

Lincoln Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2008
5:08 pm

Present: Chairman Peter Moore, Selectman Deanna Huot, Selectman Patricia McTeague, Administrative Assistant Susan Chenard, Town Manager Peter Joseph
Audience member: WT Bishop

Approval of public meeting minutes of June 16, 2008: A **motion** was made by Selectman Huot, seconded by Selectman McTeague, to approve the public meeting minutes of June 16, 2008, as amended. The vote was unanimous. In the future, no draft meeting minutes will be distributed, but rather only final minutes after the Board of Selectmen has approved the minutes. In the interest of full disclosure, a copy of the draft minutes can be reviewed at the Town Hall if necessary.

Routine Business

- **Lincoln Green Workshop Session Update** – Town Manager Joseph distributed a copy of a letter to be sent to the owner of the Lincoln Green facility for the Selectmen’s signature. An amendment was noted, and the Selectmen signed the letter later. A discussion ensued regarding how well maintained the facility and its grounds are kept. As the current subsidized rent contract expires in 2012, the Board felt that it made sense to plan ahead for the future of the facility and its inhabitants.
- **Urban Shoreland Exemption Update** – Town Manager Joseph spoke with Jennifer Czysz again this week. She explained that anything applied for at this time would not be looked at until July 1st anyhow, and suggested breaking the exemption request into 4-5 geographical sections. She writes recommendations, which then go to DES, but they typically follow those recommendations. The request would be submitted all in one package, but described in individual sections. She could deny any portion of a section. There was a question as to if any of the main stem of the Pemigewasset River is already exempted. Town Manager Joseph felt we could also take pictures of some of the maps in the Town Hall which show the old mill facilities, etc. He will discuss the situation with the Village Core committee tomorrow.
- **Common Man property** – Town Manager Joseph and Secretary Chenard researched and found deeds and minutes from 1973 showing how the Kanc Rec property was transferred to the Town of Lincoln. There was no mention of the Town not being able to subdivide the property. In looking at the Land Use Plan Ordinance, there is no provision under the Rural Residential zoning for, or against, using the property as a parking lot. The parcel to be sold is Rural Residential and would remain so, so it should also be appraised as such. The Board agreed that if Alex Ray wanted to build something, he’d have to follow the Rural Residential zoning rules and setbacks anyhow. We should send a letter to Mr. Ray, letting him know about the Rural Residential zoning, as well as creating

a Memorandum of Understanding between Town and Mr. Ray, confirming that he would be paying for the appraisal, whether he buys the property or not. We may ask the appraiser to bill the Common Man directly. There was a short discussion regarding what were to happen if someone bids more during the 41:14-a process, and the Board felt that it should do whatever is in the best interest of the community.

- **New Hampshire Retirement System Update** – Town Manager Joseph described House Bill 1645, the omnibus retirement bill, which recently passed both the House and Senate. He handed out a description of Employers Projected Retirement Rates for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011 and other related changes. Employees, Teachers, Police and Fire employees each have a different percentage that employers must put into the system for them, ranging 9.09% to 24.69%. These changes will need to be taken into account during the budgeting process, as personnel costs could increase about 10% due to something that was not dealt with by the state government. The medical subsidy had increased by 8% and was funded from surplus, but now increases will be 0-4% and will be funded out of general funds, thereby becoming the responsibility of the employers. Municipal employees retired before 2009, and police and fire employees that were hired before 2001, are eligible for the subsidy. No changes were made to benefits or retirement ages. Also, the governance board still has 8 employee representatives, 1 employer representative and 5 neutral representatives. The described changes will happen as of July 1, 2009.

In relation to this, Town Manager Joseph described a retirement plan he is involved in through International City Manager's Association (ICMA), called ICMA-RC. This is a retirement plan, like a 401k, where Lincoln employees could participate as a municipality, with payroll deduction by the employees only, with no cost to the town. This would be separate from the NH Retirement System, and is available to part-time employees as well. As the Board seemed interested, the Town Manager will distribute more information on this at a future meeting.

Other Business

- Town Manager Joseph will be distributing a weekly Manager's Report to review or answer miscellaneous items. This week's report included items such as a planned visit on July 15 to the Woodstock Board of Selectmen's meeting, reminder of Bill Willey's Master Roads Scholar graduation, acceptance of the revised health care participation agreement with the union, and announcement of the Police Academy graduation of Officer Kratz on Friday. There was some discussion of a resolution that Time Warner would like the Town to sign claiming we had no objection to the spin-off of Time Warner Cable. The Board would like to research this further and does not plan to sign this resolution at this time.

- The letter and first bills to Woodstock regarding the recreation and community center billing will go out tomorrow.

