

Lincoln Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes  
November 2, 2009 – 5:00 pm

Present: Chairman Peter Moore (at 5:21pm), Selectman Deanna Huot, Selectman Patricia McTeague, Town Manager Peter Joseph and Administrative Assistant Susan Chenard  
Audience: Charlie Cook and Pat Romprey

Selectman Huot opened the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 5:12 pm.

**Routine Business**

- **Approval of the Public Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2009** - A motion was made by Selectman McTeague, seconded by Selectman Huot, to approve the public meeting minutes of October 26, 2009, as written. The vote was unanimous.
- **Town Manager's Report**
  1. The deadline for filing briefs for the Supreme Court case regarding the proposed Grafton County Jail vote is November 12<sup>th</sup>. A ruling on the case is not expected until early 2010.
  2. We've received word that Lincoln's 2008 Annual report has once again taken 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Local Government Center's "Excellence in Annual reports" contest. The award will be presented at LGC's annual conference on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at noon. Congratulations were given to Susan Chenard and all the staff for putting together another great report. Selectman Huot noted that it was important to always show Town involvement in whatever the theme of the report would be, especially when the topic is something not directly related to the Town, like this year's theme of the changes at the paper mill and its removal.
  3. Town Manager Joseph attached a news article from the Concord Monitor regarding the pending municipal lawsuit against the State. We are a participant in the lawsuit through a contribution to NH LGC. The suit addresses the state reductions to funding the retirement system, which creates an unfunded mandate for municipalities. The article also continues a trend of less than favorable tone of coverage of municipalities by the concord Monitor.
  4. The meeting with the School Board regarding the future of the School Resource Officer went fairly well. The Town Manager has spoken with Superintendent Michael Cosgriff since then and was told that the subject was on the Board's agenda for their next meeting, a week from Tuesday. After that discussion, they should be able to provide us with a rough idea on which way the Board was leaning for our budgeting purposes.

**Other Business**

- Town Manager Joseph, Helen Jones and Selectman Huot went to the Department of Revenue's Concord office last week for the tax rate setting meeting. The Town Manager noted that the estimated increase discussed last year would have been correct, at about thirty cents, but for the loss of revenue sharing with the state, which was a big loss throughout the State. In the end, our tax rate for 2009 comes to a total of \$9.11 per thousand. Of this, the Town portion went up from \$3.18 to \$3.64, the local school portion went up from \$1.83 to \$2.00, the state school rate went down slightly from \$2.15 to \$2.13, and the County rate stayed even at \$1.34 per thousand. The increase in the Town's portion is mainly due to capital improvements, while department budgets are staying fairly flat. Charlie Cook noted that the Town portion has been growing at about 10% per

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year, which may not be sustainable, but the Selectmen noted that it was being used in part to refill the retainage which had been lowered to keep taxes lower in the past. There was also discussion about the second, construction, part of the Maltais Farm/Bog Brook Road project, which would be a separate warrant article this year at Town Meeting. The Board believed that it would very likely pass, and that the low interest rates at this time would help with that as well.

- Selectman McTeague asked what the results were with the dye tabs on Connector Road. The Town Manager reported that the tabs were distributed, but Public Works Director Bill Willey was unavoidably out of town that day, so he did not yet have the results.
- Chairman Moore noted that 128 Pollard Road had considerable water running into their driveway. Roger Harrington had built an earth berm to contain some of this and had spoken with the Public Works Director. Chairman Moore felt that the amount of water had increased there. Also, at the end of O'Brien Drive, he noted a big hole that could use some cold patch. It is a Town road.
- Town Manager Joseph described a conversation he had with Pat Romprey just before the meeting. Mr. Romprey had asked if the school board had intentions of reviewing the school funding formula between Lincoln and Woodstock, as they had discussed at last year's meeting. He felt the school board and school funding needs more balance and believed the contract between the town and school required regular review of the formula. Selectman McTeague felt we should post the amounts paid to the school by both Lincoln and Woodstock, to show the townspeople the unevenness of those amounts. Town Manager Joseph felt a split by valuation only makes sense if the makeup of homes (residents versus vacation homes) is similar. Currently, Woodstock uses more services as they have more families in school.
- Selectman Huot asked about the insulation in the bottom of the upper tow hut building. We expect that to cost a few hundred dollars. We are waiting on quotes for insulating the attic of the base area building and expect that to be more.
- Selectman Huot confirmed the schedule for department budget reviews over the next few days with the Town Manager.
- Patricia McTeague said that Mike Simons told her he was planning to be on the budget committee again. Ivan Saitow called the other day to also say he would like to participate. Mary Conn does not plan to join this year.

### **Public Participation**

Charlie Cook noted that the east gate to South Peak resort is getting ready to be functioning electronically. Town Manager Joseph confirmed this, and said that they had spoken with the Police and Fire Chiefs about what is necessary for them. There will be wireless access for fire, police and public works. The gate can be opened remotely via telephone as well with a call-in system. Mr. Cook wondered if the roadway was wide enough for emergency vehicles now. He also noted two gates on the low road, most likely to keep people out of the construction zone, and that the access to the pump station is blocked. The Town Manager said that eventually the whole residential area will be gated on both sides, and the new base lodge will be just across from Cooper Memorial Bridge, with a people mover lift to bring skiers from the new main lodge to the current South Mountain base. Finally, Mr. Cook believes he saw a 4-story house on Crooked

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Mountain Road and wanted to make sure that a fire truck can go that high. Town Manager Joseph said that there is a house on Hemlock Circle with a basement and 3 finished stories above.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm and the Board of Selectmen reviewed payroll and accounts payable check registers for the week ending November 1, 2009.

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

Approved by:

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Chairman Peter Moore

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Selectman Deanna Huot

\_\_\_\_\_  
Selectman Patricia McTeague