

**Lincoln Board of Selectmen**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 4, 2008**  
**5:30 pm**

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

**Routine Business**

- **Approval of meeting minutes** - A **motion** was made by Selectman McTeague, seconded by Chairman Moore, to approve the public meeting minutes of July 28, 2008, as amended. The vote was unanimous.
- **Fireworks Options for next Independence Day** – RS Fireworks, who did last year’s fireworks, can only do them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> of July next year. American Thunder, who had quoted for this year, said they could do the 4<sup>th</sup> next year, for \$8000. They were recommended by Fire Chief Haynes, and have done displays for Loon Mountain’s January Independence Day festivities. We’ll need to check with them about the deposit date and non-appropriations clause, and mention the topography and need to get the fireworks higher.
- **Supplemental Life Insurance Offer from New York Life** – Debbie Lozanov has met with the Town Manager about whole life (versus term life) insurance. She would like to make a presentation to the Town employees to describe this portable insurance package. It is investment related and would be done as a voluntary payroll deduction. Charlie Cook felt we would need to allow multiple people to do such presentations if we allowed her to do so. He suggested making her business card available to employees. Chairman Moore felt it would provide a unfair business opportunity to one single business by helping New York Life to solicit employees while they are on the clock. Chairman Moore suggested mentioning her offer at the next staff meeting and passing out contact information. Employees could then contact her at their
- **Utility Pole License on Bern Dibner Road** – Town Manager Joseph described the history of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and how telephone pole licensing came about. Anytime a utility pole gets put up in a Town right-of-way, the Selectmen need to sign off on it. This telephone pole is scheduled for Bern Dibner Road. The Board wondered if it was a replacement or new pole. Chairman Moore and Selectman McTeague suggested checking with Selectman Huot, in whose neighborhood the pole will be located, to make sure it won’t be located in an obtrusive location. If she agrees to the license, they will as well.
- **Review of Year to Date Revenues and Expenditures** – Town Manager Joseph described the year to date figures as mixed news. We have collected roughly \$10,000 more in property tax this first issue than we did by July of last year. But the tax lien numbers went from about \$60,000 in 2007 to \$276,000 in 2008. This indicates that people who didn’t pay their taxes in 2007 are some of the same who continue to be delinquent in 2008. Susan Whitman sent out statements again today. If this pattern continues it could cause cash flow problems at the end of the

year. Chairman Moore wondered if we could contact some people or entities owing the largest figures more personally, by letter or phone, to see if they are planning on paying their outstanding taxes, and when/if we can plan for that money to be paid. In the meantime, The Town Manager noted that Tax Collector Susan Whitman is really on top of this collection process.

Regarding expenses, the Town Manager explained that for a straight-line budget, we should be at 42% of the budget used so far. Public Works will be pinched a bit this fall, as they are already over in salt, sand and overtime due to last winter's record snows. The Recreation Department is also over budget, but seasonal. The Personnel Department is right on schedule, and property insurance is paid for the year. Police, fire, emergency management, street lighting, sewer, water, and solid waste are all on track or below budget. The contingency fund has approximately 75% remaining. Chairman Moore noted that we will be in the red for heating fuel, as we already are for the Community Center. Welfare is already at 75% of budget, but the summer has been good so far. We will need to budget a higher amount for fuel help next year. Town Manager Joseph mentioned a "Keep Peterborough Warm" fund that he worked with in Peterborough. The fund was distributed through the welfare department, and designed to help individuals who may not qualify for heating assistance, but can't afford full fuel prices. Maybe we could organize something similar here, with the help of Rotary and other non-profit businesses like the Chamber of Commerce, etc. Charlie Cook felt it was a good idea too. He thought Judd Gregg's bill had loosened some boundaries on income thresholds, to include middle-income families, and we should steer towards those federal and state government funds. Mr. Cook was most concerned with the Community Building and Recreation Department's budget for electricity and heating fuel, like propane. If these are under-budgeted, he wondered where money will come from for Christmas break snowmaking. Chairman Moore asked for actual gallons used in various fuels, and the Town Manager noted he is already working on this with Finance Director Helen Jones, for all energy types. We have a fixed price for propane, and have tentatively signed for fuel oil, he believes, at about \$4.30. Chairman Moore feels the Community Center gallons will go down, with the insulation and heating upgrades. He felt the Electric Co-operative may be able to give us a number as to what percentage can be saved with these upgrades. Mr. Cook feels people will start saying we can't spend this much on the Recreation Department, particularly in these lean times. We need to do a serious review of ticket prices at the Kanc too, and obstacles like the jump, to be built of earth, need to be built before snow flies and the ground freezes. Town Manager Joseph has asked Recreation Department Director Tower to meet with Loon Mountain to see how they plan for snowmaking there, etc. WT Bishop said Satter put a well in near the Kanc ski slope, and if there is one, we should tap in to it ASAP. If not, we need to look at getting one there, so we don't use expensive treated water. Chairman Moore said that we need to have a defensible plan for budget meetings. The Town Manager has been speaking with Ms. Tower to create a tighter plan.

