

**2016 Municipal Budget Process 2015 – Town of Lincoln  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2016  
Lincoln Town Hall, 148 Main Street, Lincoln, NH**

**Attendance:**

Budget Committee Members: Marty Nastasia, Ivan Strickon, Cindy Lloyd, Bev Hall, Tamra Ham, Dennis Ducharme, Mike Simons, Herb Gardner, Selectperson Jayne Ludwig, Deanna Huot, Susan Chenard, Lutz Wallem, and Paul Beaudin.

Staff: Town Manager Butch Burbank, Finance Director Helen Jones

Audience: Ron Beard, Cindy Rineer, OJ Robinson, Patricia McTeague, Mary Conn, David Beaudin, Attorney Peter Malia, Rick Kelley, Chief Ted Smith, Dr. Vicki Martin, Anthony Drapeau, Edmond Gionet, Paula Strickon and a few others, as noted on attachment.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Mike Simons called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

Motion: “To Approve the Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2016, as amended”

Motion: Tamra Ham                      Second: Herb Gardner                      Motion carries unanimously

After clarifying that the Public Hearing would commence at 5:30pm and the Bond Hearing thereafter, the committee had some general discussion.

Paul noticed a change in the expenditures for the Fire Department wages, and Helen clarified that we paid the fire department in December. They have been paid twice per year, in July and December in 2015 for some time, but in 2016, they will start to be paid every 3 months.

Paul asked about tonight’s process. At 5:30pm, the floor is opened to public questions and discussion regarding the budget. If there are no changes made based on those, the committee would just vote on the bottom line number. If changes are made based on discussions, the committee would vote on that department’s figure again and then the bottom line. To finish, we would sign the final document at the next meeting.

Paul asked, “What about the petitioned article?” Tamra said she would like to wait until after the public participation before voting on it. This would be for \$525,000 for the design and construction of sidewalks, etc. on Pollard Road.

Paul asked about the warrant article votes and we clarified that they were voted on at the last meeting.

The Committee reviewed the estimated revenues reports showing 2015 budgeted and final actual figures, as well as 2016 budgeted. 2016 does show the \$20,000 income for the SRO position.

At 5:30pm,

Motion: “To Open the Public Hearing”

Motion: Tamra Ham                      Second: Deanna Huot                      Motion carries unanimously

It was decided to start the Public Hearing by discussing the petitioned warrant article proposed by Vicki Martin. It would raise \$525,000 by taxation for sidewalks and more on Pollard Road. Vicki explained that there had been vocal opponents in past attempts, mainly due to land owners

whose trees would be cut down and impacts to their land. Pollard Road is a heavily traveled route, more so lately with the development of more residences. It has become a well-traveled route by foot and vehicle. The lack of a sidewalk from one end to the other is a safety issue. Vicki got 50 signatures and brought her petition to the Board of Selectmen about 2 months ago. She came to understand that this showed support, but not much more. So she decided to try for a warrant article, as she's coming to understand more. There will be an informational meeting on February 17th at 7pm about this article. Past opponents now seem supportive. In working with the Town, she and Butch went to the town engineer, and got a quote based on tax and aerial maps. The \$525,000 is an overestimate, with 15% contingency. Per Vicki, there seems to be plenty of space (6'-9' in the Town's right of way, per her review), but she doesn't know what's in the middle. There's already a sidewalk from East Spur to Church Street on Pollard Road. So this new part would go from Church Street to the Kankamagus Motor Lodge area, connecting to the bike path, and completing the remaining 2/3 of Dodge Place's sidewalk. Tamra explained that there was talk at last night's Board of Selectmen's meeting about adding this to the CIP for 3-5 years and doing the project then, rather than taking the financial hit in one year. Vicki explained that she hadn't understood in the past about the options of bond versus taxation. She has no strong feelings about how the money is raised. She put a date on her article because she's concerned and wants it to be completed sooner rather than later. Utilizing Public Works was suggested, but they said they were too busy with other sidewalk repairs for the next few years. Selectperson Jayne thanked Vicki for coming, and asked how this would reflect in a tax amount. Butch explained that \$525,000 would be 67 cents per \$1000, so for a \$250,000 home, this would be a \$167.50 increase in this year's tax bill. Herb lives near Pollard Road and uses it a lot. He also thanked Vicki for coming, believes it is important and agrees that it should not take years to complete. Paul asked what the tax implication would be if we bonded it instead? Selectman OJ Robinson explained that the Board of Selectmen understands the need, but the question is how to pay for this. The 67 cents per thousand would be a huge hit to taxpayers. Really, there are 3 options. 1) Increase the tax rate by that \$0.67, 2) Redistribute funds from the Roads and Streets Capital Reserve Fund or 3) Insert the petition article as written, but then insert a separate version as a bond article, planning to bond it over 10 years and still do the project this year. The last would be his personal preference. Paul asked if sidewalks are covered in the Roads and Streets CRF. Tamra said that sidewalks maintenance is in it. OJ also believes it is covered under the legal description. The bond would hit the tax rate at about \$58,000 per year, or \$0.07 per thousand on the tax rate. Paul said that we should keep in mind that the bond means we pay interest, while the CIP uses savings. Paul also wanted to note that the Board of Selectmen committed to taking care of all sidewalks year-round. He thinks the bond is the best option though. Deanna was wondering about which order the various bond items would be listed. Bond articles must be first on the list of warrant articles, as polls stay open for one hour for written votes. Vicki mentioned that a bond would need a 2/3 majority vote, while raising the money through taxation this year would need just a simple majority. If the bond article fails, we can discuss and vote on her article, but if it clears, we could just table that. Tamra said that the Board of Selectmen needs to meet to discuss this bond. The deadline for bond hearings is February 22nd. February 17<sup>th</sup> is the noticed meeting for Vicki's sidewalk article, and we could hold that bond hearing that same night. Then the Budget Committee would need to meet again after that, even the same night. Jayne asked about bond limits. Butch answered that we have a \$23.5 million bond limit, and are nowhere near it. The interest rate is about 3-3.5% per OJ. OJ suggested waiting on the petitioned article tonight and seeing what the Selectmen vote first. Mike and Herb would rather vote tonight. Tamra felt that we shouldn't recommend both, really,

