

Lincoln Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2011

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

Staff: Town Manager Peter Joseph and Administrative Assistant Brook Rose.

Members of the Public: John Hettinger, Marilyn Sanderson, Carol Riley, Janet Peltier, Laurel Kuplin, Robert Wetherell, Tom Adams, Paul Beaudin, and Pat Romprey.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Peter Moore called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

II. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION: O.J. Robinson made a motion that the meeting minutes of May 23, 2011 be approved. Peter Moore seconded the motion. Motion carries with Patricia McTeague abstaining as she was not present at that meeting.

III. APPOINTMENTS

Supervisors of the Checklist – Appointment of Town Moderator

The Board thanked the Supervisors of the Checklist (Supervisors) for attending the meeting to discuss the Town Moderator position. O.J. Robinson informed the Supervisors that they are the ones who actually make the appointment and that it would be an interim appointment for a term lasting until Town Meeting, at which time a Moderator would have to be elected.

Paul Beaudin mentioned that Robert Wetherell was the one who took the incentive to research the position and found that it is the Supervisors who appoint the Moderator. He questioned whether the Board would make a recommendation for the position to the Supervisors as they have already met with both candidates. Patricia McTeague stated that she believes that since Chester Kahn is already serving the community on the Planning Board and Robert Wetherell has not had the opportunity to serve, she would like to see Mr. Wetherell appointed to the position. She added that both candidates would do an excellent job. Peter Moore agreed and added that it is always a good idea to get new people involved in the community. He also informed the Supervisors that Mr. Kahn does have a lot of experience and would also make a good candidate. O.J. Robinson added that either candidate would be qualified for the position. Carol Riley stated that the Supervisors are planning to meet on Thursday, June 9th so they can discuss the position at that time. They would like to have Mr. Wetherell and Mr. Kahn attend the meeting as well.

Tom Adams – Riverfront Park

Peter Joseph explained to the Board that he has been speaking with Tom Adams and John Hettinger about the 18 acres of Town land that the Town has discussed creating a Town Park on. Tom Adams presented the Board with several conceptual architectural and landscape designs he drafted for Jean's Playhouse (as it will be occupied in September) which abuts the property that will eventually house the Riverwalk Hotel as well as the Town's property. Mr. Adams explained that he has presented some of these conceptual ideas to the Village Core Committee about a

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year ago and he felt the Board of Selectmen should be aware of what he has been working on. He has been volunteering his time over the past year to draw up the plans. He discussed his designs in depth which included an outdoor community amphitheater, a skate park, commemorative statues, plantings etc. and stated that it is up to the Town to decide what designs are appropriate for the park. He added that if the Board has ideas of what they would like to see included in the park, they are welcome to relay them to him so he can incorporate them into the plans.

Peter Moore stated that he really admired the architectural plan surrounding the theater yet one of the first steps in developing the park would be finding the ingress and egress to it as well as planning for parking. John Hettinger stated that members of the Village Core Committee have met with Rotary and the US Forest Service to present these ideas. The US Forest Service is very interested in being involved especially in regards to the development of a kayak park in the Town.

Paul Beaudin commented that he is in favor of all of the plans for a Town Park however there are several factors that have to be considered in the planning process. He is aware of at least a few times when ice from the river has jammed and flooded that entire area right up to the Solid Waste Facility. The odor from the sewer lagoons as well as the burning of brush at the Solid Waste Facility also need to be given consideration.

Peter Joseph stated that the Town does want to move forward with this project and is making progress. He mentioned that Loon Mountain has volunteered many hours to clear and cut the Riverwalk Trail. The Town and Village Core Committee are consistently working on grants to fund the development of the trail. One real dilemma in this area is determining what an affordable yet durable solution is to the several areas along the trail that flood due to ice jams.

Peter Moore stated that when the Riverwalk Hotel is built which is thought to happen in the next few years, there will be a lot more outdoor activity in this area and dedicated parking really has to be established. He added that a Town Park would have to be a phased project perhaps commencing with the establishment of parking, restrooms and picnic areas along the Riverwalk Trail and proceeding from there. Peter Joseph added that involving and/or getting recommendations from a municipal facility engineer would be ideal. O.J. Robinson stated that the Town has a valuable piece of land and once the parking and access issues have been addressed, the possibilities for what can be done with the land are limitless. The Board thanked Tom Adams for the work he has done on this project and for keeping them informed about it.

