

**2017 Municipal Budget Process – Town of Lincoln
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2018
Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH**

Attending: Beverly Hall, Larry Sweeney, Jack Daly, Dennis Ducharme, Chairman Mike Simons,
Vice Chairman Herb Gardner, Selectperson Jayne Ludwig, Secretary Susan Chenard, Lutz
Wallem, Cindy Rineer, Paul Beaudin
Excused: Cindy Lloyd, Patricia McTeague
Staff: Town Manager Butch Burbank, Fire Chief Ron Beard, Finance Officer Helen Jones
Audience: Tammy Ham

Call to Order: Chairman Simons called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of January 2, 2018, as written.

Motion: Herb Gardner Second: Larry Sweeney Motion passes unanimously

Herb would like to be added to January 16, 2018 meeting agenda to present a case for the
Trustees of Trust Funds to set up a budget to pay someone to take their minutes. This was the
procedure, as he was told by Butch.

Fire – #11 – Ron Beard presented. Herb first thanked the fire (and police) departments for their
work on the September fire at the Nordic Inn and how well they took care of his wife and the
other residents there. Ron said that the Woodstock fire department and Linwood ambulance
also were very helpful that day. Butch and Helen explained that wages had the 3% increase, but
also that there was an estimate for those on call. Last year, this department budgeted \$75,902
for payroll, spent only \$66,486.10, but was now asking for \$79,172 for this year. Ron explained
that in 2016, there were about 162 calls, while 2017 saw about 200. This number is trending
upward as the town gets busier. Most calls were alarm activations, vehicle accidents, and 3
structure fires (2 in Woodstock). They have 2 EMT's and a paramedic on staff, and sometimes
get used when the ambulance service isn't available. Two more people will start training for this
soon as well. Mike said we're lucky to have the department that we do and the cost is small.
Eleven years ago, the cost was \$82,000. The department has now grown to 17 members and is
still growing. Ron explained that he's adding equipment for the new staff too, making sure that
they have current gear. Cancer awareness causes need for a 2nd set of gear, while first is
cleaned appropriately. Larry noted the overspending on equipment in 2017 compares with the
reduction for 2018, as we purchased new equipment in advance. Insurance is even since the
loss of Bomba. The fire station is holding up well now. Heating propane cost went up, based on
estimates by Helen after calling 3 companies. Propane is currently \$1.39 vs \$2.14 for heating
oil. This price is better than what the school is paying. Overall, the fire department budget is
down 5.5%. Ron noted that training at Burton had no Fire 1 or 2 all summer. He'll be planning to
work with local fire departments and use the place up north, in Bethlehem, at no cost, using
local experts, and just keep some funds for when professional instructors come. (This location is
an old fish and game building off Trudeau Road.) Butch explained that full-time chiefs and full-
time firefighters have this place to use, which was hard fought for at state government. The

45 auxiliary has become very active and raised funds, said Jayne, now with a trust fund of some
46 \$3,000. These are not town funds, but rather that group's money. Woodstock auxiliary is also
47 set up through that town. Both work together on mutual aid calls. The committee thanked the
48 fire chief and his department. He'll provide reports on calls for distribution next week.

49
50 Mike said that he had heard that the ambulance will be coming back to us with a request for
51 another \$35,000, as they are actually underfunded. For example, Medicare only covers about
52 30% of a typical call. Also, there's a staffing issue, as the director is resigning due to having to
53 cover too many shifts, as there hadn't been enough volunteers to cover shifts. They (the 3-
54 member board) are coming on January 18th.


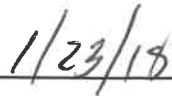
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56 Mike also wanted to mention that he's been reviewing the Selectmen's minutes, seeing how
57 things come to us and that there are some big expenses coming to us and the townspeople.
58 Paul asked that we get documents about the ambulance service prior to the January 18th
59 meeting.

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61 **Legal – #4** – Butch presented this budget as level funded. We've been finishing various legal
62 issues and hoped that \$135,000 would be ok for a typical year. But last night at the planning
63 board meeting, someone threatened to sue the town as well, due to an ordinance change. Jack
64 had asked about if we could not have a contingency fund for this, which we could not, nor does
65 it fit within CIP parameters, especially as it shows as available funds. This town has always kept
66 a healthy fund balance, and that's what helped this year. We know this at tax rate setting time.
67 We're still within the DRA limits of 8-12%. The levee funds will come before town meeting,
68 through a warrant article, so the fund balance would be attached from 2 directions. Four
69 attorneys were there last night, each with differing opinions. Paul asked if we should put legal
70 out to bid. Mike reviewed past budgets, where increases had been mainly due to the levee. We
71 do work with different attorneys with different specialties, for personnel/union, utilities,
72 land/planning, etc. The Town of Lincoln paid \$400,000 and some water/sewer tap fees, on a suit
73 for \$3.5 million, and now we have a permanent easement to the river and Old Hole, and avoided
74 the risk of a fickle jury. It took 2 years of fighting to get there though. Dennis has been through
75 cases at jury level and agreed on their fickleness. Butch has been willing to tackle issues as
76 they have come up, after festering in the past. We're working through them.

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78 **Insurance – #9** – Property liability, presented by Butch, dropped almost 7%, based on the not-
79 to-exceed number.

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81 **Patriotic Purposes – #23** – Butch explained the 2 new items on the budget. The Chamber of
82 Commerce had requested that the holiday banners and hardware be replaced. Also there was
83 request from the local townspeople for a holiday tree to be planted and lighted downtown,
84 between the town hall and gazebo area. These are both one time deals, and then the budget
85 should go back down.

86
87 Mike noted that Susan is sending a rough copy of the minutes to Helen just after each meeting,
88 if someone needs to know what happened.

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90 **Motion:** To adjourn at 6:37pm.
91 Motion: Herb Gardner Second: Larry Sweeney Motion carries unanimously
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94  _____  _____
95 Chairman Mike Simons Date