

Lincoln Board of Selectmen - Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2009 - 5:00 pm

Present: Chairman Peter Moore, Selectman Deanna Huot, Town Manager Peter Joseph, and Administrative Assistant Susan Chenard

Audience members: Helen Jones, Pauline Paste, and David Beaudin

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Routine Business

- **Approval of the Public Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2009** – Chairman Moore noted that the minutes could not be approved as only Selectman Huot was present at this meeting and had been present on January 12, 2009. This item was postponed to the February 2nd meeting.
- **Treasurer Candidate Pauline Paste Introduction** – Town Manager Joseph reported that we had been looking for a replacement treasurer, as Judy Tetley is retiring. John Hettinger suggested Pauline Paste, so Finance Director Helen Jones called her, and she seemed interested in the position. Ms. Paste explained that she had met with the Board of Selectmen about 3 years ago to see if we needed a volunteer anywhere. Her experience includes her position as Director of Finance for 17 years at Lincoln-Sudbury regional School District. She is a certified treasurer in Massachusetts, and said that the school district had an AAA rating with Moody's. She noted that she is out of town several weeks every spring and fall; however, she could work from afar, as she does in Massachusetts. Selectman Huot asked who would sign checks, and Ms. Paste said that she had software that printed her name on checks, or she could leave a hand stamp in the office and approve information via fax. She would also be reconciling bank statements, and would note any differences. Town Manager Joseph said we should also think about having a Deputy Treasurer. Finance Director Jones said she is thrilled by Pauline Paste's experience and expertise, and is looking forward to discussing other financial questions with her as well. Chairman Moore felt it was an obvious opportunity for the Town, and if The Town Manager and Ms. Jones were comfortable, he was in support of the appointment. Selectman Huot noted that Ms. Paste would need to run for election at this year's Town Meeting, as the Board could only appoint her until that time. A **motion** was made by Selectman Huot, seconded by Chairman Moore, to appoint Pauline Paste as the Town Treasurer until Town Meeting on March 10, 2009, at which time she may be elected to the position. The vote was unanimous.
- **CADY Visit** – We were informed that the representatives from CADY, the Communities for Alcohol- and Drug-free Youth, would not be coming this evening.
- **Snowmaking Discussion** – The board recognized David Beaudin as he was in the audience. His first question was if the Kanc Rec. Ski Area had been set at 200 hours of snowmaking for the ski season or for the fiscal year. Selectman Huot explained that the Budget Committee was looking at an annual figure, while the ski area worked on a seasonal basis. She described an example of the ski area using possibly 80 hours in December and 120 in the rest of the season. Town Manager Joseph explained that he has asked Recreation Director Tara Tower to review a variety of policies, and she will be reporting on these at the February 2nd meeting. Mr. Beaudin was happy to see that snowmaking was now being concentrated on the coldest days, but has not seen the gallons used decrease; in fact he feels the area used more water. According to his calculations at the water

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treatment plant, over 2.5 million gallons of water have already been used for 84 hours less snowmaking than the previous year. Mr. Beaudin agreed with a recent comment by Town Manager Joseph that we should look at the number of gallons used as well. However, the meter at the Kanc starts at 100,000 gallons, while at the plant, he calculates the difference from normal usage. He suggested getting a more accurate water meter at the ski area, as well as an hour meter at the pump. Both would take away any conflicts as to the amounts used. The Board agreed that this could be a further refinement of the policy discussion that was started when hours of snowmaking were originally discussed. The Town Manager suggested that the issue be discussed further over the coming year so that a solid policy could be developed before next ski season. Having a better-defined policy would help eliminate any confusion between the Board, the ski area staff, and the public as to what the standards and expectations were surrounding snowmaking at the ski area. Chairman Moore felt we needed better communication and monitoring, but that if we create a policy and have adequate monitoring, the Kanc management could choose what to do with the snowmaking, as they are generally more knowledgeable on the subject. Town Manager Joseph noted that Ms. Tower would also be talking about ticketing costs and controls, as well as general Kanc Rec. policies at the next Selectmen's meeting.

