

Lincoln Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2009 – 5:00 pm

Present: Chairman Peter Moore, Selectman Patricia McTeague, Town Manager Peter Joseph and Administrative Assistant Susan Chenard

Audience: Charlie Cook, Lutz Wallem and Waltraud Wallem

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm.

Routine Business

- **Approval of the Public Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2009** - A motion was made by Selectman McTeague, seconded by Chairman Moore, to approve the public meeting minutes of June 1, 2009, as amended. The vote was unanimous.

- **Discussion of Purchase of Electricity from Outside Suppliers** – Town Manager Joseph provided the Selectmen with quotes from Glacial Energy and Tradition (Constellation) Energy, and described a conversation he had with Bill Johnstone, our account executive at New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC). Mr. Johnstone said the NHEC actually encourages its members to use outside electricity vendors and receives 5-10 calls on the subject daily. Both Glacial and Tradition are the two major entities already working with NHEC, they have solid reputations and they are approved by the PUC. The NHEC only sold electricity because no-one else would, and they happened to make a great deal in the past. Mr. Johnstone described the pricing for NHEC-provided power in the near future, allowing three quotes, as follows:

- NHEC is at 9.573 cents per kilowatt now, and would decrease to somewhere between 9.5 and 9.0 for November to April and somewhat higher for next April to November.

- Tradition Energy would lock in a price of 9.16 cents per kilowatt for a one-year term, or slightly higher for a two year term, but would only take on the Town's 6 biggest accounts (or 1.252 million kilowatts of the possible 1.5).

- Glacial Energy offered an average price of 8.43 cents per kilowatt hour, and has a one-month cancellation policy – so the Town could switch back to NHEC within 30 days. They would take on most of the Town's accounts, at least 12 accounts.

The Selectmen worked to bring these differing types of quotes to comparable figures. Lutz Wallem offered to explain in more detail the Glacial Energy quote. He is the Chairman of the Energy and Water Conservation Committee and had therefore been able to discover this information. He is the father of Administrative Assistant Chenard and would receive a small commission if this option were chosen. In discussing the various quotes, it seems that Tradition Energy would provide a savings of about \$5,171 over the course of a year, assuming NHEC remains at current rates. Glacial Energy would save \$18,096 over NHEC using the same assumptions.

The Selectmen asked Charlie Cook for his opinion. To some extent he felt that with Tradition Energy, they were assuming the risk if prices rose, while with

Lincoln Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2009 – 5:00 pm

Glacial, the Town was assuming the risk. Although we could also switch back to NHEC within one month, there was a chance of paying at least a month of spiked rates. The Selectmen felt that the potential savings would most likely be a cushion for an expensive month. Town Manager Joseph said that the Selectmen would be choosing between a definite savings of just over \$5,000, and a savings of potentially over \$18,000 with some work on our part, by keeping an eye on market rates. The Selectmen were both in favor of the larger savings. Charlie Cook suggested reviewing the rates after a few months to see where the true average lay. The Town Manager suggested that we reconfirm the rates with Tradition and Glacial Energy, as both quotes were a few weeks old at this point. If the difference was similar, then we could sign a contract with Glacial Energy. A **motion** was made by Chairman Moore, seconded by Selectman McTeague, to accept an equivalent quote from Glacial Energy on the 12 or more Town electric accounts for the foreseeable future. The vote was unanimous.

- **Further potential energy savings** – Lutz Wallem explained that he had come across another way for the Town to save on energy costs, this time for heating by oil or propane. A company called Stanlin Energy uses a draft regulator, which is custom fit for each existing furnace and slows down heat loss in the chimney. Potential savings are between 10-30%, and Elliott Hospital in Manchester is currently seeing a 29% savings. A free estimate includes a site visit. The cost of the regulator is amortized over a few years. Charlie Cook said that he would like to hear from a boiler maker to see if the life of the heating system is affected, or if it affects warranties. Chairman Moore felt it made sense to have a free quote done, but would like to see testimonials, and would like to hear from a local contractor, like Robinson, to discuss affects on boilers or warranties.

