

**LINCOLN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013 – 5:00PM
LINCOLN TOWN HALL - 148 MAIN STREET, LINCOLN NH**

Board of Selectmen Present: Chairman O.J. Robinson, Patricia McTeague, and Tamra Ham.

Staff Present: Town Manager Butch Burbank, Fire Chief Dennis Rosolen, and Administrative Assistant Brook Rose.

Public Present: See attached sign in sheet.

I. CALL TO ORDER

O.J. Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

II. NON PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91:A:3II (a,c) personnel

MOTION: “To enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91 A:3II(a,c).”

Roll call vote: **O.J. Robinson voted yes**
 Patricia McTeague voted yes
 Tamra Ham voted yes

The Board entered non-public session at 5:00pm.

MOTION: “To re-enter public session.”

Motion: Tamra Ham Second: Patricia McTeague All in favor.

The Board re-entered public session at 5:42 pm.

III. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: “To approve the meeting minutes of April 8, 2013 as presented.”

Motion: Patricia McTeague Second: Tamra Ham Motion carries.

Motion: “To approve the non-public meeting minutes of April 8, 2013 as presented.”

Motion: Patricia McTeague Second: Tamra Ham Motion carries.

IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Planning Board Appointment

O.J. Robinson updated the Board on a decision made by the Planning Board at their last meeting regarding the Lincoln Trucking and Excavating matter. The Planning Board resolved that the violations have been addressed as there was no change of use on the property. The Planning Board rescinded the letter from former Planning & Zoning Administrator Matt Henry. Thus, Town Manager Burbank recommended that the Board appoint Taylor Beaudin to the Planning Board.

MOTION: “To appoint Taylor Beaudin as an alternate to the Planning Board for the term of one year.”

Motion: Patricia McTeague

Second: Tamra Ham

All in favor.

Resignation of Fire Chief Dennis Rosolen

MOTION: “To accept Dennis Rosolen’s resignation as Fire Chief effective April 26, 2013.”

Motion: Tamra Ham

Second: Patricia McTeague All in favor.

V. PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING RE: POLICE DISPATCH SERVICES

O.J. Robinson began the public meeting by explaining that the Board of Selectmen asked that the Town Manager research local dispatch services to see what options for cost savings are available to the Town. He explained that there are only 3 towns in Grafton County (Lincoln, Hanover, and Lebanon) that have their own dispatch centers. All of the other municipalities are part of a cooperative dispatch center. The Board asked Grafton County Dispatch Center for a proposal on dispatching services.

At this time Grafton County Sheriff Doug Dutile and Communication Director Tom Andross presented their proposal on behalf of Grafton County Dispatch Center. Their presentation is attached to the meeting minutes. Mr. Andross gave an overview of dispatch services in the State of NH and specifically in Grafton County. Grafton County Dispatch Center provides police dispatch services for many municipalities as well as for Twin State Fire which has 26 fire departments and 14 EMS providers. Mr. Andross went into great detail about the dynamics of the Dispatch Center and what services they can offer the Town. Sheriff Dutile invited anyone interested to tour the Dispatch Center. O. J. Robinson questioned whether if the Town of Lincoln moved their dispatch services to Lincoln would Grafton County Dispatch Center need to bring on any additional staff. Mr. Andross replied that the Dispatch Center would increase the hours of their part time employees.

Chief Smith questioned whether Grafton County Dispatch Center could give the Town a five year guarantee on their proposed rate. Mr. Andross replied that the proposal they provided to the Town is an estimate at this point.

Rick Kelley questioned how much money it would save the Town to transfer dispatch services to Grafton County Dispatch Center. O.J. Robinson replied that it would save the Town at least \$200,000 per year. He added that it costs a minimum of \$300,000 to run the Town’s dispatch center on annual basis and Grafton County’s proposal for dispatching is \$105,000.

Paula Strickon questioned whether Grafton County’s proposal includes the morning phone call program the Town currently provides. Mr. Andross replied that Grafton County does not offer this program now but they are willing to work with the Town to offer this service.