- **Snowmobile Club Lease Extension** – Town Manager Joseph has been working with Chris Goodbout, president of the White Mountain Snowmobile Club (WMSC) regarding a long-term lease of the “old salt shed” on Route 3. The snowmobile club currently rents the old salt shed on an annual basis, but would like a 10-year lease so as to have security to spend considerable money to improve the building with such things as new siding and roofing. This long-term lease would need to be approved at Town Meeting. The Selectmen and Town Manager discussed any changes they would like to see made to a draft lease, such keeping the property orderly and possible “screening” with plants towards Hanson Farm, that alterations could be made and/or left by mutual agreement, that the rent should be the amount they would otherwise pay in property taxes and that they continue to work with the Town and allow us to store snow on the backside of the property. Selectman Huot noted the club does maintain trails that bring business to the community, and let us use the property if we need it in the summer. David Beaudin noted that the snowmobile club charges fees to people who store their machines there. The Selectmen felt that it is a non-profit but does need to cover expenses. The new lease would start July 1, 2009. Selectman Moore would like photos of the building and property taken in the spring to have a record of starting conditions. The Selectmen instructed the Town Manager to put together an article for the warrant for Town Meeting based on a 10-year lease with payments being due at tax value.
- **Discussion of Warrant Articles for March 2009 Town Meeting** – The Selectmen and Town Manager reviewed a handout of draft warrant articles. A discussion revolved around the two articles proposed for rebuilding the tow hut at the Kanc Rec ski area. The Selectmen proposed \$22,000, based on a quote through the Public Works Department, and while a petitioned article asks for \$40,000. Increases in some capital budget items, costs for police departments items such as cruisers, union contract cost items and detail work, and engineering costs for a major road project were all also discussed. The Board also discussed a

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request from South Peak/MDR to have a bill paid by check as opposed to water and sewer credits as originally agreed, and decided to continue this topic at next week's meeting when Selectman McTeague could participate.

➤ **Town manager's weekly report**

1. The Village of Loon homeowners' associations (3) had their BTLA cases dismissed a second time. They had asked for the timeshare units to be assessed on an income approach as commercial properties, but the Bureau of Tax and Land Appeals noted that there is a specific RSA that spells out that they will be assessed as wholly-owned units from a sales approach.
2. Some A-frame signs are still a problem. We have sent letters and spoken with the property owner responsible for having them removed, who said that they would solve the issue, but have not done so. The Board is definitely in favor of imposing fines at this point, and asked the Town Manager to move forward .
3. The Police Department had a small competition this year, based on arrests, traffic safety and parking tickets. The Chief would like to reward each category winner with 4 hours of paid time off, but wanted to make sure that this was in line with our personnel policy. Chairman Moore felt that incentives that were budgeted for should be encouraged, and Selectman Huot felt that incentives should be available across all departments, but both felt that anything including vacation time or payroll costs would not be appropriate. Town Manger Joseph suggested an Employee of the Year program for all Town employees, which the Selectmen found an excellent idea. The Town Manager ran such a program in his previous position.
4. Representative Paul Hodes held a briefing in Concord today, and the Town Manager attended, hoping to acquire money for Lincoln. However, it seems most of the funding is going to the Transportation Department for 10-year highway projects. No specific projects were to be earmarked. We are more likely to benefit through grants such as CDBG, rural community, energy efficiency, water & sewer projects, etc.

Other business

- The Town Manager suggested a PowerPoint presentation for Town Meeting to describe each warrant article with notes. We will check on costs for purchasing a projector, but will see about using the school's projector that night. Selectman Huot asked that the Town Manager make sure department heads attend.
- There was a brief discussion of the progress of the Annual Report, which is coming along well. We could use more pictures of the solid waste facility, this year's theme. The Selectmen will think about to whom to dedicate the report.

At 7:24 pm, the meeting was adjourned and the Board of Selectmen reviewed payroll and accounts payable check registers for the week ending January 25, 2009.

Date: _____

Approved by:

Chairman Peter Moore

Selectman Deanna Huot

Selectman Patricia McTeague