

LINCOLN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2015
LINCOLN TOWN HALL - 148 MAIN STREET, LINCOLN, NH

Board of Selectmen Present: O.J. Robinson, Patricia McTeague, and Tamra Ham.

Staff Present: Town Manager Burbank, Police Chief Smith, and Recording Secretary Brook Rose.

Public Present: David and Helen Rogers (Rogers Ski & Sport), Wade Bush (Abbey Wine Cellar), Jayne Ludwig, Pat Romprey, and Susan and Jim Walsh (Purple Tomato).

I. CALL TO ORDER

O.J. Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

II. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION: “To approve the minutes of the February 2, 2015 Board of Selectmen’s meeting as amended.”

Motion: Tamra Ham

Second: Patricia McTeague

All in favor.

MOTION: “To approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015 Board of Selectmen’s meeting as amended.”

Motion: Tamra Ham

Second: Patricia McTeague

All in favor.

III. OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Weekend Traffic Management / Public Participation

Town Manager Burbank stated there were some traffic issues and congestion this past Saturday especially between the hours of 3:00pm-6:00pm. Police Chief Smith stated that part of the problem was that only one shuttle bus was running. He added that the Ice Castle management would be increasing the number of shuttle busses beginning on Saturday. Other alterations to improve the flow of traffic include additional signage; two details officers rather than one, and the use of the I-93 traffic sign directing traffic to exit 33. The Ice Castle management will also be updating their website and Facebook page pointing traffic to park at Whale’s Tale as well as contributing \$5,000 towards the Town’s purchase of another electronic sign. Loon Mountain Resort will also contribute funds for additional signage.

The consensus of the members of public present at the meeting was that the Town must do something about the high volume of traffic that is blocking access to their Main Street businesses. All agreed that they are seeing a huge loss in business due to the high volume of traffic. David Rogers submitted (the attached) petition signed by several business owners speaking out against the traffic conditions created because of the large volume of tourists visiting the Ice Castle.

O.J. Robinson stated that the neither the Town nor the Ice Castle anticipated the amount of visitors that would travel from all over New England to Lincoln. All parties are working diligently every day to mitigate the traffic. He added that the Board welcomes any suggestions from the public.

While Helen Rogers expressed her opinion that a portion of the ice castle be demolished to allow for the flow of traffic out of the back side of the Hobo, all agreed that offsite parking and shuttle busses would help substantially. Wade Bush also raised concerns about the safety of pedestrians who are walking to the ice castle.

David Rogers questioned whether the Ice Castle would have to go to the Planning Board for review next year. O.J. Robinson replied that locating the castle at the Hobo Railroad was not considered a change of use, however it is his opinion that it should still go before the Planning Board.

Tamra Ham commented that not all business owners are unhappy with the large amount of visitors coming to town. She read a letter from the Kanc Motor Lodge in support of the business the Ice Castle has brought into town (attached).

Mr. & Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Bush, and Mr. & Mrs. Walsh all expressed many concerns about the negative impact the traffic (coming from every direction) is having on their business and the fact that even locals are staying away because of it. Jim Walsh stated that they keep hearing from their local customers that people are not happy with the traffic in Town and are avoiding coming into Town in the evenings because of it. Helen Rogers added that the Town is too small for the Ice Castle business. There are not enough restaurants or roads in Town to handle the impact this business is having on the community. Susan Walsh requested that the Ice Castle change the address on their website to be the address of Whale's Tale during the weekend/vacation week. Chief Smith will bring this idea to their attention. Jayne Ludwig suggested the use of the school parking lot. She will bring this idea to the next school board meeting.

The Board reiterated that all suggestions made would be taken into consideration and that changes would be made next year. The traffic situation is being closely monitored every day to minimize congestion. Town Manager Burbank will have town staff get the word out on the Town's website and Facebook page that the primary parking for the Ice Castle is at Whale's Tale. O.J. added that the Town and the Ice Castle Company will do the following to help improve the situation: Fully advertise that Whale's Tale is the primary parking for the Ice Castle, bring in additional shuttle busses, additional signage, more cones/lane control, and a second officer for Main Street and to assist with moving traffic in and out of Rogers Ski and Sport.

At this time, all members of the public left the meeting.

Town Manager's Report

Junkyards

A cease and desist was sent to Mr. Chenard. There is a good possibility that this matter may have to go back to court as no action is being taken on the property.

Sewer Line

Town Manager Burbank informed the Board that the least expensive way to fix the situation of the Town's sewer line running on private property is to reroute the line and get easements to do so. The Board discussed the details of rerouting the line.

Water Valves

Two water valves recently malfunctioned. Thus, there are some unexpected funds that need to be taken from the CIP to replace these valves.

Upcoming Meeting

The Board decided to post a brief work session for Monday, February 16th. No public input will be accepted at the meeting.

IV. NON PUBLIC SESSION pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(a,e)

MOTION: "To go into Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(e) personnel, legal ."

Motion: Tamra Ham Second: Patricia McTeague Roll call vote was all in favor.

The Board went into non-public session at 7:25pm.

MOTION: "To enter back into public session."

Motion: O.J. Robinson Second: Patricia McTeague Roll call vote was all in favor.

The Board came back into public session at 8:05pm.

V. ADJOURNMENT

After reviewing the weekly accounts payables and with no further business to attend to, the Board made the following motion.

MOTION: "To adjourn."

Motion: O.J. Robinson Second: Tamra Ham All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brook Rose

Approval Date ____/____/____

Chairman O.J. Robinson

Tamra Ham

Patricia McTeague