

**2019 Municipal Budget Process – Town of Lincoln
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2018
Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH**

Attending: Larry Sweeney, Jack Daly, Cindy Lloyd, Tracey Brumlik, Dennis Ducharme,
Chairman Mike Simons, Vice-Chairman Herb Gardner, Selectperson Jayne Ludwig, Secretary
Susan Chenard, Lutz Wallem, Jim Spanos, and Paul Beaudin

Excused: Beverly Hall

Audience: Tamra Ham

Call to order: Chairman Simons called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. He thanked Jayne and the Selectboard for getting the budgets to us in time to start our process before the New Year.

Motion: To approve the Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2018, as written.

Motion: Jayne Ludwig Second: Cindy Lloyd Motion carries unanimously

Jayne reminded Mike that Jane Leslie would need the agenda up 24 hours in advance of each meeting. He's working on a standardized version with all dates. Mike distributed copies of additional minutes and more. He will bring all printed matter needed for a meeting in the future.

Motion: To approve the Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2018, as amended.

Motion: Herb Gardner Second: Cindy Lloyd Motion carries with 2 abstentions

Meeting Schedule for Budget Review Season

The meeting schedule for this budget season was distributed. Mike had not included January 22nd in his email to the Town earlier this week. We'll leave it in with extra dates for now. Tracey noted that the January 16th meeting will be held in Woodstock Town Hall at 5:30pm. That's the Wednesday meeting to replace the 15th, originally scheduled, and will be held at a different location. Jayne also suggested adding additional dates as needed, and which dates they are. (January 22, 24 and 29) A revised version of the Meeting Schedule will be presented on Thursday.

Review of available budgets from administration

The other day, Butch and Mike didn't think there would be anything ready until after the holidays. But thank you to the Town, Butch and Johnna, and the Selectboard for getting the budgets ready to be started on Thursday. Budgets were distributed today, so we have two days to read and prepare before our first discussion thereof.

5:42pm – Discussion of questions to the Town.

Mike had sent the remaining questions to the Town Manager, which didn't have to do with the ambulance:

-How much did the town pay out in insurance settlements? Answer - This list does not exist.

Paul said that you can go to the Town Clerk to request all settlements, and they will show it to you, but you cannot take it. Jack was surprised that this information was not available. Jayne

45 isn't sure why we can't disclose this, and will work to get it for us. Jack is looking for the bottom
46 line. (5:51pm) "How much the town has expended in settlement agreements over the past 5
47 years, the associated legal costs with those settlements, and how much of the settlement and
48 legal fees has been covered by insurance, and how much has the town expended for legal fees
49 to cover such settlements?" Jayne had a sheet that showed separate totals by case. She read
50 the list of suits pending. Jack clarified that he was looking for dollars spent, legal fees as a result
51 of court actions, how much expended in settlements, how much paid by the town, how much by
52 insurance, how much were legal expenses by town and legal expenses by insurance. Paul
53 wondered how we spent roughly \$1.1 million, while appropriations were over \$700,000. Tamra
54 said it came from unexpended fund balance. It was court ordered, so needed to be paid. Jayne
55 will work to get us the settlement information.

56
57 6:01pm - Levee repairs, cost items and budget approved for this. Mike asked Jayne to speak on
58 it. The handout shows that the budget came from Bond 2016 of \$1,310,000, 2016 Taxation of
59 \$90,000 and 2017 of Taxation \$75,000. After expected payment to Coleman, there's about
60 \$3961.92 left. Paul wondered if there would be more costs, since the project isn't complete yet.
61 Jayne said we're hoping not, but there's a concern about that, which she can't talk about, as it is
62 a legal issue. Jack asked about E&O insurance of engineer, regarding extra work due to
63 incorrect bedrock location and additional costs needed last year. This would be part of the same
64 legal issue.

65
66 6:04pm - Pollard Road sidewalk budget and final cost - Paul saw that we have \$101,697.21 left
67 available. At the Selectboard meeting, they said they were planning on fixing the turnouts of
68 \$25,000 by Lincoln Trucking and Excavation. We'd encumber the \$101,697.21 by the \$25,000,
69 not appropriate additional. We haven't finalized that loan yet, said Tamra. Next step, in April, is
70 the final borrowed amount. It won't affect next year's tax rate, said Tamra.

71 72 **Other business**

73 6:06pm West Street expenditure report - Paul had asked about that. What can Jayne tell us?
74 Paul has this expenditure report. It was talked about at the Selectboard meeting the other night,
75 but she won't have more information till a later date. Jack asked when it would be completed.
76 Jayne said her heart goes out to the residents there and it will be completed, but she can't talk
77 about this either due to legal issue.

78
79 6:10pm Questions on November expenses.

80 Cindy asked why police car accident repairs were in vehicle and maintenance, and not covered
81 by insurance, if it was rear-ended. Jayne will clarify why the police car maintenance budget was
82 so much higher, as she thought it would be covered by insurance as well.

83 Also, fire equipment was over by \$10,000. Butch told Jayne it was for vehicle repairs.

84 Why was sewer electricity \$8,200 over? We turned on more aerators at a time, often all of them,
85 so that it doesn't smell bad.

86 Why was sewer over by the same \$5,000 amount that public works was under (and it has a
87 minus versus parentheses)? Was that a glitch? Jayne will check.

88 Contracted services in water treatment, was over budget, as it included the hydrant flow study.

89 6:15pm Paul was at the Selectboard meeting last night, when the Fire Department budget was
90 discussed. It has been greatly increased, so Paul wanted us to be prepared. Mike said he got
91 that information from Ron today and will send it out. (It increased from ~\$130,000 to \$346,792.)
92 It was \$25,000 more before the Selectboard cut it. Tamra said that Ron had a good presentation
93 to explain the increase and would be able to answer all of our questions.
94

95 6:20pm Mike pointed out that we're combining methods and he is ok with it. We're presenting
96 questions verbally to Jayne and she will respond (rather than through him, the Chairman). All of
97 today's questions will be Jayne's to provide answers:

98 Sewer general repairs and minus sign

99 West Street and funding - how much more funding, are we set yet

100 Levee, funding and results

101 Rear end accident question with Police vehicle

102 Mike has Jack's question regarding legal costs, for her to refer to
103

104 Paul asked about, for example, if we have questions regarding the fire department, to whom we
105 send these. Mike said to send all questions to him, so he can forward them to the Town. They
106 can then send them to the appropriate people, so the department head is ready when they
107 present.
108

109 **Motion:** To Adjourn at 6:26pm

110 Motion: Herb Gardner

Second: Larry Sweeney

Motion carries unanimously

111
112 
113 _____
114 Chairman Mike Simons

12/18/19

Date