➤ **Town Manager's Weekly Report**

- The Town Manager is meeting Tuesday with representatives of the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) and Department of Environmental Services (DES) at the DES offices to deliver our Urban Exemption application for the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act.

- We have had a few lightning strikes over the past few days. Thursday night one struck the electrical systems at the water treatment plant and the Forest Ridge tank. The manual controls did work and David Beaudin kept everything running smoothly over the weekend. On Saturday, the Route 3 water pump station was affected when an underground cable was struck. We will be submitting claims to our insurance company. Director of Public Works Willey and Mr. Beaudin have been working with Ellis Engineering to repair all three sites. Ellis Engineering's team may be up on Wednesday to finish any work.

- Police Chief Smith is willing to become the new Deputy Health Officer in Ted Sutton's place. A **motion** was made by Chairman Moore, seconded by Selectman McTeague, to appoint Chief Smith as Deputy Health Officer. The vote was unanimous.

- The business Park contractor will be in touch with Bill Johnstone of the NHEC to work out the details of the lighting. Assuming that works out, we've contacted Attorney Malia to coordinate drafting the necessary deeds. There was some question as to if there will be three or six poles. Chairman Moore asked the Town Manager to find out who picks where the lights will be placed.

### **Other Business**

- Selectman McTeague reported that work started on Henry Lane at 7am today. Quite a bit was done at the other end of the road. She felt everyone was excited as their cars were out of the way early. This led to a discussion of various traffic topics. Mr. Bishop mentioned that the stop sign by Lahout's has lost its writing. The Board and audience talked about pedestrian signs, and the need for more of them, as traffic is moving more quickly now. Everyone is looking forward to the white stripes too, to clarify where there is parking or no parking. Also, the bike path needs to be marked better. Mr. Cook feels it should be on Pollard Road, and that we need to look at where the bike path is laid out in general, so it can be striped correctly. The Board decided to review the bike route signage and status after the paving and striping has been completed.

- Chairman Moore pointed out the article in the Littleton Courier regarding the Grafton County Economic Development Council (GCEDC) visit to the business park a few weeks ago.

- Chairman Moore also mentioned a flier he had received regarding election classes, and noted that one will be in Campton in late August. Town manager Joseph mentioned that he had worked as moderator at several elections, and feels comfortable with those positions. Selectman McTeague said she would be interested in attending one of the classes.

- The Town Manager pointed out an interesting article about structurally deficient bridges around the country. It lists New Hampshire as one of the least responsive states in addressing their problem bridges.

- The New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) will look at the large tree behind the fire department next time their right-of-way crew is out. We do have the affected pole

number. Mr. Cook mentioned the tree near 7 Boyle Street, where a branch fell off as he ran by the other day. NHEC will do tree work if a tree poses danger to lines. Mr. Cook also asked about the schedule of the right-of-way crew, as he felt it was every few years. The Town Manager will check when they will be here.

- Chairman Moore asked Town Manager Joseph to start working on the Urban Exemption application for the main branch of the Pemigewasset River as soon as he has presented the East Branch Pemigewasset application.

- Chairman Moore asked if there had been any follow up with Mr. Dumont regarding the parcel that abuts his property and the business park property. Town Manager Joseph said that Mr. Dumont is working outside of Town over the summer, but he expects to follow up with him at a later date. Selectman McTeague felt that Mr. Dumont should pursue the Town on this subject, not vice versa.

- Chairman Moore mentioned that if we put up any signage at the river, we need to make sure we don't create liability. The Town Manager explained that he had received an email from the State, at Mr. Bishop's behest, regarding their policy on signage. They generally do not post water bodies for hazards or thin ice, as they can't post every spot where they may be a hazard. They said that the East Branch Pemi is state property, but individual property owners could technically post their property, but that may not be a good idea.

- The Town Manager explained that we're still working on switching to US Cellular, but need an escape clause for non-appropriations. He said that any company that responds to a State bid has to offer the same contract to subdivisions of the State, like cities and towns, etc. The state contract has a non-appropriations clause and budget limits, and the State can add or remove users at no cost/penalty. Verizon, Nextel and US Cellular are all bound to offer these terms to towns, as they have contracts with the State of New Hampshire.

**Public Participation**

Charlie Cook gave Town Manager Joseph an article he found in the Union Leader regarding the North Country being the place to retire. Chester Kahn and Tara Tower were both quoted extensively.

WT Bishop has an article detailing that more people are moving out of State than into the State. The Town Manager said that for the past several years, New Hampshire was the only New England state that has had more people moving in than out, and that has apparently shifted now. Jobs and climate seem to be major causes. A big portion is due to property values and the retirement shift, as the baby boomers are selling their property, and moving to the south and west to retire.

At 7:12 pm, the meeting was adjourned and the Board of Selectmen reviewed payroll and accounts payable check registers for the week ending August 3, 2008.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by:

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Chairman Peter Moore

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Selectman Deanna Huot

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Selectman Patricia McTeague