

1                   **2017 Municipal Budget Process 2016 – Town of Lincoln**  
2                   **Budget Committee Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2017**  
3                   **Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH**  
4

5   Attending: Marty Nastasia, Beverly Hall, Larry Sweeney, Patricia McTeague, Chairman Mike  
6   Simons, Selectperson Jayne Ludwig, Deanna Huot, Secretary Susan Chenard, Cindy Rineer  
7   Excused: Lutz Wallem, Dennis Ducharme, Vice-Chair Herbert Gardner, Cindy Lloyd  
8   Staff: Town Manager Butch Burbank, Finance Officer Helen Jones, Fire Chief Ron Beard  
9   Audience: Mary Conn

10  
11 **Call to Order:** Chairman Mike Simons called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

12  
13 **Review of meeting minutes of January 5, 2017**

14 **Motion:** To accept the January 5, 2017 meeting minutes, as amended,

15 Motion: Deanna Huot                   Second: Beverly Hall                   Motion carries with 1 abstention  
16

17 **#11 - Fire Department - Ron Beard**

18 Butch explained that wages up \$5,000 to cover more firefighter hours due to anticipation of  
19 being more busy, as the town itself grows busier. The Chief's wages, now \$30,902, reflect the  
20 increase for Ron's fire department portion of his salary.

21 Ron carried on, commenting that phones went up \$100, cell phone increased \$50. Training &  
22 Memberships are up \$1,000 as the fire academy increased the cost of courses. Many other line  
23 items remained same. Beverly asked if milage shouldn't increase as well, but Ron said they try  
24 to use the town van if possible. Regarding contracted services, many remained the same. Twin  
25 State dues remained the same this year, but may drop by 50% next year. (Currently, we pay the  
26 2nd most, but they plan to spread the costs more evenly in the future.)

27 Provident Insurance is a new line item. We learned this year that we were underinsured,  
28 particularly in light of the fatality that occurred. Provident is one of the only companies that give  
29 added benefits, such as death and disability, for voluntary firefighters. It is not mandatory, but  
30 the right thing to do. Now that Lincoln has an auxiliary, if they, or anyone that the Chief requests  
31 to assist, have an accident on scene, they would also be covered for those accidents, up to  
32 lifetime.

33 Truck repairs shows an increase of \$3,000 to prolong the service life of Engine 2 and Rescue 4.  
34 Propane cost is down 28%, due to the new heater and lesser rate. Materials and supplies for his  
35 office are up due to the number of inspections. Mike asked about the backlog, which Ron said  
36 was better now. The State required monitoring of more items, including craft fair tents, etc. Mike  
37 also asked about the overage expended. Helen said she would check into those details and  
38 stepped out for a few minutes. It was found that some \$3700 of overage costs in account 600  
39 included badges for the funeral and uniforms.

40 Deanna worried that propane and fuel costs were budgeted too low. We currently pay  
41 \$1.93/gallon, as we don't pay taxes. A credit card goes with each vehicle with the firefighter's  
42 and car number needing to be input, etc.) This allows us to take advantage of lower fuel costs in  
43 town than at the state shed, which is in a contract at a higher rate.

44 Ron was able to acquire a newer ladder truck this year at significant savings. This ladder truck  
45 will reach to the top of Riverwalk, and also has a pump, which increases our ISO rating.  
46 An ISO re-evaluation is done every 4 years, and we're up this year. So it's a good time to have  
47 a new fire truck with a Quinn. We also have new software, into which Ron enters everything that  
48 happens at the fire department. This will allow him to answer ISO questions easily, with no need  
49 to spend hours in the file cabinets. Larry wondered about the cost of ISO auditors, as it had cost  
50 \$1200-1500 for businesses he's worked at, but there is no cost for this to towns. Ron explained  
51 that beyond the actual fire department, ISO checks the water supply throughout town, including  
52 developments not on the town system.

53 Jayne wondered about in-house maintenance, etc. We could change the oil (and do), but it's  
54 safer for inspections, etc. to be done by someone who does that professionally. Mike asked how  
55 Ron likes the new roads at Beechwood, and he stated that they are nice improvement, though  
56 the hill and some curbing can be a challenge.

57 We need to replace some hoses for \$1000. Searchlight funds from last year were used for the  
58 uniforms, so he hopes to get these this year. We're purchasing 2 helmets this year, and will  
59 purchase more High Rise Packs. Which we continue to supplement as some buildings just  
60 require it. Regarding SCBA air bottles, we need to start a replacement program. The smaller,  
61 lighter bottles (composite) need replacing, while aluminum ones last indefinitely but are heavier  
62 and cause fatigue.

63 We have an air quality meter, but are looking to buy another thermal imaging camera this year,  
64 as the current one is more than 10 years old. The old one still works, but technology has  
65 advanced significantly and the fire academy trains with this new style, which is much smaller  
66 and lighter too. These allow the fire chief to direct his team to the hottest part of the fire. The  
67 new camera also records and takes pictures, which can be helpful in follow-up.

68 There was a brief discussion of the recent Ramshorn fire. Many firefighters had to hike up to the  
69 top in full gear. We got 2 trucks up, and had to look for snow-buried hydrants. Nate Hadaway  
70 and Dave Beaudin helped to monitor the water at the Village of Loon Mountain tank, etc. It was  
71 a true team effort, with 8 towns responding. With the snowstorm that day, in the middle of  
72 vacation week, etc., managing the fire scene and logistics, the training and dedication of the  
73 surrounding departments really helped. Jayne said that the Selectboard heard a lot of good  
74 feedback on the firefight. Ron will be meeting with the Plymouth and Campton fire chiefs soon,  
75 as they seem to want to work with us more.