- Chairman Moore asked about the status of the Loon Bridge issue. The Town Manager reported that he has met with the contractor who will be coming up to do the state-required work on the piers. One of 7 beams has an issue with deteriorating concrete,

caused, not by the plows hitting the shoe, but rather that the anchor bolts and shoes were improperly aligned when the bridge was built or rebuilt. Left unrepaired, the bridge would be posted for speed and weight, or could be closed. The contractor believes that less work is actually needed at this time, but three other shoes on one pier are having an issue that should be looked at over the next few years. So rather than paying about \$60,000 as budgeted for this project this year, we could spend \$27,000 on the worst pier (the one mentioned by the state) and \$22,000 on one of the other deteriorating piers this year, for a total of roughly \$49,000. The other two piers could be done next year at roughly \$22,000 each. The Town Manager explained that the original 4 girders have a problem, while the 3 new ones were done correctly, when the bridge was expanded. The expansion joint does not need to be repaired, per the contractor's engineer, and the Town Manager said that the State is more concerned about under the bridge than over, so this would be in line with the work suggested by the engineer. Selectman Huot wondered if, once mobilized, other costs would be less and could be accomplished with the difference in the budgeted amount. Town Manager Joseph will check into that and make sure the state is happy with the new proposed project. The contractor has actually had an opening come up in their schedule, and could start repair work this week rather than in September, with which the state would be much happier. The Town Manager touched base with Rick Kelley at Loon, who would have preferred the work being done after Columbus Day, but the Board was definitely in favor of doing the work sooner, although they do understand Mr. Kelley's position. Only one of three lanes would be cordoned off, and the work should take about 4-5 weeks based on the original work scope. Town Manager Joseph described State Bridge Aid options, and mentioned that his former town has 3 red-listed bridges, while Lincoln really only has the one to worry about.

- There was a break-in at the Public Works garage this weekend. At 2am today the Lincoln Police Department found the back door pried open and Public Works Director Willey estimates that about \$3000 worth of tools were stolen. The Board discussed changes that could be made, varying from a system that just makes noise and scares intruders away, or a system that records what goes on, and/or one that calls the police dispatch directly. Chairman Moore mentioned that Lincoln has an alarm ordinance whereby alarms must be registered with the Police Department, and it outlaws external alarms. An auto-dialer was discussed, with a monthly fee and Chairman Moore will look into these and other options. We need to prevent further thefts, but at least no-one was hurt and no malicious damage was done.

- Chairman Moore reminded the Board of the Public Works tours scheduled for June 30th (for roads) and July 14th (for facilities) at 3pm each. Each tour will be followed with a regular meeting afterwards.

- Chairman Moore asked the Town Manager if he has spoken with Ken Chapman yet. Town Manager Joseph said that he has met with him briefly and would be touring their ambulance facility tomorrow. He believes he should be joining their board soon.

- Selectman Huot gave an update on the recreation department's van. The red van cannot be made inspectable. Recreation Department Manager Tara Tower has been looking for rentals as a short-term solution, as the summer programs have just started. Parents and volunteers have been helping out in the meantime, but we need to keep looking for a van to purchase, even if from farther away. Otherwise, we are trying to find

a donation, and she suggested posting a want ad on Channel 3 or in the local papers to see if someone has connections.

- Selectman Huot wanted to compliment the employees of Lincoln in general. She received nice help at the solid waste facility from Paul Beaudin and Todd Webster. This morning, the Department of Public Works helped one of her guests get a motorcycle into the truck. Later, she noticed a police officer go out of his way to help another citizen.

- Secretary Chenard reported that we have received a revised quote from Franconia Gas for the heating unit repairs. A great big thank you goes to Saber Mountain Partners for donating \$10,000 towards this project, but we need to determine from where the roughly \$936 in extra costs will come. Town Manager Joseph will check on the amount available in the community center account, and the Board asked him to see if Franconia Gas would come down on price.

- Town Manager Joseph gave the Board of Selectmen two citations to sign. One will go to Chris LaBrecque for his Eagle Scout status and the other to Bill Willey for his Master Roads Scholar achievement. We will most likely do an annual recognition, maybe at the Christmas party, for large, round numbers of years of service to the Town. For example, Tara Tower has been here for 10 years as of last week.

- Secretary Chenard reported that the Energy and Water Committee was looking for some direction from the Board of Selectmen. The Town Manager will join that committee and be a liaison between the Board of Selectmen and that committee.

Public participation

WT Bishop handed out information on water savings programs, as he is head of the water subcommittee on the Energy and Water Committee. He also spoke on food conservation, and Selectman Huot described the SERVE food co-op now available in Lincoln. Fliers are available at the Town Hall and library. One needs to volunteer for 2 hours per month and pre-pay for the food, but it seems like a good deal.

At 7:05 pm, the meeting was adjourned and the Board of Selectmen reviewed payroll and accounts payable check registers for the week ending June 22, 2008.

Date: _____

Approved by:

Chairman Peter Moore Selectman Deanna Huot Selectman Patricia McTeague