The Chairman commented that it was great to see tangible benefits coming from the Energy and Water Conservation Committee. Mr. Wallem replied that at the latest meeting, the committee had discussed ways to save energy costs at local developments, such as Clearbrook. Bob Tortorice of Franconia would provide a quote to Marty Robbins there, which he would take to the homeowner's meeting. Mr. Tortorice has also provided a quote to Roz Lowen in Forest Ridge. So the Energy and Water Conservation Committee is helping homeowners as well as the Town.

➤ **Town Manager's Report**

- HB 351 was killed in the Senate, so interest rates on taxes will remain at current levels.
- The Senate version of the State Budget passed with Rooms and Meals tax distributions to the municipalities in place. Revenue sharing to municipalities remains in the budget but was amended to zero dollars, so it is essentially a placeholder and could be amended upwards during the committee of conference. The gambling provisions passed in the Senate version and would now need to pass the House in that committee of conference.

Lincoln Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2009 – 5:00 pm

- Public Works Director Bill Willey and the Town Manager are working on the renewals for the FCI Industrial Discharge Permit with Ray Korber of KV Partners, our sewer consultant. Town Manager Joseph distributed copies of the cover letter from Joe Magdol of HRP (FCI's environmental consultant), and copies of our proposed response. There were four main points that discussions were centering around. Chairman Moore noted that we never want an adversarial relationship with FCI, we just all need to be compliant. The Town Manager noted that these regulations are needed in order for the Town to meet its discharge limit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Board agreed with the Town Manager's proposed response letter.
- American Thunder, our fireworks vendor for this year's 4th of July display, contacted us to see if we had any special requests for Town colors. The Selectmen felt American Thunder should use their artistic ideas, and keep a red, white and blue finale. They also asked for a rain date, which the Selectmen felt should be Sunday, the next night. Charlie Cook suggested Labor Day as another option, and the Selectmen seemed to like that as well. Fire Chief Nate Haynes will be the contact person that night.
- The White Mountain Snowmobile Club has asked us to pick the color of the roof that they will be adding to the Salt Shed. The Selectmen chose Forest Green.

Other Business

Town Manager Joseph reminded the Board that the American Legion convention will be coming to Lincoln, starting Friday, June 26, 2009. There will be an opening address at The Beacon at 10am, and they had asked that a Town representative be chosen to make welcoming remarks. The Board chose Selectman Huot to speak, and the Town Manager and Selectman McTeague will also attend. This convention will bring about 1000-2000 people to Town, in addition to the Brew Fest, which is scheduled for the same weekend.

The Town Manager noted that the street sign at the corner of Beechnut and East Branch Drive is missing. There is some question as to who is responsible for replacing it, due to the various levels of ownership in that area. The Selectmen felt it would be an appropriate gesture for the Town to purchase a new sign. Chairman Moore asked about the sign for Conn Drive as well.

Public Participation

There was none, and the audience left.

Other Business, continued

Chairman Moore said he would fill in the form for the Town Manager's evaluation, and the Board would discuss it next week with the full board. There was some discussion that the evaluation is actually public record.

Administrative Assistant Chenard asked if the Food Pantry Board had been set up yet. There is to be a meeting later this week. Selectman McTeague asked if it had 501c3 status yet.

Lincoln Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2009 – 5:00 pm

Town Manager Joseph discussed a non-compliance issue in Beechwood with the Board. Mr. Fiscus remains non-compliant after having received a temporary certificate of occupancy, which has since expired. The driveway is still not built to plans. The Board requested that the Town Manager fully enforce the issue if the situation was not brought into compliance.

At 7:29 pm, the meeting was adjourned and the Board of Selectmen reviewed payroll and accounts payable check registers for the week ending June 7, 2009.

Date: _____

Approved by:

Chairman Peter Moore

____(not present)_____
Selectman Deanna Huot

Selectman Patricia McTeague