

LINCOLN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2014
LINCOLN TOWN HALL - 148 MAIN STREET, LINCOLN, NH

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

Planning Board Present: Pat Romprey, Paula Strickon, Jim Spanos, and John Hettinger

Staff Present: Town Manager Burbank, Planning & Zoning Administrator Carole Bont, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chairman Paul Beaudin, Public Works Director Bill Willey, Fire Chief Ron Beard, and Recording Secretary Brook Rose.

Public Present: Attendance list attached.

I. CALL TO ORDER

O.J. Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

II. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION: "To approve the minutes of the October 6, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting as amended."

Motion: Tamra Ham **Second:** O.J. Robinson **Motion carries with Patricia McTeague abstaining.**

Amendments are to delete lines 112-114.

MOTION: "To approve the non-public minutes of the October 6, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting."

Motion: Tamra Ham **Second:** O.J. Robinson **Motion carries with Patricia McTeague abstaining.**

III. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON SOUTH MOUNTAIN WATER SYSTEM

Town Manager Burbank informed the board that the upper corridor of South Peak has marginal to no fire protection due to the inadequacy of the current water system and the need to upgrade. He informed them that the Loon Mountain pumps should have been moved within months of the installation of the pump station. However, six years later they're still sitting in the same place. Because of this, the town's pumps lose pressure and heat up to the point that they are damaged. The new homes on Hemlock Drive have little fire protection which is unacceptable. Town Manager Burbank has been in contact with developer, Ed Wendler who has been very responsive and is planning to meet with the Town in the very near future.

Public Works Director Bill Willey added that in order to make everything run more efficiently, the pumps need to be relocated. The town is losing around 100 gallons/minute because of the pressure on the pump. Relocating the pump station to a lower elevation will make a very noticeable improvement. He explained that there are three phases to the project. He added that some of the work has been done but it was never finished due to the multiple changes in ownership on South Peak.

Mr. Burbank stated that the current owners are motivated to correct the situation as they are in the midst of subdividing and selling lots. The town is working closely with them to remediate the situation. He stated that the fire chief was unaware until recently that the fire hydrants up in this area are not adequate. With a surge in upcoming development, the town needs to commit funds to updating the current water system engineering study which is several years old. O.J. stated that The Landing provided a plan for a demand system for that area and the Town may want to consider those plans at the same time. Town Manager Burbank will research the Planning Board's approvals for The Landing to see what was designed for that area. Town Manager Burbank will ask that the engineer do a critique of the town's water system taking into consideration all of these factors.

IV. MEETING WITH RICK KELLY RE: ICE CASTLE

Town Manager Burbank began the discussion by introducing Ryan Davis, the ice castle business representative out of Salt Lake City. Mr. Davis contacted the town to discuss alternate locations for the ice castle in Lincoln as Loon Mountain decided not to host it this year. Loon Mountain President, Rick Kelly informed the board that the resort is not hosting the castle this year as they are unable to manage the amount of people this will bring into the resort in addition to the ski industry population. He stated that there was an outstanding turnout for the castle last year. The resort saw an increase in revenue of \$1.75/person. At times, there were 50 minute long waits to purchase tickets. He added that if the board were to speak with the local businesses they will find that the castle brought more revenue to their businesses as well. Mr. Davis informed the board that he is looking at Lincoln, Stratton, VT, or Sunday River in Maine to locate the ice castle. He would prefer to bring the castle back to Lincoln.

Town Manager Burbank explained that town quality treated water is what is necessary to make the castle a success. He explained his concerns with this stating that more and more frequently, the town is running at maximum capacity just to supply to town with drinking water. He would like the input of the Board before making a decision as to whether to allow the use of treated water for the castle. He added that the castle would bring a great deal of revenue into the town. He has no doubt that local businesses would benefit from the castle remaining in Lincoln however it does cost the town money to treat water. Town Manager Burbank stated that the Public Works Director is not in favor of using treated water for this. Ryan Davis stated that he does have the ability to turn down the water to a very minimal maintenance flow when the castle is not being built. He understands that the operation will have to shut down during peak times throughout the ski season. He estimates the most they will use will be less than 5 or 6 million gallons of water. He explained that the use of the river water last year did damages to their pumps. They need a constant pressure from a steady source to make the operation work.