Many members of the audience relayed personal stories of how well the Town’s dispatch center has served them and expressed support for keeping the dispatch center in Town.

Several members of the audience also expressed concern that Grafton County’s dispatchers would not be as familiar with the area as the Town’s dispatchers. Chief Dutile stated that the County dispatch center receives phone calls all the time from people that do not know where they are located. O.J. Robinson questioned whether when someone calls 9-1-1, would they go to Laconia or Concord’s dispatch center?

Chief Dutile replied that 9-1-1 calls go first to Laconia or Concord and then they are transferred to local dispatch. There are no 9-1-1 calls that are answered by a local dispatch center.

Lincoln Green Property Manager Kathy Cook stated that she always calls the Town's dispatch center in an emergency rather than using 9-1-1 as she has not had success with 9-1-1 in the past. She questioned what the Town plans to do with the savings. O.J. Robinson replied that the savings would bring the tax rate down. He added that the Town is facing some large expenses from deferred maintenance issues that need to be addressed including the levy project which will be over a million dollars.

At this time Lincoln Police dispatcher J.J. Bujeaud gave a presentation on behalf of the Town's dispatch center. His presentation is attached to the meeting minutes. He explained the calls for service and how the calls are on a steady upward trend. From the year 2000 -2012 there have been a total of 248,223 calls for service which is an average of 19,000 calls per year. There were 925 walk-ins over the past year. The tax impact of the dispatch center is 6.9% of net town appropriation which amounts to \$78 annually on a \$200,000 home. J.J.'s opinion is that Grafton County's Dispatch Center will end up costing the Town more as he believes their proposal underestimates the amount of calls taken by the Town. He also asked the audience if they want to eliminate four local jobs from Town as the Town is clearly striving to bring more jobs into the area.

Paula Strickon mentioned that of the Town's five dispatchers, two of them are volunteers for the ambulance service. If these two dispatchers are forced to relocate to find work, the Town will also be losing valuable rescue volunteers. She added that the Board should take these details into consideration. O.J. Robinson stated that the reason the Board is hosting this public informational meeting is to gain the public's input as part of the decision making process.

At this time Lincoln Police Officer Stevens gave a presentation on the safety concerns involved in moving the Town's dispatch services to Grafton County. He stated many reasons why having a local dispatch center is valuable to the Town including the fact that the dispatchers assist the officers with duties beyond dispatching. Town dispatchers assist with arrests in that they monitor the booking room and the cells. As the County Dispatch Center covers sixteen police departments in Grafton County, he does not feel that they could provide the same high quality service as the Town's dispatch center.

The audience was overwhelmingly in favor of paying the \$76/year to keep the Town's dispatch center. Gloria Morin stated that she appreciates the Board trying to save the taxpayers money but this is a service she is willing to pay for. Earl Williams stated that he works the midnight shift at one of the local resorts. He explained that to his knowledge all of the local resorts call the dispatch center if they have an emergency. They do not call 9-1-1 because of the delayed response time.

As an employee of the Town, Sergeant Deluca questioned whether anyone in the audience was dissatisfied with the services of the dispatch center. There was no response from the audience.

At this time Patricia McTeague read a letter from former longtime Selectman Peter Moore into the meeting minutes. The letter was in support of the Town's dispatch center and is attached to the meeting minutes.

Tom Andross commented that he wanted to express his support of the State of NH's Emergency 9-1-1 system. NH has won awards for its 9-1-1 medical dispatching services. It is rated as one of the best in the country. He added that if the audience was to take anything away from this discussion it should be that 9-1-1 provides excellent services every day and that just because there have been a few bad

experiences for some in the past, there are probably many more positive success stories. He added that in an emergency, residents should contact 9-1-1.

O.J. Robinson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressing their opinions. He added that the Board would discuss this matter further at a future meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to attend to, the Board made the following motion:

MOTION: "To adjourn."

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brook Rose

Approval Date ____/____/____

Chairman O.J. Robinson

Vice Chair Patricia McTeague

Selectman Tamra Ham