IV. OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Continuing Discussion on Town Health Care Review

Peter Joseph provided the Board with a Health Insurance Premium Comparison for several similar towns in the region. The comparison he drafted is a direct result of his meeting with representatives from Primex last week. They felt that the plan offered by the Town is quite progressive and more in line with benefits offered in the corporate market. Peter Joseph presented a comparison showing insurance coverage amounts offered by several other local

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governments including the State of NH. Most other towns cover 80-90% coverage regardless of whether single, double, or family coverage. Mr. Joseph informed the Board that the Town of Lincoln pays 100% of the single plan which amounts to 50% of the two person plan and 37% of the family plan. The Town of Jefferson is another town that has the same plan as Lincoln. O.J. Robinson commented that this overview really places the Town's healthcare expenses in perspective. The Town of Woodstock pays over \$200,000 for health insurance annually with fewer employees and the Town of Lincoln will pay \$154,148 this year which includes the 15.48% rate increase over last year. Drastically increasing deductibles, co-pays, and prescription co-pays as the Board has discussed over the last few months would save the Town about 12.5%, which is less than the increase from 2010-2011 alone. Patricia McTeague mentioned that there was a time when the Town covered 100% of the costs for the whole family and she is not in favor of cutting back the coverage any more. Peter Moore and O.J. Robinson agreed that with these figures and knowing what other towns offer, it gives them information to provide to the Budget Committee in the upcoming year.

Town Manager's Report

Peter Joseph provided the Board with financial figures for creating another Sergeant position within the Police Department. The cost to the Town would be between \$1,000-\$2,000.

Peter Joseph gave the Board a copy of RSA 447:14 which is the RSA that discusses public works bonds. He explained the statute and that the only requirement is to secure a payment bond, not a performance bond, on any contract expenditure over \$35,000. This is to ensure that the contractor is paying any subcontractors. Peter Moore stated that this issue came up because there was a concern over bonding in regards to the summer construction work, however, it is unclear about how the summer work is calculated as the Town isn't necessarily hiring a contractor but rather paying someone to do the work on an hourly basis. The Board asked that Peter Joseph consult the Town Attorney on the matter.

Mr. Joseph informed the Board that the filter media changeover at the Water Plant was recently put out to bid. There were three bids received and \$71,000 was the low bid. The Town has budgeted \$80,000 for the project. The media that is in place now has lasted over 15 years which is an extremely long time compared to many other municipalities. Other municipalities filter systems sometimes only last 4-5 years, often due to the fact that there are higher levels of organic compounds being filtered by their water systems.

The Board reviewed the year to date budget expenditures. Peter Joseph informed them that the Town has not had to borrow any money this year as tax payments are being made. He added that Town Treasurer Wendy Tanner, Helen Jones and Susan Whitman have been doing a great job keeping him and the Board up to speed on the General Fund balance and cash flow. Peter Joseph also informed the Board that the CIP process will begin within the next month.

The Town also put the 2001 Chevy pickup truck out to bid. The high bid was \$1,500 however the high bidder decided not to purchase the truck so it was sold to the only other bidder, Jon Ham, for \$1,100.

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Peter Joseph informed the Board that he and Chief Smith met with Superintendent Cosgriff regarding the School Resource Officer. The meeting went very well and the School is moving forward with the reimbursement of funds to the Town for the SRO. The agreement would still need approval from the School Board.

Other Business

O.J. Robinson updated Patricia McTeague on the Board's recent meeting with the Woodstock Board of Selectmen. It is the Board's opinion that the Town should move forward in pursuing discussions regarding combined services with the Town of Woodstock. O.J. Robinson would like Peter Joseph to draft a letter to that effect to the Woodstock Board to follow up on their meeting. Peter Moore stated that in his experience over the last ten years, when the two Boards communicate frequently they work well together and a great deal of progress is made.

O.J. Robinson had a question regarding the letters that were sent out to the commercial businesses relating to how their property valuation is determined through income approach appraisal. Several property owners have expressed their concerns to him about the letter they received from Vision Appraisal Technology, Inc. There was an extended discussion on the revaluation and O.J. Robinson requested a copy of the letter which Peter Joseph said he would provide.

The Board will discuss the Chenard property at their next meeting.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Paul Beaudin questioned what was being done with the disposition of the the Town's property currently leased by the Common Man. He explained that he wanted to know how the Town is going to handle that piece of property as he is interested in purchasing a piece of Town property that abuts his. He explained that he understands he would be essentially treated the same as the Common Man in regards to purchasing Town property. There was an extended discussion about the piece of Town land behind Mr. Beaudin's property and how the Town has no real use for it as there is no access to the property. Peter Joseph agreed that the Town really has no use for that parcel of land. Peter Moore added that he did not see a problem with putting this piece of property out to bid as the Board has had a continuing discussion about selling isolated Town lots that have no value to the Town and putting them back on the tax roll. Peter Joseph would investigate whether it would be necessary to subdivide the parcel prior to sale.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to attend to, the Board adjourned at 8:25pm and reviewed the accounts payable for the week ending June 3, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brook Rose

Approval Date: ____/____/____

LINCOLN BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Chairman Peter Moore

Selectman Patricia McTeague

Selectman O.J. Robinson