O.J. Robinson brought up several issues including whether the town could supply the water and what it would cost to do so. Planning Board Chairman Pat Romprey asked Mr. Davis if he would have any reservations about cutting down the operation to the minimum (maintenance flow) should the town have any water issues. Mr. Davis replied that he does not. O.J. stated that if the board does agree to have the ice castle back and provide the water, there are several stipulations that will have to be agreed to including the use of a hydrant, purchase of water meter and possible pressure reducing valve. A fee will also be charged for the water. The board agreed with these stipulations and decided to charge \$10,000 for 5 million gallons of water and \$2,000 per million gallons thereafter. The cost to the town is

estimated to be \$883.00 per million gallons of water. The location of the castle will be at the Hobo Railroad. Parking will be onsite.

Several letters of support for the ice castle remaining in Lincoln were noted including letters from The Lincoln Woodstock Chamber of Commerce, Loon Reservation Service, White Mountain Attractions, Lincoln Sign, Hobo Railroad, and Nordic Inn.

V. PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT SIGN ORDINANCE

O.J. Robinson began the discussion by stating that the Planning Board introduced a sign ordinance in the town in 1988. The town then adopted the ordinance at town meeting. Further, the Board of Selectmen is tasked with the enforcement of the ordinance. O.J. stated that he admits the board has not been overly aggressive about enforcing the sign ordinance except for flagrant violations. The board is in agreement that the current ordinance may not meet the needs of local businesses and is seeking the input of business owners and residents alike in order to make revisions to the regulations. Once revisions to the ordinance are made, the board plans to be more rigorous with enforcement.

Town Manager Burbank stated that one of the complaints often heard at the town office is regarding sandwich board signs. Town staff recently mailed out several violations notices and it was obvious that the business community is not in favor of the sign ordinance as written.

At this time, O.J. read the ordinance pertaining to portable signs.

Jim Champagne from the Purple Tomato commented that the biggest issue with the sandwich board signs is the allowed distance from the entrance to the business. He feels that the regulations are too restrictive. He added that he can live with the rest of the ordinance, but that particular distance isn't practical or enforceable.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Chairman, Paul Beaudin stated that the portable sign issue is hard to address. He believes there is a lack of communication between the town and local businesses. Businesses do have the option to appeal to the Zoning Board to request a variance for their signage if it does not align with the sign ordinance. He added that the ordinance isn't bad; it's just about following proper procedures.

Jayne Ludwig stated that, as a resident, she finds that the sandwich board signs sometimes impede her vision when she's pulling out into traffic. She feels that this is at times a safety issue.

O.J. questioned the audience as to whether they believe extending the 25ft. restriction would be a good idea. Planning Board member Jim Spanos is in favor of extending the restriction. Rick Kelly stated that he was on the committee that drafted the sign ordinance. He would like to clarify that the intent of the document is that the temporary sign be 25 feet from the primary entrance to the business which could be the driveway and not necessarily the door. Jim Champagne stated that he interpreted it the same way. He would like to see the ordinance written so that the signs are required to be aesthetically

pleasing and in a place of prominence however, there needs to be some definition as to what that is. He added that if there were guidelines about what a sign should look like, it would be helpful. He feels the ordinance is too vague and that no one interprets it the same way.

O.J. questioned how people felt about the requirement that the temporary signs be taken down at night. Carol Riley replied that taking the signs in at night protects them from vandalism. A gentleman from the audience pointed out that taking in the signs at night sometimes defeats the purpose of the sign which is to announce business hours etc. when the business is closed. Planning Board Chairman Pat Romprey replied that leaving the sign up all night does not make it a temporary sign because it's set up permanently. Susan Champagne commented that she does not want to see the ordinance rewritten requiring all sandwich board signs to be uniform as it takes the creativity and marketability away from the signage. She added that she has had tourists come into the Purple Tomato because of her nicely handwritten sandwich board sign.

Scott Severance, Jean's Playhouse Director, stated that the Playhouse is a primary offender of the sign ordinance. However, his situation is unique because the building is so far from the road. The temporary sign cannot be located anywhere near the building and they also need the signs in place 24/7 to bring business in. He stated that the Playhouse doesn't want unattractive signage that violates the ordinance. They want to comply. He does not feel the Playhouse signs are professional enough and he is looking to change that. He would like to get a more permanent sign. He is very interested in seeing what revisions can be made to the ordinance and what that will mean for the Playhouse. Pat Romprey replied that this is a good example of where the ordinance doesn't fit and cannot fit every situation. Paul Beaudin stated that this would be a good example of when the application for a variance is in order. He stated that if the town relaxes the off premise sign ordinance, they may see more attractive permanent signage and less temporary signs. Zoning Board member Patricia McTeague agreed. Rick Kelly stated that the reason the committee had restricted the off premise signs were because there were businesses that had 5-6 off premise signs around town and it was too many. Paul Beaudin stated that the ordinance could limit the number of signs.

