

Lincoln Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2008 - 5:00 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

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Routine Business

- **Approval of the Public Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2008** - A motion was made by Selectman McTeague, seconded by Chairman Moore, to approve the public meeting minutes of October 20, 2008, as amended. Selectman Huot abstained as she was not present. The vote was unanimous.
- **Approval of the Public Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2008** - A motion was made by Selectman McTeague, seconded by Chairman Moore, to approve the public meeting minutes of October 22, 2008, as written. Selectman Huot abstained as she was not present. The vote was unanimous.
- **Review of proposed fee schedule for use of the Community Building** – Town Manager Joseph distributed copies of the current and proposed fee schedules for the Father Roger Bilodeau Community Center. The new fee structure proposed for January 1, 2009 represents the consensus of the Community Center Building Committee. Selectman Huot reported that some people commented that a birthday party should not cost anything, but others explained that there are related expenses for the building. One party had asked to use the facility for an overnight, which brought about the idea of adding separate time allowances; 4 hours versus 8 hours. There would still be no charge for non-profit groups holding a non-fundraising event. Chairman Moore asked for clarification on paragraph 7: Is smoking allowed outside, on the property? This seems to be the case, though the school has no smoking on property at all. On paragraph 15, the Chairman wondered if just one person, or the organization they represent, should be responsible. Selectman Huot suggested the term “renter”, but after some discussion, the term “User” was preferred as not everyone will pay rent. Selectman McTeague asked about the community center’s current usage, and the Town Manager replied that it is being used a few times a month. Selectman Huot reviewed some of Tara Tower’s research, such as that Concord charges \$16/hour for a similar facility, and another town said they had recently increased their charges and saw a reduction in usage. WT Bishop asked about the facility’s capacity, and was told it is 130 people. Chairman Moore reviewed some of the proposed costs. With this new fee schedule, a Category 3 entity (any for profit organization or out of town group) could use the facility for \$50-75 plus custodial expenses for the Multi Purpose Room, and \$100-125 including the kitchen. A resident could use the Multi Purpose Room for a private function for \$30-50, or \$75-125 with the kitchen. Local non-profit, non-fundraising events, like AA, scouts, etc., have free use of the Multi Purpose Room. Selectman McTeague said we could raise prices if demand warranted it, but Selectman Huot does want to encourage usage of the facility. The Board approved of the committee’s recommendations.

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- **Review of draft FY 2009 Budget Committee Schedule** – The Board of Selectmen would like a copy of the proposed budget to study on their own, and then discuss at an open meeting. They hope to get the results to the budget committee after Thanksgiving. Chairman Moore noted that it is very difficult to keep to a 4% budget increase as he's seen while creating the Library budget. Town Manager Joseph noted that next year also has 53 pay periods, so it will look like a 2% pay increase to all employees. He is in the process of fine-tuning budgets after the first round of budget discussions. Charlie Cook asked that the schedule not include meetings the week before Christmas as there are so many holiday events to attend. We do have space in January before the Public Hearing in early February. There was some discussion of the fuel oil lock at \$4+, but we only use about 5000 gallons per year, while propane is locked in at \$2.39 and is currently priced at \$4 or so. Town Manager Joseph noted there is a penalty for breaking any fuel contract, so we would need to weigh that decision.
- **Town Manager's Report**
 - Town Manager Joseph was recently appointed to a seat on the Lincoln-Woodstock Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, which had been occupied by former Town Manager Ted Sutton, and by Police Chief Smith in the interim, as Town representatives. Selectman McTeague congratulated him.
 - Three recent BTLA (Board of Tax and Land Appeals) cases, brought by various Village of Loon condo associations, have been dismissed. The associations failed to submit the required documents.
 - The Lincoln Annual Town Report again won a 1st place for the 751-1500 population category. (Town Manager Joseph also won for Peterborough's annual report in their population category.) We will accept our award at the Local Government Center conference on November 13th. There was a short discussion of cost reduction via CD's or delivery versus pick-up.
 - The Town Manager noted that the next day would be a very busy election day and said that Moderator OJ Robinson had asked him and the Selectmen to assist with ballot counting that evening. He would represent the Selectmen at the polls throughout the day.

Other Business

- Chairman Moore attempted to schedule a budget meeting for Solid Waste with the Town Manager for next Wednesday, but they would both be at the LGC conference.
- Helen Jones returned with the revised budget meeting schedule which included a December 11th meeting and the rest in early to mid-January. Charlie Cook noted that we need to recruit new members, though OJ Robinson was coming back, and Mary Conn would be serving. He was not sure about Mike Simons or Joan Hughes, but last year there were a few times where the committee barely had a quorum. Town Manager Joseph had mentioned reducing the number of people on the committee, from 13 to about 9, reducing the quorum from 7 to 5 people, but this would have to be a Town Meeting vote. Chairman Moore suggested contacting last year's members to see how many would still be needed.
- Selectman Huot asked about the meeting with the County Representatives, which is set for November 10th. Town Manager Joseph said they were looking for questions in

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advance and the Board mentioned the jail, the budget, the farm, long-term planning, and a capital improvement plan. The Town Manager said there is now another court case pending, as he had heard from Representative Edmond Gionet.

- Selectman Huot asked who was paying for the surveying work at the Business Park. The Town Manager explained that the corner pins of the master lot were paid for by the contractor, but pins for the individual lots will be paid by the Town, and Sabourn Surveying is doing that now.

Public Comment

- WT Bishop asked about the status of GIS mapping and the Town Manager explained that we were still planning on continuing as Cartographic Associates had suggested. The new tax maps will take effect this spring and layers are scheduled tentatively for next year and beyond, starting with property lines, buildings, roads, basic water and sewer, etc. Mr. Bishop feels this will be good asset to Public Works Director Bill Willey. The Board felt it would also be useful for when Mr. Willey retires some day.
- WT Bishop asked if anyone was going to the Ammonusic Energy Expo in a few weeks. He was disappointed at the poor attendance at our energy meeting on October 22nd at the Community Center. Town Manager Joseph suggested that weatherization be made part of heating assistance, as a supplement for any future help in that regard. Chairman Moore suggested Fire Chief Nate Haynes use his heat detecting equipment to practice on the Town building.
- Charlie Cook mentioned that 4 Sullivan County towns were planning to hold back their county taxes until their commissioners do what they want them to do – hire a professional budget person. They don't even have an accountant on staff, said the Town Manager.
- Charlie Cook noted that someone had “decorated” the levee, writing “Don't Mass up NH” or something similar, in bright yellow paint.
- WT Bishop said that Trout Unlimited was planning to take out the old Dodgeville dam, near the Old Hole.

At 6:36 pm, the meeting was adjourned and the Board of Selectmen reviewed payroll and accounts payable check registers for the week ending November 2, 2008.

Date: _____

Approved by:

Chairman Peter Moore

Selectman Deanna Huot

Selectman Patricia McTeague