

Lincoln Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2009 – 5:00 pm

Present: Chairman Peter Moore, Selectman Deanna Huot, Selectman Patricia McTeague,  
Town Manager Peter Joseph and Administrative Assistant Susan Chenard  
Audience: Charlie Cook

Chairman Moore opened the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 5:05 pm.

**Routine Business**

- **Approval of the Public Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2009 - A motion** was made by Selectman McTeague, seconded by Selectman Huot, to approve the public meeting minutes of September 14, 2009, as amended. The vote was unanimous.
- **Dennis Ducharme** – Mr. Ducharme was unable to make tonight's meeting, but will come next week to speak about the progress of demolition at the White Water Treatment Plant. Town Manager Joseph noted that Mr. Ducharme would be meeting with Ray Burton on September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Chamber of Commerce, for a luncheon and photo opportunity. The Town Manager invited the Selectmen to attend. He also pointed out that the Papermill Theater is already being gutted as well. We will need to take/get pictures for the Historical Society and for Town records.
- **Tom Smith** – Mr. Smith had thought about running for a Trustee of Trust Funds position, with an eye towards being appointed this fall and learning the position this winter. However, it seems he will not be available this winter and would be unable to commit at this time. Therefore, we are still looking for two people to run for this position this winter. Anyone who may be interested, and would like to learn from Charlie Cook, should please contact Town Hall.
- **MS-1 Approval** – The Town Manager reviewed the MS-1 report with the Selectmen. For most taxes, the valuation of Town property is \$857,993,107. This is a net gain of about \$5 million, which is positive given the small amount of construction from April 2008 to April 2009. A **motion** was made by Selectman Huot, seconded by Selectman McTeague, to accept the MS-1 Report as presented. The vote was unanimous.
- **Business Park Listing Agreements** – Town Manager Joseph confirmed with the Selectmen if they were pleased with Coldwell Banker Linwood Real Estate's performance in listing the Business Park lots, as the agreements were up for renewal. The Selectmen felt that the agency had put a lot of work in and were still actively marketing and following up on leads for the property, and that the market was the reason for lack of sales. A **motion** was made by Selectman Huot, seconded by Chairman Moore, to renew the listings for one year with Coldwell Banker Linwood Real Estate. The vote was unanimous.
- **Town Manager's Report**
  - Town Manager Joseph presented some pictures he had taken of construction on the Kanc Rec ski tow building. Some earth work had been performed to level out the new location, a cement pad was poured, exterior walls were framed, seeding fabric laid to let new grass grow, and the access road was improved. Selectman McTeague asked if the cement container for the fuel tank had been constructed as well. The Town Manager will check on this.

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- Director of Public Works Bill Willey, KV Partners engineer Ray Korber and Town Manager Joseph met today to discuss the Bog Brook/Maltais Farm road project. Preliminary design has been completed and Town staff is reviewing the specifications to make sure everything meets our expectations. This includes review of comments made by the property owners in that area. A follow-up meeting is scheduled in two weeks, at which point a new public information meeting will be scheduled for the residents. Plans and bid documents are on schedule to be delivered by the end of October. In discussing cost estimates, Mr. Korber was asked to provide an estimate for budgeting purposes, but felt that more accurate bids would be provided by contractors if the project was bid in January/February, with work to begin in April. This would eliminate “padding” due to the uncertainty of construction prices. Mr. Willey felt we should check on Pleasant Street timing to see when bids and estimates etc. occurred.
- The Consumer Price Index was reviewed by the Town Manager. He created a form showing rolling averages over the last 12 months. The current figure is at 0.975% increase, but the trend has been mostly down over the past 6 months. He suggested revisiting these figures closer to final budgeting time, and believed that it would be flat or negative then. Chairman Moore noted that the Town does also cover all insurances and their annual increases for all employees. Selectman Huot asked the Town Manager to see what neighboring Towns are doing in this regard. Town Manager Joseph said that many towns had zero wage increase last year.
- An update on the County Jail was provided by Representative Edmond Gionet just before this meeting, and the Town Manager distributed copies to the Selectmen. In a brief review, it was noted that project has been reduced from \$40 million to \$36 million, that they are looking at geothermal energy, and that the Supreme Court decision would most likely be handed down in early 2010. Charlie Cook felt that biomass would be a better choice than geothermal energy.
- In Franconia Notch Parkway, the NH Department of Transportation will be doing a 4R project (resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction), and will be doing inlay and overlay, as well as replacing guard rails. There was no timeline noted on the announcement and questionnaire. The Town Manager will sit with the police and fire chiefs to see how the emergency plans might be affected.

