

Lincoln Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2010 – 5:00 pm

Present: Chairman Peter Moore, Selectman Deanna Huot, Selectman Patricia McTeague, Town Manager Peter Joseph, Tara Tower, David Beaudin, Elisa Smith, Tamra Ham, David Dovholuk and Celeste Reardon.

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

## **I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman Moore advised that the Board of Selectmen no longer needed to hold a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(a).

## **II. OLD BUSINESS**

### **Review and approval of minutes from 01/11/10 meeting**

Deanna Huot and Patricia McTeague had a few minor edits to the minutes.

**MOTION: Patricia McTeague moved that the minutes of the January 11, 2010 meeting be approved as amended. Deanna Huot seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

### **Review of Warrant Articles for 2010 Town Meeting**

Peter Joseph would like to schedule a work session with the Board to further review the warrant articles this week so that the warrant can be approved next Monday. The Board will meet Wednesday at 3:00PM.

### **Update on Statewide Education Property Tax**

Peter Joseph informed the Board that he had testified before the House Finance Committee last week. He reported that the Committee was receptive to his comments. The Committee took the issue seriously and asked questions including what the impact to the Town of Lincoln's property tax rate would be. There are two bills proposed to extend the hold harmless agreement another two years till 2013. If passed, they will delay any further new tax until another funding mechanism comes into place other than property tax. Peter Joseph advised that the Town of Lincoln is the number five donor town in total dollars under the best case scenario and number three under the worst case scenario. The Town is number five on the donor list and number two hundred thirty four on the income list. Thus, Lincoln should not even be on this list.

Peter Joseph explained that one of the Town's alternative courses of action is to see if the DRA and the State will collect the statewide property tax themselves so that the new tax is not calculated into the Town's tax rate. If residents received a separate invoice, they are more likely to realize that this is a new tax.

Peter Joseph explained that the Town of Lincoln is working closely with Portsmouth, North Hampton and New London amongst other towns and they are all making progress on this issue. He added that no one had appeared to testify against the two bills.

Peter Moore stated that this is almost the most singularly important issue facing the Town right now. He advised Peter Joseph that over the next two years, the Board of Selectmen needs him to be highly involved in this process because nothing else would cost the Town more money. He proceeded to thank Peter Joseph for his good work and involvement in this matter.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion Regarding Snowmaking Policy at the Kanc Recreation Area**

David Beaudin appeared before the Board to express his concerns with the lack of a snowmaking policy, the amount of water being used, as well as the cost to make snow at the Kanc ski slope. He presented the Board with their meeting minutes from November 17, 2008 which stated that the Board had intended to develop a snowmaking policy last year. He is concerned with the lack of communication between all involved parties on this issue. He stated that he is not against the ski area, but is concerned with possible water supply and demand issues as well as the cost of the snowmaking especially when the Town is looking at potentially cutting back raises and benefits. He would like the Town to look at the needs of all of the taxpayers, not just the people that use the Kanc.

Peter Joseph commented that he has heard concerns from David Beaudin as well as a few others on this matter. The discussion held at the budget meeting at the end of 2008 was not an actual policy. He recommends, because there are concerns with the snowmaking hours being too low and about the use of treated water that a balance be found between cost, taxpayer dollars, water supply and snow coverage on the ski slope. A comprehensive policy regarding this matter needs to be developed as soon as possible.

David Beaudin brought up the possibility that the meter at the pump station may not be working properly. He also mentioned that when the Town looks at the electrical costs of the snowmaking, the costs to run the water from the river should be considered. He added that he thought the Town of Woodstock should be made to pay half of these costs.

David Dovholuk advised the Board that the Town gets the most out of taxpayers' dollars when all three guns are being run at full capacity simultaneously. However, snowmaking and how many guns that are used depends on the weather. The most important factor is the temperature. Mr. Doveholuk explained that sometimes he is forced to make snow at the wrong temperatures because the slope has to be open. There are a lot of variables that need to be considered.

Peter Moore stated that the amount of electricity and the total gallons of water needed are his concern. He questioned why an accurate meter read on the water over at the Kanc

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was not possible and whether it was a matter of the meter being recalibrated. Peter Joseph replied that he would like to put an accurate flow meter there or get the meter recalibrated. There was extended discussion about the snow guns, the electrical use per hour as well as the motor that powers the pump.