76 The fire department saw a total increase of 21.55%.

77 Cindy Rineer asked about the \$5,000 increase in other firefighter pay. This is in part for more  
78 training sessions, and modern training. We need to include high rise training, which is not as  
79 prevalent a need in smaller towns normally.

80 Cindy Rineer also wanted to make sure that Ron is being paid for all the time that he's working.  
81 He's on salary, but Butch agrees that Ron is working more hours, possibly, than he should.

82 Butch still thinks that Ron spends enough time on these duties to be a full-time fire chief, and he  
83 has also taken over the health officer role, with an eye on building codes, etc. It's working with  
84 Ron's split duties so far, though, and Ron still needs to take a fire 2 career firefighter course  
85 before he can be a full-time fire chief. We'd possibly look at next year for this change.

86 Everyone thanked Ron for his service. Jayne mentioned how good it was to have him on the  
87 ZBA too, for safety questions.

88 There was no public input and Ron departed.  
89 **Motion:** To close discussion on the Fire Department budget until the meeting prior to the Public  
90 Hearing.  
91 Motion: Patricia McTeague Second: Jayne Ludwig Motion carries unanimously  
92  
93 #4 - Legal - Butch Burbank  
94 We budgeted \$150,000 last year for this department, and expenditures will be pretty close.  
95 We're looking to drop this budget to \$135,000 this year. The levee budget continues level, while  
96 code enforcement is down. Personnel and utility assessing line items are down, as those  
97 lawsuits are in the final stages. General legal now includes Planning and ZBA, as the lawyer will  
98 often respond to multiple items at once, so it is difficult to separate out. The Landing is new line  
99 item, at \$30,000. With the bankruptcy and homeowners, it's a 3-way battle we're participating in,  
100 most likely for all of 2017. The union contract negotiations are in full swing. But overall, we're  
101 looking at a drop of \$15,000.  
102 Jayne said that there were 4 ZBA meetings in the last 1.5 months, and we needed legal advice  
103 for one. Zoning issues concern actions taken up to 20 years back, where new concerns are  
104 using old items as a precedent for new requests. Again, this is as low as we're comfortable with.  
105 There was no public input.  
106 **Motion:** To close discussion on the Legal budget until the meeting prior to the Public Hearing.  
107 Motion: Patricia McTeague Second: Jayne Ludwig Motion carries unanimously  
108  
109 #9 - Insurance - Butch Burbank  
110 Once again, insurance is something we don't currently have a lot of choice in, due to lack of  
111 competition in the market. Property Liability has a not-to-exceed figure of 119% higher than last  
112 year. This is based on our claims history, with a 5 year running average. The firefighter death  
113 was counted into the 2017 rate because of when it occurred. We are in a July pool. Butch will  
114 look at the private sector. Patricia said that we haven't had good luck there in the past though.  
115 Butch said there's someone starting a 5B pool to compete with Primex. They're not ready for  
116 this budget season, but hopefully next year. The PLT group was disbanded by the government,  
117 so Primex is the only show in the state. A reminder that this is property and liability, not worker's  
118 comp insurance. A lawsuit also contributes to a change in the rate. This is a not to exceed  
119 figure, so we may see a smaller bill. Solid waste from Woodstock does give us a small  
120 reimbursement. There was no public input.  
121 **Motion:** To close discussion on the Insurance budget until the meeting prior to the Public  
122 Hearing.  
123 Motion: Patricia McTeague Second: Deanna Huot Motion carries unanimously  
124  
125 #23 - Patriotic Purposes  
126 This budget remains level with last year. There was a discussion of fireworks and holiday  
127 decorations, which are nice to have. There was no public input.  
128 **Motion:** To close discussion on the Patriotic Purposes budget until the meeting prior to the  
129 Public Hearing.  
130 Motion: Larry Sweeney Second: Patricia McTeague Motion carries unanimously  
131

At 6:58pm, Butch and Mary left.

Helen stayed to explain the handout of page 17 of the budget book, section F, regarding Public Purposes Only, which she had left for us to review in regards to funding Jean's Playhouse. Chamber expenses are dues, which are different. The tax exemption seemed enough of a donation from the town. Helen left at 7:03pm.

Mike said that Larry had some information regarding a change in ruling for veterans. Larry explained that NH had been granting a partial rebate on what taxes will be, based on service during periods of active conflict. Larry received a notice last Friday that there was a bill passed and signed by Governor Hasan, passing this rebate on to all veterans. Each town would adopt this individually, so something needs to be presented at town meeting. He was wondering how to request this. Jayne suggested Larry speak with Butch, so that it can go before the Board of Selectmen. We'd want to get it in soon for the town meeting calendar schedule.

Mike stated that Cindy L had sent out some documents for us to review, but she was not available today to explain them. The Committee opted to wait until she is next in to go over them in detail.

**Motion:** To adjourn at 7:12pm.

Motion: Larry Sweeney      Second: Patricia McTeague      Motion carries unanimously



Chairman Mike Simons

1/24/17  
Date