**Other Business**

- Selectman McTeague asked about the budget class. It turns out both of the classes offered by the Local Government Center are already full, but they may have something at the annual conference on the subject.
- Chairman Moore pointed out that the Historical Society would be holding an interesting program on French Canadian history on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The temporary banner for the new Lumberyard Café does not seem to have a permit and should be removed, said Chairman Moore. Their permanent sign is permitted.

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- Highland Games went smoothly this past weekend and the shuttle system worked very well. Attendance seemed good, and definite figures would be out later. There was a discussion on allowing Scottish flags on the poles, similar to Mountain Dew. Charlie Cook questioned if event banners should have the name of the Town of Lincoln prominently displayed so as not to be used solely for advertising purposes.
- Chairman Moore asked Town Manager Joseph to choose an order for ordinance review. One of the first ones the Town Manager would like to work on is the sewer ordinance as Public Works Director Willey said some changes were necessary. The Chairman also felt that some of the obsolete ones could be repealed.
- In Beechwood, it seems that Loon Mountain has done some work on the roads already, and has met with the homeowners there. The homeowner's association used to pay Loon, but as there is no association anymore, that fell by the wayside. They are working to reestablish a fee structure for Loon Mountain to provide needed maintenance. This paving is a stopgap, and we should continue to put money away for the larger project.
- An elderly exemption and veteran's widow credit were presented on behalf of Shirley Leclerc. A **motion** was made by Selectman McTeague, seconded by Selectman Huot, to approve the exemption and credit for Ms. Leclerc.
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector Susan Whitman wanted to let the Selectmen know about a foreclosure auction scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> at 34 Maple Street. The taxes on this property are current.
- The employee Christmas Party date was reviewed, as there had been a request to change this back to a Friday evening, as it had been in the past. The Selectmen agreed, and the party will be moved to December 11<sup>th</sup>, a Friday evening.
- The current cleaning service at the Town Hall is looking to renew their contract, and is hoping for a higher payment per week. The Selectmen agreed that this should be bid out.
- A discussion of carpet cleaning led to one on building maintenance. Chairman Moore felt that carpet or tile replacement should be budgeted in this same account, not just exterior items.

**Public Participation**

- Charlie Cook felt that the cleaning service should be a contractor, not employee. He wondered what the rules were for re-bidding. Town Manager Joseph responded that there is no legal obligation to bid out a service. Changes do sometimes prompt this.
- Lincoln's Budget Committee should have 13 people on it, but we never have enough run for the position, and end up appointing half the board as we get to budget season. Mr. Cook wondered if we could reduce the required number of people on it. A Town Meeting vote would be required to do this, but it should make it easier to make a quorum.
- Mr. Cook noted that there would be no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for social security recipients this year, but Medicare costs are going up.
- From a budget perspective, Mr. Cook felt that the 2.5% of income annual step increases are not sustainable. The gap between high and low earners continues to increase. He felt a different pay table should be created. The Selectmen responded that they had worked with a consultant long and hard to create this system, and want

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to keep the employees happy and in line with neighboring towns. Our operating budget is very lean, and we need to make sure that we don't cut too far there to keep payroll up.

- In Beechwood, Mr. Cook wondered if there would be any impact on the agreements between the Town and Loon Mountain if Beechwood becomes a district. Selectman McTeague replied that there should be no effect, as a district only affects what it is created to do.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm and the Board of Selectmen reviewed payroll and accounts payable check registers for the week ending September 20, 2009.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by:

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Chairman Peter Moore

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Selectman Deanna Huot

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Selectman Patricia McTeague