Jim Spanos would like to see more criteria listed in the ordinance for off premise signs. Jesse Singh, owner of KS Market Mobil, asked Pat Romprey to speak on his behalf. Mr. Romprey stated that Mr. Singh would like an LED sign so that he can change gas prices electronically. LED signs are restricted in the ordinance. Pat sees no problem with allowing LED signs as long as they are not moving or flashing.

Chamber Director Alyssa Yolda stated that it sounds to her like there are two options: either making the regulations more specific and allowing business owners to make appeals to the Zoning Board or amending the ordinance so that it's more flexible. Pat Romprey replied that the ordinance does need to be changed and some of it can be relaxed a bit however there does need to be a common sense allowance permitting the Zoning Board to rule on variances. He added that the Zoning Board does need better guidelines for granting an exception. Paul Beaudin stated that there are criteria in place however they're vague at best and are subjective to the members of the board as well as the concerns of abutters. O.J. stated that the Zoning Board criteria is governed by state statute and is designed to be somewhat subjective. Tamra Ham stated that an issue she noticed is that if one business is granted a variance for

their sign, another business in town may assume that sign is permitted not knowing that the business owner had to apply for a variance. Planning Board member Paula Strickon stated that one of the biggest problems is that the communications between the town and local businesses have been ineffective. She stated that when she went to the local businesses to inform them about flashing signs, not one person knew that they were not allowed. As soon as they knew, they had no problem shutting them off. She questioned whether the Chamber would be willing to help notify the community once the new regulations are in place. Alyssa Yolda stated that she can absolutely work with the Town on that.

O.J. Robinson questioned how people feel about the merchandise (snowmobiles, ATV's etc.) signs. Paul Beaudin replied that they're tacky. He questioned what would be done if someone want to advertise their plumbing business with a toilet on Main Street? Jayne Ludwig brought up the gondola signage. Paul Beaudin stated that if they wanted to, they could appeal to the Zoning Board for something like this. Jim Champagne stated that if you're coming to a ski town, you want to see a nice gondola sign but you don't want to see a rusted out old four wheeler.

Rick Kelly stated that so many of the problem signs in town are grandfathered. He recommended the board remove the grandfather clause and start really working on the signs that are in place. All agreed this was a good idea. O.J. stated that he would like to see more enforcement by the town however the board cannot subjectively enforce which is why revising the ordinance has become necessary. Town Manager Burbank stated that there are approximately 15 violation letters out at this time. He added that both boards are here tonight in an attempt to get everyone on the same page. Jim Spanos stated that the board does not want every business in town needing a special exception. O.J. replied that he wants the regulations to meet the general needs of the community.

O.J. Robinson brought up moving window signs. He stated that there are businesses with multiple windows with multiple flashing signs. Paul Beaudin stated that that was never the intention. If every business had multiple signs in every window, it would look tacky and tasteless. It will not catch anyone's eye and will not make the town look better. The sign committee's purpose was to step up the level of aesthetics within the town. Rick Kelly stated that even a handwritten sign can be aesthetically pleasing which makes all the difference. He added that if you go to Stowe, VT you see nothing but beautiful signs because Stowe has very restrictive sign regulations.

Patricia McTeague questioned what people's feelings are about the inflatable feather signs. Jayne Ludwig replied that they're alright for a week. Patricia added that they work well for special events but she is not in favor of them for uses other than that.

O.J. questioned how people felt about internally lit signs. They are only allowed in the general use zone. Carole Bont stated that they are the only way to find a gas station at night. Paul Beaudin stated that the location of it would have to be considered. Rick Kelly stated than an externally lit sign can be so much more effective. Jim Champagne stated that in southern NH everyone has internally lit signs and every town looks like a strip mall. If you consider Stowe, tourists visit it because it's different and beautiful.

O.J. Robinson thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. He stated that the Planning Board will discuss all of these recommendations at their next meeting. The revisions will then be brought to public hearings and eventually town meeting to be voted on.

