

Lincoln Budget Board

2/15/24 @ 7:00pm Carl Brunetti

Carl Brunetti, Bob Turner, Bruce Whitehead, Nicholas Rodrigues, **Andrew Esposito**, Sandra Ackerman, Dave Hart, Aidan Carey, Jennifer Stadnik, Marc Beaulieu.

Also in attendance: none

*if marked **red** this denotes absent

Presentation of Town Administrator's Recommended FY24-25 Budget

The Town Administrator presents his Budget by stating that in the process of preparing the FY24-25 Budget he had a great consideration to meet the needs of our community and school districts while been mindful of our taxpayers.

He also stated that the Physical Education Center that cost \$8.3 million dollars was delivered on time and on Budget soon to be the first zero energy school building in the State. And the Town committed funds acquired from the sale of the Fairlawn Elementary School building to a School Capital Revolving Fund which will address improvements to some of the aging school buildings.

The Lincoln Taxpayers approved a \$25 million dollars bond to build new gymnasiums and STEM classrooms at our Elementary Schools, along with \$14 million dollars bond to build centralized Rescue Building. Also the Town Administrator explained his intent to have a comprehensive salary and benefits study done for non-union Municipal employees as some of the staff is above 50% threshold.

"The FY24-25 recommended budget is \$26,319,264 which is an increase of 4.5% over FY23-24."

The Town Administrator will be collaborating with the Members of the Budget Board over several weeks as the Budget board works to prepare and finalize the Municipal budget for FY24-25.

Public Comment:

Email from Lisa Smith, President of the Lonsdale Parents and Teachers Association "I'm here to support the 2025 School Budget and would like to make a few comments about what's happening in our school right now. Currently my daughter is in 3rd grade at Lonsdale which has 58 students, which is 29 a class that's over capacity as well as Saylesville." She's appealing to the Town's planning board, zoning board and Town council to look at and talk about these projects "Condos and Affordable housing" that will bring more kids to the school where it will be difficult to minimize the number of kids per classroom.

Minutes 2/1/24

Motion by Bob Turner to approve and second by Dave Hart unanimous.

Correspondence:

Town Administrator and Finance Director- Have had several conversations regarding budget format and background information – In person and on the phone.

2/2/24, 2/7/24 - Emailed School Administration with request for Education Budget files.

2/2/24 – Emailed Town Administrator and the IT Director about fixing Recording Secretary computer or getting a new one.

2/15/24 – Received Budget files from the School Business Administrator.

New Business:

FY24 Budgets:

Town council has not met since 2/1/24 no update.

FY25 Municipal Budgets:

We just received a copy of the recommended budget, and we didn't have enough time to look at it in dept, we will need additional support from the Town Administrator as we go on. We will look at it before the next meeting.

FY 25 Educational Budgets:

We did receive a copy of the budget documents supporting the educational budget that was recommended by the School Committee and we request a few more documents. There is a difference between what the Town Administrator has recommended, the operating budget side is a difference of \$675 thousand dollars. We will go through each budget in detail.

FY 25 Budget Strategy:

Usually, we take the Municipal budget and review each line. The Education budget we track the major budget changes.

Public Comment:

Email from Ryan Duffy with concern about Lonsdale school class size." He will like the committee to invest in the children and provide the appropriate resources needed to invest in education."

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Bruce Whitehead and second by Bob Turner @7:45pm

Next Meeting date:

2/21/2024 @7PM