as they are 2 versions of funding. Either way, the committee would have to continue this meeting to the 17<sup>th</sup>, as it would still be part of our public hearing.

*Motion: "To Recommend the Sidewalks Petition Warrant Article as written"*

*Motion: Paul Beaudin*

*Second: Herb Gardner*

*Discussion*

Paul felt that the budget committee supporting both articles was not an issue, as both versions would be explained on Town Meeting night. The question is, would the committee support the project, no matter how you fund it. Bev felt we could still use the CIP, but it would bump other projects. OJ said that to use that CIP option, one would have to amend the article from the floor at town meeting; to clarify how much funding would come from CIP versus taxation. Cindy felt that the voters need to have the monetary implications explained to them. Paul said that the informational meeting on the 17th could help explain that. Paul also noted that he was against the CIP version, as people have voted for funding there for projects that were planned. He still feels that the bond is the best way to go. Discussing the issue in various meetings will help clarify. For example, about \$430,000 in the CIP is scheduled for Beechwood Roads, so if we use that money, next year's bond payment could be re-appropriated from there. We could appropriate \$100,000 by taxation and use the rest from the Beechwood Roads project for the sidewalk project, as that wouldn't affect other roads. OJ said that this was correct, and not. He explained that the CIP committee had planned to use the excess funds for West Street next year and not have to bond that. There are 3 projects and \$435,000 available in CIP; the rest has to be bonded. Almost everyone agreed that West Street was way overdue. It seemed very unfair to the voters expecting to have planned projects done to change the arrangements now. Bev was still interested in a CIP plan. OJ said that we could amend the article at town meeting, saying that the budget committee suggested using \$100,000 from taxes and \$425,000 from CIP. Paul then said that he would like to move the question. The committee would need a 2/3 vote to end the discussion. Ten members voted to move the question. Chairman Simons asked for a vote on the motion to recommend the petitioned article at \$525,000 by taxation.

*Motion carries with 3 opposed.*

There were no questions on any other budget items from the audience. The committee would then be voting on the new bottom line.

*Motion: "To Close the Public Hearing"*

*Motion: Tamra Ham*

*Second: Herb Gardner*

*Motion carries unanimously*

*Motion: "To Amend the Grand Total of the Operating Budget for 2016 to \$9,593,506"*

*Motion: Paul Beaudin*

*Second: Herb Gardner*

*Motion carries with 2 opposed*

The committee will not be meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016, but continuing the meeting to the 17<sup>th</sup>, with plans to reopen the public hearing at that time.

*Motion: "To Continue the Budget Committee's Public Hearing to February 17, 2016 at 7:30pm"*

*Motion: Paul Beaudin*

*Second: Herb Gardner*

*Motion carries unanimously*

At 6:25pm, the Board of Selectmen moved to the front of the room and held a Bond Hearing on

the Beechwood Roads and Bunker Lane Levee Project bond proposals. The majority of the Budget Committee stayed for this meeting, but moved to the audience. That meeting ended at about 7:30pm.

*W. J. Simons*  
2/23/16

February 2, 2016  
**Budget Meeting Public Hearing**  
Please PRINT Legibly

5:30 PM

*Ben Beaudin*  
Signature

*Ben Beaudin*  
Print Name

*Steve Myron*  
Signature

*Darin Wippenma (Littleton Courier)*  
Print Name

*Cindy E. Rineer*  
Signature

*Cindy E. Rineer*  
Print name

*[Signature]*  
Signature

*O.J. Robinson*  
Print Name

*Patricia McTeague*  
Signature

*Patricia McTeague*  
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*Mary Conn*  
Signature

*Mary Conn*  
Print Name

*David Beaudin*  
Signature

*David Beaudin*  
Print Name

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*Krue Kelly*  
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*Victoria Martin*  
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*[Signature]*  
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*LARRY SWEENEY*  
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*[Signature]*  
Signature

*Peter Malia*  
Print Name

*[Signature]*  
Signature

*EDMUND GONNET (Left) 10 minutes*  
Print Name *in @ 5:30 left @ 5:40*

Signature

Print Name

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