

PRESS RELEASE – TOWN OF LINCOLN

For Immediate Release – September 21, 2010

Re: Lincoln – Town Administrator, T. Joseph Almond announces that Lincoln has closed the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 with an anticipated surplus.

Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond is pleased to announce that the Town of Lincoln has completed the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 with an anticipated budget surplus of approximately \$1.4 million dollars.

Almond said, “Over the past four years, in response to severe economic conditions, the Town of Lincoln has implemented effective budget controls in anticipation of reduced state and local revenues. These budget controls included strict adherence to expenditures that only realistic revenue projections could support, and for the second consecutive year, resulted in an overall reduction of municipal and school operating budgets.”

Almond elaborated, “It is important to note that in preparing the FY 09-10 municipal and school budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, the town anticipated a cut of the last two quarters of the state’s Motor Vehicle Property Tax Reimbursement program threatening an additional revenue loss of 1.4 million dollars in fiscal year 09-10. This revenue loss was anticipated in addition to the severe cuts in State Revenue Sharing of the previous year.”

In response to the severe cuts in state aid and the declining economic forecast for the fiscal year 09-10, the town’s Budget Board agreed to cut expenditures further, lower revenue projections, and tax collections, historically anticipated to reach 100%, were lowered to 96%. Also responsible budget management resulted in actual municipal spending being held to \$535,000 less than approved in the budget process.

“Fortunately for Lincoln taxpayer’s, two additional events occurred leading up to June 30, 2010; first, the collective cities and towns were able to prevent the state from cutting the final two quarters of Motor Vehicle Reimbursement limiting the cut to \$360,000, not the \$1.4 million anticipated. Secondly, locally adjusted tax collections produced almost \$980,000 more than anticipated.”

Action taken during the previous fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, coupled with a further reduction of municipal and school spending, and readjusting the tax anticipation collection up to 97%, has allowed the town to implement its current fiscal year 10-11 budget with no property tax increase, and to implement a \$3,000.00 local motor vehicle exemption to off-set the enacted elimination of the State Motor Vehicle Property Tax Reimbursement of \$2.9 million dollars which occurred on July 1, 2010.

He states, “As a result of responsible fiscal management we have maintained an unrestricted surplus of approximately \$5.6 million, or 8% of our annual fiscal budget. In addition, it is estimated that we will add approximately \$2 million dollars to our restricted surplus accounts

to provide the much needed continuation of capital improvements to roads, parks, recreation, town buildings, and schools. Maintaining a responsible surplus while planning, funding, and implementing significant capital improvements has resulted in an unprecedented upgrade of our financial bond ratings to AA.”

Town Administrator Almond concluded, “Lincoln’s excellent fiscal health could not have been achieved without cooperation, hard work, and sacrifice. I would like to acknowledge the Town Council, Budget Board, department directors, our municipal and school employees, and all local elected officials for protecting local property taxpayers during this fiscal crisis.

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