Peter Moore stated that the Town needs to narrow down the costs of the snowmaking and come into agreement on the accuracy of those costs. If all of the town departments come up with a satisfactory figure, considering all of the variables to make snow, that figure can be brought before the budget committee for consideration. Ultimately, it is the Budget Committee's decision and the decision of town residents about how much they want to spend.

Deanna Huot added that the objective of the ski slope is to have snow there for the whole season because the Town has to pay an annual \$10,000 insurance premium. The ski area needs to be open especially considering all that the Town has invested into it up to this point. Patricia McTeague stated that expectations for the ski slope have increased considerably over the years.

Tara Tower brought up the point that the Lin-Wood and Plymouth ski teams pay to use the Kanc and if there isn't enough snow for the gates, they will not continue to pay to use it. She added that the Kanc is up almost \$10,000 in revenue which does not include the income from the Plymouth and Loon ski teams. Celeste Reardon questioned the board about whether the Recreation Department gets to spend the \$10,000 in revenues as part of their budget. Deanna Huot explained that the funds go to the general fund by law. Any surplus at the end of the year, keeps the tax rate down.

Tammy Ham stated that she is upset by this conversation because she and so many other members of the Town want to show support for the Kanc. She stated that the additional pennies added onto her tax bill are inconsequential as long as the Kanc stays open and active. She added that the 200 hours allotted on the guns is barely enough to cover the slope and that there are a lot of people who want more snowmaking at the Kanc. Deanna Huot commented that this is not just a financial issue but that the amount of water used for snowmaking can have effects on other things. As the Town develops and reaches capacity, there could be a possible demand problem.

Tara Tower advised the audience and the board that over the last year, the Recreation Department has been considering these issues and looking at other options such as a retention pond at the Kanc.

Peter Moore concluded the discussion by saying that there has never been any question in his mind about the integrity of all of the parties involved. No one has been wasteful and all have done a great job. A meeting date of April 12, 2010 was set for the Board of Selectmen to consider a draft policy prepared by staff.

### **Appointment of Health Officer and Welfare Administrators**

**Motion: Deanna Huot made a motion to appoint Brook Steiner as Health Officer and Theodore Smith and Bill Willey as Deputy Health Officers. Patricia McTeague seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

**Motion: Patricia McTeague made a motion to appoint Peter Joseph and Brook Steiner as Welfare Co-Administrators for the Town of Lincoln. Deanna Huot seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

### **Review of Applications for Elderly Tax Exemption/Veterans' Tax Credit**

The Board reviewed the application of Mr. Fiscus for the veterans' tax credit. He does not qualify as he does not have the required 90 days in a war zone. The Board signed the form to deny the tax credit.

The Board reviewed the application of Mr. James Shortell for the elderly tax exemption and determined that he did meet the qualifications.

**MOTION: Deanna Huot made a motion to approve the request of James Shortell for the elderly tax exemption. Patricia McTeague seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

## **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### **School Budget Contribution Formula**

Tammy Ham brought up the subject of reviewing the school budget contribution formula between Woodstock and Lincoln. She asked whether this had been done recently. Peter Joseph replied that this has to be done by the school district and they had not done it. The contributions had been determined by the articles of the school operating agreement which the voters adopted back in the 1960's.

Deanna Huot added that the Board of Selectmen had approached the school board on this issue a few years ago. The Town had hired a consultant to conduct an assessment of the contributions from Lincoln and Woodstock. They then met with the school board who had no interest in reviewing the contributions. She stated that the consultant's report wasn't received well. The school district voted to restrict reconsideration of the formula for three more years. The Town of Lincoln is paying two thirds of the bill and twice as much per student. Peter Moore mentioned that the formula should be considered every five years.

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**Roads**

Celeste Reardon had a question on the town roads. She questioned why the Town does not fix the drains or lift the manholes when they repair the roads. She informed the Board that she has a lake in her driveway because the manhole is too low. Peter Moore advised her to take pictures of it and that it would be fixed but probably not until spring. Peter Joseph added that the Town does need to do some work on drainage in that area and that it will be addressed.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS AS PRESENTED**

**Village of Loon Mountain**

Peter Joseph informed the Board that the Town would be meeting with the Village of Loon Mountain regarding their assessment. The assessors would be taking a look at the value. Peter Joseph will keep the Board informed on the matter.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM and the Board members reviewed the accounts payable and payroll registers for the weeks ending January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 15, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Brook Steiner

Approval Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

LINCOLN BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Peter Moore

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Selectman Deanna Huot

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Selectman Patricia McTeague