

Minutes
Lincoln Finance Committee Virtual Budget Q&A
Virtual Meeting Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020
Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

May 11, 2021
7:30pm

Finance Committee (FinCom) Member Attendees: Andy Payne (Chair); Paul Blanchfield; Gina Halsted; Nancy Marshall; Rich Rosenbaum; Tom Sander.

Absent: Deb Wallace

Others present: Tim Higgins (Town Administrator), Colleen Wilkins (Town Finance Director); and several members of the community.

Meeting commenced at 7:32pm.

Andy Payne opened the meeting, noting that the Open Meeting Law requirement to have a quorum present in a physical location has been suspended per Governor Baker's March 12th declaration of a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He took a name roll call.

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Mr. Payne began the meeting with a discussion of the FY22 proposed Budget. He addressed a change to Slide#8 in the FinCom presentation that had been recorded and posted for residents. The original slide showed an appropriation for approximately \$117K for School Building Project furniture, fixtures & equipment (FF&E). Mr. Payne clarified that this item was not an appropriation for Town Meeting. The Finance Committee had endorsed the request from the School Committee to use any turnback operational funding for FF&E expense. The \$117K is not an amount that residents will be voting on at Town Meeting.

Mr. Payne invited members of the community to ask questions or share comments. There were no questions or comments.

COVID-19 Reimbursement & Reserve Fund update.

Colleen Wilkins reviewed the current status of expenses and funding availability for COVID-19 related expenses. No allocations or expenses have changed since the last review on April 27th. Ms. Wilkins reviewed two new programs, School ESSER III and the Coronavirus Local Stability Fund, both of which were part of the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) approved by the Biden administration in March. High level state and local guidance has been provided, but details may not be available until sometime in June. The funds will be available until September & December 2024.

With the two new programs, the total COVID19 funds allocated to the Town are close to \$3.2M. The Town has claimed \$710K. About \$2.5M still remain.

After the Annual Town Meeting, Tim Higgins and Ms. Wilkins will be convening a group to consider how to best use the funds for the town. Ms. Wilkins asked for questions.

Next, Ms. Wilkins provided a review of Reserve Fund requests. Projections are unchanged from those reviewed on April 27, with \$273K projected to come back to the Town. Mr. Payne asked for questions.

Mr. Payne reminded the participants that Reserve Fund Transfer Requests will be approved at the FinCom June 8th meeting. Explanatory material for each of the requests will be distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Payne requested that FinCom members review the material in advance to expedite the discussion during the meeting.

Mr. Payne observed that additional members of the community had joined the meeting and asked if any participant had any questions or comments about the proposed FY22 budget. There were no questions or comments from the community.

Liaison Reports

There were no liaison updates.

Town Meeting Logistics

Mr. Payne reviewed the format for the 2021 Annual Town Meeting, which will be substantially the same as the 2020 meeting with no slide presentation. Mr. Payne will be providing a 5-7 minute verbal review of the highlights of the budget, incorporating the feedback and comments provided by FinCom members.

Minutes

Mr. Payne shared the suggested edits to the draft of minutes from the April 27, 2021 meeting. Nancy Marshall shared several additional edits. Tom Sander moved to approve the minutes of April 27, 2021 as amended. Ms. Marshall seconded. Roll call vote "aye" by all, 6-0.

Next Meeting

June 8th at 7:30pm via Zoom.

Adjournment

Ms. Marshall moved to adjourn; Mr. Rosenbaum seconded. Roll call vote "aye" by all, 6-0. at 7:51pm.

Submitted by: Gina Halsted