

**2017 Municipal Budget Process – Town of Lincoln
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2018
Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH**

Attending:

Lincoln Budget Committee: Paul Beaudin, Cindy Rineer, Lutz Wallem, Secretary Susan Chenard, Selectperson Jayne Ludwig, Vice Chairman Herb Gardner, Chairman Mike Simons, Dennis Ducharme, Cindy Lloyd, Jack Daly, Larry Sweeney, Bev Hall
Woodstock Budget Committee: Selectperson Jim Fadden, Emily Clark, Charyl Reardon, Roberta Vigneault, Steve Tower, Chad Morris
Staff: Lincoln Town Manager Butch Burbank, Recreation Director Tara Tower, Public Works Director Nate Hadaway, Finance Office Helen Jones
Audience, many from Linwood Ambulance and Linwood Medical Center BOD: Ivan Strickon, Ken Chapman, Rob Wetherell, Patrick Griffin, Paula Strickon, Roberta Vigneault, Chad Morris, Faith Desjardins, Meg Haase, Amy Snyder, Bonnie Stevens, Judy Welch, AJ Sousa, Tammy Ham, Joel Bourassa, Gil Rand, Ron Beard, Ted Smith and others

Call to Order: Chairman Simons called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

There were no minutes ready to be approved today.

Recreation – #21 – Tara ensured budget committee members had her handout explaining the details and adjustments on her budgets. Her salary, as Recreation Director, went from 35 to 40 hours, as well as seeing the 3% increase. Seasonal staff wages are also now set at 3%, rather than the 50 cents/hour from the past. Overtime is down, based on usage, and there's less guessing on that amount now. The part-time winter supervisor is doing grooming now. She's added internet to do online credit card payments. Charyl asked about suspending the Paypal service for that during off months. Tara will investigate that. This option allowed for \$30,000 in online payments last year, most happening between 9pm and 2am. The Adventure Camp van rental increased by \$1000, but the Kanc Camp rental decreased about \$1200. The ski tow liability company that we use was bought out and so that insurance increased. Paul asked if it was the best price, and it seemed to be. Electricity for the new garage is estimated at \$1000, which is 33% of the Kanc Building. Materials and supplies are the same, as is fuel. Propane increases, based on estimates. In the TOL Parks and Patriotic budget, we'll repair/replace ski area lighting with plans to replace bulbs one per year. We'll also replenish the playground bark mulch. Last year, this budget at \$248,530 came in at \$208,257.11. Tara explained that not enough staff had applied and we'd lost a part-time staff member too, of course. This year, she has a great staff, and is hoping they'll all plan to bring a friend next year. Jack asked about getting interns, like they have at New England Disabled Sports, and Tara thought this a great idea. Mike complimented Tara on her restrained budget spending. Butch explained that part of the reduction in costs is that public works is covering David D's hours since his unexpected passing. Public Works time cards now show which department worked. Tara continued that the department came in close to, and over budgeted for, income. Programs sold out fast. Cindy R asked about calculating the cost to make water for the Kanc ski slope. We're at 1.3 mill gallons

so far and about $\frac{3}{4}$ done with season. This would be \$4600 if compared to what we charged the Ice Castles, who paid \$10,000 for 5 million gallons. Paul wondered if water could be an expense and half charged to Woodstock. 1.5 million gallons would be the maximum guess per Nate. In response to Paul, Jayne felt it would be better to assess this at a later date, especially the public works hours, so as not to add this last-minute expense for Woodstock. Paul said we don't bill the school for their water. We want to have a full year of 2018 before charging. Tammy H would like to have more discussion about why we would charge Woodstock for water when we don't charge anyone else except for a commercial entity for it. This conversation should be a joint Lincoln-Woodstock Board of Selectmen discussion. Public Works labor is already an established practice, as it is labor. Butch said his directive was to measure usage, not think billing.

Community Building – #18 – Tara explained that the Program Coordinators wage increase shows his 3% from last year's increase, from his anniversary date. Wireless will now be available to use at the facility, based on the same costs that library has, in response to demand from groups renting the space short-term. There has been Wi-Fi for seniors and the childcare center, but if one went, it shut off the other, and neither should have been used in that fashion. Metel serviced by Fairpoint is current option, but we hope to change to a less expensive option soon. Certified Computers, again showing the large difference as we switch to 5-year plan which includes updating/replacing computers. Servers are \$10,000, but everyone backs up to it. The copier lease is increased as it had to be replaced; the new one now does color and punching, etc., so no longer using the town hall one. Computer maintenance is now zeroed out under supplies, due to the increase above. Under building maintenance, wall insulation was zeroed out, as it is more pressing to work on roof replacement. There's a hole where the new meets the old, and it's leaking into the child care center. Nate Hadaway estimated \$50,000 based on his measurements, and previous town building replacements, etc. This should be for the whole building, but it hasn't gone to bid. Gil Rand said he'd like to help get estimates. General building property maintenance was increased based on what it's currently costing to maintain the building, like door closers, heat tape, electrical work, boilers (one needs replacing), etc. There was the question of if there was a scheduled maintenance plan, so that Woodstock can save towards it too. It is in our CIP, and we're happy to share that to provide more of a 10-year plan, not just a few months heads up.

Solid Waste - #15 - Nate explained that beside the 3% wage increase, part time help is now higher as we're open all day now on Thursdays. Property liability insurance shows the correct figure this year, while last year was a miscalculation. Butch is going out to bid on this type of insurance too. We plan to do another household hazardous waste collection day. We've applied for that grant as usual. Heating fuel/off-road diesel was increased based on what they used this past year. Equipment repairs went up to reflect actual costs as well. Paul asked again about the General Repairs and Equipment line, budgeted at \$5,000, but only used \$1200 this year. It could be more at any time, and is still held for emergencies.