VI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Terry Ross Letter of Complaint

O.J. Robinson read the following complaint that was filed via the Town's website:

On 10/15/14 at 4:30PM I found Pollard Road to be unsafe due to standing water and mud-barely impassable. This coupled with the unbearable conditions that existed during Highland Games weekend and over the Columbus Day weekend, disrupted access and dust. The Town of Lincoln needs to find some management and set some priorities for the safety of the residents in Lincoln-not only businesses. I address this email to the Selectmen-not the public works or engineer as the Town's governing body is to blame. Lack of action to repairs roadways year after year; late start due to inability to have Alex Ray meet legal obligations; bid going to company with insufficient equipment and manpower and finally running the construction schedule to give water main reconstruction and base coat paving for the benefit of Alex Ray and Leo Marien- once again residents don't count. It is beyond comprehension your lack of equality and disregard for safety. Terry Ross

O.J. questioned whether there have been any other complaints on these issues. Town Manager Burbank replied that there was one complaint from the Kanc Motor Lodge and the staff worked with them to take care of any issues. He added that he knew this would be a sensitive road rebuild given the density of residents on this road. While the contractor is a bit behind schedule, the end product is that this road is being constructed very well. The Town is pushing the engineer to move the construction along without sacrificing the quality. The engineer overseeing the construction has been openly communicating with residents from the start of the project. Regardless of the time of year, there would be some construction dust. Once the paving has been completed tomorrow, it should take care of a lot of the problems. Lawns will then be reseeded. The contractor did work on weekends however they could not work with the rain.

Mr. Burbank added that the reconstruction of the road has nothing to with Alex Ray or the Common Man.

Patricia McTeague stated that she did contact Public Works Director Bill Willey regarding the road construction as the property she works for is on this road. They had to move guests because of the compaction pounding. She explained the noise to guests and informed them that this town has saved for years to reconstruct this road. The Public Works Department kept her informed and worked with her so she could accommodate guests. She added that the town will have a great road when this project is complete.

O.J. Robinson stated that the town has been on an aggressive campaign to improve roadways each year. Every year the town reconstructs entire roadways and problem sections of roads. Town Manager

Burbank added that 80% of the Capital Improvements Plan is public works, roads, and infrastructure. This Town is very aggressive about taking care of its roads.

Mr. Burbank addressed the second issue Ms. Ross brought up concerning Mr. Ray's legal obligations. He stated that he is working with Mr. Ray on drainage issues and that there was no delay in this project due to Mr. Ray. Mr. Ray did respond to the town's concerns regarding the Common Man driveway.

As far as Ms. Ross' allegations regarding the project bid going to a company with insufficient manpower and equipment, Mr. Burbank stated that the project engineer reviewed every bid. The engineer made the decision regarding which company to award the bid to. He examined the equipment and qualifications of each company and determined that Lincoln Trucking had the resources to do the job. Although Lincoln Trucking is running behind schedule, they have done excellent work.

O.J. Robinson stated that he believes these accusations are off base.

Letter from LinWood Public School Board

O.J. Robinson read a letter received from Vance Pickering on behalf of the Lin-Wood School Board regarding a derogatory statement made by Tamra Ham during the September 29th Board of Selectmen's meeting. The letter is attached to the meeting minutes. O.J. stated that he has spoken with Mr. Pickering on the phone regarding this matter. He stated that the board was remiss to approve those meeting minutes. He added that the September 29th meeting was a difficult and highly contentious meeting. The board focused on ensuring that another portion of the September 29th meeting minutes was accurate because there was the possibility of litigation. The board was negligent to approve that statement as part of the minutes. He added that there was no further discussion on the matter at that meeting and that the Board of Selectmen has no interest in interfering with the school board. He added that the board did not discuss the matter then and won't discuss it any further tonight. O.J. apologized on behalf of the board.

Tamra Ham apologized for her comment at the September 29th meeting. She stated that if the school board would like her to attend one of their meetings to discuss further, she is happy to attend and speak with them directly. She added that the comment was unintentional and should have been corrected. She read the following apology letter which she will mail to the school board tomorrow:

Dear School Board Members,

I owe you an apology. I misspoke at the Lincoln Board of Selectmen meeting on September 29, 2014. The BOS meeting minutes reflect that former School Board member Paul Rand said the words "corrupt or acting illegally in the way they conduct business" in his resignation letter. Those in fact are my words personally. I'm sorry, I should have corrected this in the meeting minutes prior to them being made public.

The statement was mine personally, I did not consult my fellow Selectmen prior to making this statement, this in no way reflects a board opinion.

Again, I am sorry for unintentionally making it seem like my words were those expressed in Mr. Rand's resignation at a public meeting. I will certainly chose my words more carefully in the future.

I will apologize publicly at the next Board of Selectman meeting.

