

**Lincoln Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2008
5:00 pm**

Present: Chairman Deanna Huot, Selectman Patricia McTeague, Selectman Peter Moore, Town Manager Ted Sutton, Recording Secretary Susan Chenard
Audience members: Charlie Cook and WT Bishop

Approval of public meeting minutes of February 20, 2008, non-public meeting minutes of February 20, 2008 and non-public meeting minutes of February 22, 2008: A **motion** was made by Selectman Moore, seconded by Selectman McTeague, to approve the public meeting minutes of February 20, 2008, non-public meeting minutes of February 20, 2008 and non-public meeting minutes of February 22, 2008, as written. The vote was unanimous.

Routine Business

- **Accept contribution to Fire Department from Centex** – Town Manager Sutton explained that Centex Destination Properties was making a donation to the Town of Lincoln to help cover future costs of a new fire truck or equipment as part of their development agreement. A **motion** was made by Selectman McTeague, seconded by Selectman Moore, to accept \$117,500 from Centex Destination Properties; this sum to be placed into the general fund. A warrant article for next week's Town Meeting should move this sum into the Fire Department Truck and Truck Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.
- **Review finalized police union agreement** – Town Manager Sutton reviewed the process of arriving at the finalized police union agreement, which the Board of Selectmen signed on February 22, 2008. Negotiations had started on August 12, 2007 and continued till last week to complete final negotiations. The Town Manager felt it was a fair contract and that it might help in retaining police officers via the change from 43 to 42 hours, and a change of the health plan. The union members will be able to take advantage of an excellent health plan provided through the union. Chairman Huot thanked Town Manager Sutton for all of his diligent work on this process, being instrumental to bringing the negotiations to a point that all parties were satisfied. The Town Manager pointed out that when the negotiations were done about several years ago, which included development of a step pay plan; it had cost \$25,000 just for an outside negotiator and the Town Manager felt we had saved money on the process by just using the board members and himself, emphasizing the importance of the Town Manager type of government.
- **Congratulations to the Lin-Wood Girl's Ski Team** – The Lin-Wood Girl's Ski Team became Division IV State Champions at a recent event at Loon Mountain. The Boys Team came in 2nd at the event at Cannon. Both teams train at the Kanc Rec. ski hill, where the increased number of times they can race a course without having to wait in lift lines or skiing to a course was very helpful to their training.

- **Congratulations to Shannon O'Connor and Kate Woodward** – These two sophomores from Lincoln placed in the top 10 of 140 competitors at the New Hampshire high school level nine gymnastics meet. They train three hours a day, six days a week, said Chairman Huot. Shannon O'Connor runs the gymnastics program through the recreation department already. Chairman Huot spoke about how the recreation program helps so many young people in our community; they can earn their first paycheck, learn to work with children and learn to manage a program.

Other Business

- Town Manager Sutton reported that Susan Whitman has been reviewing all exemptions for veterans and the blind, as some people pass away, get divorced or move away, etc.
- The Town Manager invited the Board of Selectmen to the Village Core Group meeting scheduled for 1pm on Friday, March 7th, with Mike Scarano from Grafton County Economic Development Council and various fund raisers.
- Town Manager Sutton next reported on some concerning news. The Coalition Communities are meeting at Local Government Center on March 27th to discuss the school funding issue. A lobbyist friend of the Town Manager's said, however, that since there are many small groups looking to push their own agenda, be it gambling, schools, income taxes, etc., that the amendment may not pass and we may become a donor town again. Chairman Huot described a report she had seen on the WMUR website on February 28th regarding school adequacy, where it described the Town of Lincoln having to pay out over \$900,000 to other communities if we do become a donor town again, based on 2006 valuation.
- The Town Manager asked the Board of Selectmen if they had any questions on their respective warrant articles. They said they would see him individually if needed.
- Town Manager Sutton reported that he had heard back from Bill Willey regarding shoveling of snow off municipal buildings. They were shoveling off the flat roof of the water treatment plant today, and had been doing much shoveling over the season so far at the community center. There is actually a leak between two sections of the new community building and the Town Manager is working on getting that repaired in the spring, as it is impractical to do so at this time. The Public Works department has been within budget for salt, sand and the hours of plowing snow so far, though fuel costs are higher than planned. November and December may change that though.
- The Town Manager reported that Ed O'Brien and Denys Draper had stopped in to thank him for his work in trying to reduce the jail costs. They used to own the Franconia Notch Motel but still live in Grafton County, in Easton. They had seen the recent article in the Littleton Courier.
- Town Manager Sutton is still working on a plan to fix the Loon Bridge. He is also trying to get money via municipal highway grant aid. It may get turned down however, as it could be seen as maintenance work.
- Town Manager Sutton thanked Susan Chenard for all her work on creating this year's Town report, which will be delivered this week, and is available online. He

mentioned her ability to turn out this quality piece while still handling all of her other duties. The Board of Selectmen echoed his sentiments.

- Selectman Moore wondered about how much money is left in the incinerator closeout fund, and if it was still necessary to fund that this year since the incinerator has been removed. Town Manager Sutton replied that we were still waiting for some bills to come in regards to that project, and that was safer to place money in that fund this year and then look to re-appropriate it next year. Both Lincoln and Woodstock are planning to appropriate their usual amounts towards solid waste.
- Selectman Moore was happy to see the graphs describing the different parts of how our tax dollars are spent, within the community and within the state, in the town report. They put a different perspective on these expenditures.
- Chairman Huot asked if the Town Manager had heard anything back regarding the Shoreland Protection Act and our letter asking for exemption. Town Manager Sutton replied that he talked with the State and they would like more detailed maps.

Public Participation

Charlie Cook wondered if the Selectmen were all set with the figure to be transferred out of the White Water Plant Removal Capital Reserve Fund and the amount to be transferred into the Village Center and Riverfront Park Expendable Trust Fund. Chairman Huot said yes, the amount had been changed in the warrant article and any residual interest could remain in the general fund.

Mr. Cook also thanked the Public Works crew for the great job they have been doing in a trying winter. The roads and sidewalks have been kept well and were only slippery during one rainstorm.

WT Bishop reported that he had spoken with Rick Kelley who said that Loon Mountain was speaking with the Forest Service about putting wind turbines at the top of Loon. So Mr. Bishop also contacted the Governor about doing the same thing at Cannon where there is a lot of wind. Mr. Bishop also reported that he spoke with Paul Hatch regarding the wildfire plan, and Mr. Hatch said that FEMA does not have enough people to review it currently.

At 5:45 pm, Town Manager Sutton left, the meeting was adjourned and the Selectboard reviewed payroll and accounts payable check registers for the week ending March 2, 2008.

Date: _____

Approved by:

Chairman Deanna Huot

Selectman Peter Moore

Selectman Patricia McTeague