Linwood Ambulance - Ivan Strickon, president of the Board of Trustees for Linwood Medical Center and Linwood Ambulance Service, a dba. of LMC. Ivan read a Budget Contribution

89 Proposal into the minutes, whereby the Linwood Ambulance Service (LAS) is looking for an
90 increase of \$35,000 in donations from each town, beyond the \$40,000 already discussed in
91 Health Appropriations. He explained that they replaced one 15-year-old ambulance last year,
92 but the other is also 15 years old. Staff is aging towards retirement. There's a continuing need to
93 replace other medical equipment. Plans for the use of these funds include: 1. a capital reserve
94 at \$50,000/yr. in anticipation of the next vehicle in 4 years (they have 3), 2. \$1200 per member
95 for training, 3. the balance to go to updating medical equipment. Herb publicly thanked Linwood
96 ambulance for when they saved his wife's life many times, both in Woodstock and Lincoln. They
97 have lived all over and it's the best ambulance service. Jack asked if this was a 4-year capital
98 plan, where you would be asking for this every year for 4 years? Ivan responded that this would
99 be a permanent annual request. He explained how often they cannot collect funds; they cannot
100 bill for people they don't actually transport, and of those they do, 1/3 have Medicare, who only
101 approves 30% of the bill and only pays 80% of that amount. Larry agrees that the service
102 provided is excellent. However, he's skeptical that they'll be able to flatline at this amount. Ivan
103 would like to see each town create a line item for public safety. Butch asked about collections
104 on billing. Ken Chapman, as finance officer, responded, that they've written off \$137,000 in
105 2017, and \$130,000 in 2016. They pay 6.5 cents on every dollar collected for collection efforts.
106 They wrote off over \$800,000 in Medicare billing. They get 26-31% of billed amounts. Medicare
107 doesn't pay for ambulance transportation, only Medicare B pays for that. But that has an
108 additional cost of \$135/month to those who would qualify, so many choose not to purchase that
109 insurance. Butch asked if revenues from the ambulance maintain the Medical Center building
110 and was told they do not. Patrick Griffin stood up, as a member of the ambulance squad, and
111 said that Linwood Ambulance is a fiscally responsible organization. Ken, who he jokingly
112 referred to as Ebenezer Scrooge, as a has building and 3 ambulances. Pat felt the problem right
113 now is staff; some have left town, others don't want to do it anymore, Ken, who is a practicing
114 EMT at 74 years of age, another is 70, another 2 in their mid-60's. A basic EMT course is
115 \$1250. We've lost the sense of community. Pay is \$1.5/hour on call or \$15 per call. He feels that
116 we also need paid staff, not just to replace the ambulance. They no longer make diesel engines,
117 so new ambulances barely last as long as the older ones. Cindy L wondered if we could pull the
118 ambulance out of Health Agencies and put it into public safety, and then put it into the CIP.
119 Woodstock does this already. Patrick said that this is not doable because it is a private
120 corporation, 501c3. \$40,000 originally asked for and \$35,000 now would be \$75,000. Tammy
121 said that Peter Joseph looked into privatizing the ambulance service when he was town
122 manager, but found it would be much more expensive. Jayne said that she agreed volunteerism
123 is dying. There didn't seem to be enough money to fund employees at livable wages. Ivan said
124 he'd prefer to have just the 2 paid positions, maybe 1-part time additional. There's the \$1500
125 initial course for an EMT, then several hundred per year to maintain that status. Paramedics pay
126 additional. There are actually 3 different protocols; for A-EMT, an EMT and Paramedics. Some
127 cannot administer drugs, or only basics ones. (Herb left at 7:07pm.) The ambulance maintains
128 AED's and trains people to use them. Butch asked about the \$35,000 increase; how did they get
129 there, and with expenditures for classes, are there paybacks for classes per an agreement? The
130 paramedic courses is covered by 25%, if 2 years' service and x # of shifts, or on a
131 reimbursement plan. Linwood trust pays into capital reserve, and 12 splits between items 2 and
132 3 at \$10,000 each. Bev asked about the percentage of calls from Loon and do they contribute.

Robert said that calls to Loon Mountain are actually the best patients, as they are typically insured and pay nearly 100%. Loon does contribute to the annual tennis tournament. Bev asked what kind of donations the ambulance service gets from the corporations in this town, and was told that the ambulance service has not approached them, as they are generous already. Perhaps better publicity of the situation will increase donations. Paula Strickon felt that the ambulance service should be supported in the same fashion as the fire service and police department. Cindy L asked if anyone had a problem with giving them the monies, as they were simply asking for funding to do their job well. Woodstock also doesn't vote till the end of the budget season on their budgets, but they had this discussion recently and they supported going forward. Ken said they have tax returns in each building, which the town can review. He pointed out that Robert has been chief and covering 30 shifts instead of the 4 that his position requires. Adding \$10 per person to insurance costs, said Ivan in response to why we would be spending. Training and recertification costs are mostly paid out of pocket of the staff. Ivan would be happy to present his information at town meeting as well. The Town of Lincoln budget committee also generally seemed in favor of supporting the ambulance.

Motion: To adjourn at 7:32pm

Motion: Jayne Ludwig

Second: Larry Sweeney

Motion passes unanimously


Chairman Mike Simons

2/15/18
Date