Sincerely,

Tamra Ham

Opinion from Town Counsel Re: Cemetery Expansion Procedure

Town Manager Burbank read the following statement from Town Counsel:

Butch:

RSA 289:3, I sets forth some setbacks for cemeteries. For example, no cemetery shall be laid out within 100 feet of any dwelling house, schoolhouse or school lot, store or other place of business without the consent of the owner of the same, nor within 50 feet of a known source of water or the right of way of any classification of state highway.

Your question related to title to the expanded cemetery property. I did not see any statute which would require a deed from the Town to the cemetery trustees.

Peter

Peter J. Malia | Attorney

Mr. Burbank stated that there are several issues that still need to be addressed. O. J. stated that the board approves of the cemetery expansion into this area. The trustees should also consider the land behind the cemetery.

MOTION: “To set aside acreage of the town land that lies between Cemetery Road and Airport Road (described as a “V” shaped parcel of land south of the cemetery) for possible expansion of the cemetery. The Board of Selectmen encourages the Cemetery Trustees to also consider an expansion of the cemetery towards the backside of the cemetery that abuts State land.”

Motion: Tamra Ham Second: Patricia McTeague All in favor.

Loon Mountain Bridge Bids

On October 16th, the following bids on the Loon Mountain Bridge Project were opened:

N.E. Infrastructure Inc.	\$7,295,621.36
George R. Cairns	\$9,043,482.85
G.D. Swelt	\$7,269,007.70
R.M. Piper	\$6,658,369.80
T-Buck	\$6,816,000.00
Winterset	\$6,841,074.60
Alvin J. Coleman	\$7,158,262.20

The apparent low bidder is R.M. Piper at \$6,658,369.80. The engineer is currently reviewing the details of each bid. The project will be awarded on November 10, 2014.

North Country Council (NCC) Update

The Board requested that Carole Bont attend the NCC meeting on the Regional Plan on November 19th.

Town Manager Burbank informed the board that as no one has volunteered to serve on the North Country Scenic Byways Council, he has asked Carole Bont to represent the Town. The board agreed that Carole would be a good fit for this position.

Fire Department Update

Fire Chief Beard informed the board that five members of the department are getting ready to test for their fire certification. Town Manager Burbank stated that the new furnace at the station should be able to be replaced this fall.

Jayne Ludwig brought up the dumpster on Pleasant Street. She stated that she does not want to pick on the property owner however; the dumpster is still unlocked in the back and was totally unsecured today. It is not animal proof and is an eye sore. O.J. replied that the property owner has been made aware of the ordinance and has been issued a violation. O.J. asked that Chief Beard make the owner aware that the board has received another complaint about the dumpster.

Town Manager's Report

Common Man

Moe Lafrenier and Alex Ray are scheduled to attend the November 3rd Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Loon Pond

As of earlier today, the pipes at Loon Pond have been unplugged and water is flowing freely. A trapper was able to catch and remove the beaver.

Riverbank Stabilization (Levee)

Town Manager Burbank received the USACE report dated 9/9/14. There were no surprises. He is still waiting a report from the NH DES-Dam Bureau. Town Counsel has advised that Mr. Burbank can meet with any concerned parties regarding the levee however any meetings would be to discuss general information and requesting parties would have to sign a waiver that any discussion is inadmissible in court.

NH Municipal Association

Town Manager Burbank informed the Board that he has been asked to serve on the Board of Directors for NHMA. The board meets once a month. The board was in favor of Mr. Burbank serving on this board.

Connector Road Bridge Lights

The light poles have been installed on the Connector Road bridge. The town is waiting on NHEC to make the necessary electrical connections.

Tax Bills

Tax bills are ready to be mailed this week. The board signed the Tax Collector's Warrant.

Update on Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

Department heads are working on their budgets. The Budget Committee schedule will be announced soon. The final meeting of the CIP is tomorrow. O.J. stated that there are two things that came up late in the process and were not included in the CIP. One is the community center drainage project and the other is the town hall stairway. Once engineer Ray Korber has completed his overall analysis of the drainage, his recommendations will need to be enacted. Mr. Burbank stated that Ray will be looking at what the town can do with town resources to modify/adjust and reduce the impact of overflows in this area. Ray is also aware that the board needs to know as soon as possible if this is a large project that needs to be included as a warrant article or written into the CIP.

O.J. stated that as far as the stairway is concerned, he would rather utilize the front storage room and hold off on building the stairway. Tamra Ham and Patricia McTeague were in agreement that they would rather not hold off for another year on the stairs. The funds are in place to start the project and a stairway is necessary for accessing the furnace. Both agreed that the project should move forward this year.

