

Town of Lincoln
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2012

Board of Selectmen Present: Chairman Peter Moore, Selectman Patricia McTeague and Selectman O. J. Robinson.

Staff Present: Finance Administrator Helen Jones, Planning and Zoning Administrator Matt Henry, and Administrative Assistant Brook Rose.

Public Present: Campbell McLaren, Ivan Saitow, Tammy Ham, John Hettinger and Ron Beard.

Excused Absence: Town Manager Peter Joseph.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Peter Moore called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

II. OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Warrant Article re: Loon Mountain Bridge

Helen Jones informed the Board that she and Peter Joseph met with Jamie from the Department of Revenue this morning to discuss a warrant article pertaining to the Loon Mountain Bridge replacement. Jamie had researched various financing options available to the Town and said that the only viable option is to include an article on the warrant for the largest amount the Town thinks will be necessary to cover the costs of the project. The other alternative previously discussed was a special town meeting but according to DRA, this is not an option.

III. APPOINTMENTS

Campbell McLaren re: Proposed Bill of Rights Ordinance

Mr. Campbell McLaren, the Town Medical Officer from Easton, appeared before the Board to give a presentation on a rights based ordinance pertaining to the Northern Pass project. Peter Moore informed Mr. McLaren that the Board did take a stand on behalf of the Town opposing the Northern Pass. A warrant article opposing the project was also passed at the 2011 Town Meeting. He added that the Board's opposition will be noted again in this year's town report.

Mr. McLaren updated the Board on the progress of the Northern Pass project. The project is 13 months into the regulatory process. While the opposition is participating in the regulatory process, if they strictly follow the process, they are destined to fail. The opposition is also fighting eminent domain. He stated that the opposition has three choices which are to do nothing, follow only the regulatory process, or have as many towns as possible adopt a bill of rights ordinance using constitutional law to reassert their rights. He informed the Board that Thomas Linzey, the attorney supporting this project will be flying in from Seattle to give a presentation on the bill of rights ordinance project as well as answer any questions municipalities may have. The meeting will be this Thursday. A large turnout for the meeting is expected. Mr. McLaren handed out supporting documentation as well as a model ordinance for the Board to consider. He added that the Board doesn't necessarily have to sponsor the warrant article but that it can also be done by petition.

There was some discussion regarding other towns that have agreed to put the ordinance on their warrant and if any of the articles do pass, what affect it could have on the Northern Pass project. Peter Moore stated that the Board would review and study the documents Mr. McLaren has presented to them. Peter Moore will also attend the Thursday evening meeting with Mr. Linzey.

Ivan Saitow commented that even if the Northern Pass were to bury the lines there would still be the issue of eminent domain. Mr. McLaren replied that if the lines were to be buried, the most viable option would be to bury them in the soft shoulder of Interstate 91 and Interstate 93 in the state right-of-way.

The Board thanked Mr. McLaren for attending the meeting.

Matt Henry re: Proposed Economic Revitalization Zones (ER-Zs)

Matt Henry passed a memo out to the Board explaining the purpose of creating an ER-Z. He explained that an ER-Z is created as an incentive program through NHDRED that offers state tax credits to existing businesses that invest in real/personal property including buildings, machinery, and equipment that amount to 50% or more of the existing market value of their facility. He explained the ER-Z in depth and provided the Board with a map defining the proposed ER-Z along Route 3. The only action the Board needs to take is to make a motion to designate the zone. There are no reporting responsibilities on the part of the town. The burden of proof is on the individual taxpayer to prove their eligibility for the tax credit. There was some discussion concerning the proposed zone and possibly including the 300 acre parcel owned by the Clark family in the ER-Z. The Board would like Matt Henry to discuss this with the Clark family, update the application and provide them with all of the parcel numbers in the proposed zone so the Board can make the appropriate motion at their next meeting. The Board thanked Matt for bringing this proposal to them.

Veterans Tax Credit

MOTION: “To approve the Veterans Tax Credit in the amount of \$500 as presented by the Town Clerk.” Patricia McTeague seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Motion: O.J. Robinson Second: Patricia McTeague All in favor.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45pm the following motion was made:

MOTION: “To adjourn.”

Motion: O.J. Robinson Second: P. McTeague All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brook Rose

Approval Date ____/____/____

Chairman Peter Moore

Selectman Patricia McTeague

Selectman O. J. Robinson