

PRESS RELEASE – TOWN OF LINCOLN

For Immediate Release - May 5, 2008

Re: Recommendation to voters at Financial Town Meeting, for 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget.

Lincoln - Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond announces that he is recommending voters at the Financial Town Meeting support the Budget Board's proposed budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. He said, "The proposed budget represents a 2.72% increase over the previous year, and is well below the 5% limit placed upon the local property tax levy by the State." Almond affirmed; "That while a 5% increase in the local property-tax levy is permitted under the State's Tax-Cap Bill S3050, taxpayers cannot afford it."

He states, "The recommended 2.72% increase will provide essential funding for municipal and educational services; the remainder is needed to restore the loss of revenue to local communities imposed by the State through cuts in Local Revenue Sharing and Aid to Education."

Almond elaborated; "This Administration worked diligently with the Budget Board to make difficult choices in recommending a fiscally responsible budget that would protect local property taxpayers." He explains "If voters at the Financial Town Meeting approve the proposed 2008-2009 budget, it would result in a nominal change of \$.10 cents in the residential tax rate, from \$16.72 to \$16.82. All residential homeowners would continue to receive an additional thirty-five percent Homestead Exemption."

Town Administrator Almond further cautions; "If voters at the Financial Town Meeting elect to increase spending above the recommended budget; it would cause a direct increase to local property taxes." Almond warns: "That until we understand the extent of the fiscal crisis gripping the region, and gain control of the spiraling and unsustainable cost of pension and healthcare benefits, it would be irresponsible to increase spending."

Almond added; "Although the Town of Lincoln remains in excellent fiscal health, the statewide economic downturn is expected to last well into the next fiscal year." He emphasizes; "We must budget responsibly now in preparation for an even more challenging 2009 fiscal year. It will be extremely important this year to protect our AA-bond rating, maintain a responsible accumulated surplus, and continue to promote economic growth if we are to preserve our long-term fiscal health."

He concluded. "I would strongly encourage residents to attend the upcoming Financial Town Meeting, Monday May 12th. The meeting provides all residents an opportunity to exert their power to control local property taxes and help make government services more efficient."