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

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

Motion: Tamra Ham

Second: O.J. Robinson

Roll call vote was all in favor.

The Board went into non-public session at 8:25pm.

MOTION: "To enter back into public session."

Motion: Tamra Ham

Second: O.J. Robinson

Roll call vote was all in favor.

The Board came back into public session at 8:35pm.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: "To adjourn."

Motion: O.J. Robinson

Second: Tamra Ham

All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Brook Rose

Approval Date 10 / 27 / 14

Chairman O.J. Robinson



Tamra Ham



Patricia McTeague

SAU 68

**Lin-Wood Public School**

Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District

72 Linwood Drive

Lincoln, New Hampshire 03251

Telephone (603) 745-2214



October 15, 2014

Dear Chairman Robinson:

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the entire Lincoln Woodstock Cooperative School Board. The Board has agreed that there needs to be some sort of communication between the School Board and the Lincoln Board of Selectmen and it was agreed that this letter would be the best form of communication. The School Board has had the opportunity to read this letter and make revisions prior to it being delivered to your office.

As you know, the School Board had a member resign his position on the School Board, and did so by submitting a formal letter of resignation. Although each Board member valued his work on the Board and wished he hadn't resigned, it was ultimately a personal decision on his part.

It has been brought to the School Board's attention that there was a derogatory comment made regarding the School Board at the September 29th Selectmen's meeting. In addition, the comment was also referenced in the meeting's minutes under section IV. These minutes, along with the comment made, were made in public and published in the minutes on the Town of Lincoln's website. A member of the Lincoln Board of Selectmen, Tamra Ham, stated "that Paul Rand resigned from the School Board last week. He said the School Board was corrupt and acting illegally in the way they conduct business."

The School Board members all agreed that the School Board should inform you that the statement made in the Selectmen's meeting minutes of September 29th could not be further from the truth. The word "corrupt" implies that the School Board is evil, dishonest, and open to bribery. Mr. Rand's entire letter of resignation was a total of 3 sentences. At no point in time does this letter mention any of those characteristics. The word "corrupt" was not stated in Mr. Rand's letter of resignation as Tamra Ham led the public to believe. The School Board is disappointed and upset that this comment was made, and done so publicly by a town official. Since the letter of resignation was read at the School Board public meeting, it is now a letter of public record; therefore it is included in the attachments.

Middle/High School Fax Number (603) 745-6797

Elementary Fax (603) 745-3730

Accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Although the School Board fully believes that the comment made at the Selectmen meeting is a non-truth we are dismayed to think that the public will perceive this to be true. Therefore, the School Board would like the Lincoln Board of Selectmen to give it the proper attention that it deserves and correct this misconception publicly so that both Boards can move forward. In order to do that, we would like a few questions answered:

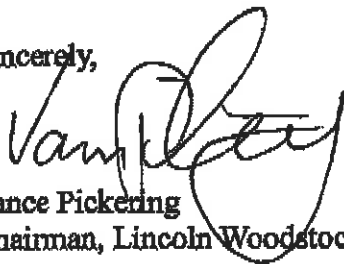
1. Since this wasn't stated in Mr. Rand's letter of resignation, where did the Lincoln Board of Selectmen get this information?
2. If it was a statement made directly from our former Board member to your Board, then in what venue did this conversation take place?
3. If it was just a rumor, does the Board of Selectmen often comment publicly on rumors?

The School Board is requesting the retraction of the incorrect statement be made in the same venue in which the statement was made. The School Board is requesting that the remedied statement should reference the comment from the September 29th Selectmen public meeting minutes (see attached).

I would like to close by stating that each member of our Board was very upset to learn that this comment was made at one of your Selectmen Board meetings. To say that the School Board is "corrupt", and "conducting business illegally," was slanderous and defamatory. Many people who can't attend public meetings will instead read minutes in order to become more informed about town politics. They take these minutes to be accurate and truthful. The School Board feels that this comment is egregiously inaccurate and will directly give people a negative impression about each of the School Board members personally, as well as the type of business being conducted. In addition, as this statement was never made by our former School Board member, it can actually be considered an attack on his character as well. The School Board feels that these are all incredibly valid reasons for you to address this matter immediately.

I'd like to thank you in advance for giving this matter its proper attention. I also plan on following this letter up with a brief phone call.

Sincerely,



Vance Pickering
Chairman, Lincoln Woodstock Cooperative School Board