

Lincoln Budget Board

3/20/25 @ 7:00pm Carl Brunetti

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

Also in attendance: None

*If marked **red** this denotes absent

The Department of the publicworks director discussed the need for better maintenance and communication with the library. A needs assessment was emphasized to determine staffing and space requirements. The Town is addressing illegal dumping and improving recycling efforts, with a focus on reducing rejected loads. The Handy Pond dam project requires \$155,000.00 for design and the importance of having engineering designs for projects to be eligible for grants, the Town Administrator mentions the need for additional design work for the Smithfield Avenue streetscape project, and gave an update on the pickleball courts project, including the permit process and construction timeline.

The director of DPW discussed the need for a lift for vehicle maintenance and potential cost saving, also mentioning the need for diagnostic tools to handle large trucks and importance of the software upgrades. The Albion property is being considered for Youth Center relocation to free up space.

The Police Department highlighted the completion of a three-year plan, with significant staffing increases and financial achievements. The creation of a traffic position has improved responsiveness and feedback from town residents. The accreditation and grant writer positions have been busy, with heavy grant writing expected in the next few months. The replacement of firearms and police vehicles, with officers taking good care of equipment leading to unexpected trade in value.

Discussed the dual role of the traffic officer as a fleet manager, saving money by doing more in-house work, with a significant cost saving of \$15,000.00 on a warranty job due to the traffic officer's knowledge and negotiation skills. Mentioned that the fleet manager's expertise has led to a well-maintenance fleet and increased traffic enforcement numbers, highlighted the Municipal citations brought in \$113,000.00 with some funds going to the state. Regarding community engagement and accreditation, the LPD mentioned an increase in community engagement through social media and other efforts. Also highlighted a major grant of \$690,000.00 was awarded for communication equipment, improving radio coverage in the town and emphasizing the dispatch center has been upgraded. Also, the LPD are seeking a \$100,000.00 grant for a narcotics testing machine due to the prevalence of fentanyl, as two officers have had fentanyl exposures, highlighting the need for safer testing methods. The department also plans to upgrade their record management system to CSI, costing \$43,543.00. Additionally, they are requesting an increase from 40 to 41 officers to manage new initiatives like body cameras.

Correspondence:

3/19 – Emailed the school business manager for updates on breakage retirees and health and dental categories costs.

3/19 – Received email from Mario Carreno regarding the revolving fund resolutions.

Public Comment:

Kevin Simpson advocated curb replacement in the Saylesville highlands, citing safety and property value concerns. "The town's budget includes \$50,000.00 for curb and sidewalk repairs, but Simpson requested maximizing funds for comprehensive road and curb reconstruction. The town's 50/50 curb replacement program is currently on the waiting list."

New Business:

FY25 Budget:

Nothing new.

FY26 Municipal Budget:

Scheduled for discussion next week.

FY26 Education Department budget:

The school department will attend the meeting next week.

Public Comment:

None

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Dave Hart and second Jennifer Stadnik @9:30pm

Next Meeting date:

3/25/25 @7PM

3/26/25 @7PM

3/27/25 @7PM