoln School and to appropriate funds by means of a capital exclusion to fund plans for the school for an MSBA project. She reviewed the work of the Campus Master Plan committee.

Ms. Glass and Dr. McFall reviewed the most recent approach by the School and the Town to the MSBA, the MSBA's response and information about school projects that had been accepted into the MSBA process this year. The Committee, the Board of Selectmen and the School's representatives discussed the need for a project, the current state of the physical plant, and the School Committee's approach to student safety. Ms Glass summarized the School Committee's recommendations about future approaches to the MSBA and reviewed Warrant Articles 28 and 29 for consideration at the Lincoln Town Meeting scheduled for March 19, 2016.

The Committee, the Board of Selectmen and representatives of the School discussed Ms. Glass' presentation to Town Meeting and discussed possible approaches that might be considered as ways forward to address the School's needs. Following motions duly made and seconded, the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend support of Article 28 to Town Meeting. A discussion ensued about the possibility that Article 28 might not be approved, in which case Article 29 would likely come to the floor of Town Meeting. Following motions duly made and seconded, the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend support of Article 29 to Town Meeting in the event that Article 28 does not pass.

The Committee and the Board of Selectmen briefly discussed some of the process items to be considered going forward with Lincoln no longer a member of the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School District.

At approximately 8:10, there being no further agenda items for joint consideration, the Finance Committee left the Donaldson Room and reconvened without the Board of Selectmen in the 2nd floor conference room at Town Offices.

Mr. Marshall updated the Committee regarding estimates for FY 2017 for Lincoln's assessment by Minuteman following Lincoln's decision to withdraw from the district, the adoption of the new governance provisions by towns in the district and the DESE's recent decision to approve the new governance and membership of the Minuteman district. The Committee discussed the likelihood that Lincoln's FY '17 assessment would be reduced from the amounts originally included in the warrant articles circulated to the Town as part of the Finance Committee Report. The Committee discussed estimates by the school administration and the likelihood that the revised assessment formula based on a rolling average of enrollment instead of the previous year's enrollment would be applicable in FY '17, Lincoln's final year as a member town.

The Committee discussed a possible revision to the warrant article to be moved at Town Meeting by the Finance Committee. The Committee discussed the uncertainties surrounding revised estimates and concluded that it would leave the form of Article 8 intact rather than amend it to reflect a lower appropriation to Minuteman.

Mr. Marshall reviewed discussions with the Moderator and other Committees regarding presentations at Town Meeting.

The Committee discussed its post-Town Meeting agenda and next meeting.

Mr. Marshall reviewed recent conversations with Mr. Kasper regarding his ability to continue as Vice Chair of the Committee. Mr. Kasper indicated that, given a recent professional change, he was no longer able to be Vice Chair. Mr. Marshall agreed to have conversations about next steps to appoint a new Vice Chair.

There being no further business for the, the Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 pm.

Submitted by: Peyton J. Marshall

Approved: