

Town of Lincoln
MINUTES
Annual Town Meeting and Town School District Meeting
February 29, 2016

Called to order at: 6:07 p.m. Hearing no objection, State Representative, Dave Sharpe gave highlights of work being done in the State Legislature this year, including defining independent contractor vs. employee, reworking special education funding, Vermont Health Connect, and school consolidation. There was discussion of getting the York Hill Bridge higher up on the list for replacement. Dave was complimented for the work he has done in Vermont.

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln and the Town School District of Lincoln are hereby warned and notified to meet at Burnham Hall on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and transact business, and on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at Burnham Hall, the polls to open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for voting by Australian ballot.

Moderator, Will Sipsey, welcomed new and returning participants to Town Meeting, reviewed the procedures for Town Meeting, and asked non-Lincoln voters to identify themselves. Selectboard members present were: Chair, Bill Finger, Will Sipsey, Paul Forlenza, Oakley Smith, and James Needham.

Agenda for Meeting at Burnham Hall on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Article 1 To elect all town officers as required by law, by Australian ballot, voting to be held at Burnham Hall, polls to be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Tuesday March 1, 2016.

No action required, none taken.

Article 2 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to eliminate the office of town auditor in accordance with 17 VSA §2651b.? [by Australian ballot, Tuesday, March 1, 2016. 7am – 7pm, at Burnham Hall]

No action required. Discussion: Elwin Isham pointed out that even with the audit published in the town report, we could still experience embezzlement.

Article 3 To act upon the reports of the Town Officers and the Town School District Officers as submitted by the Town Auditors.

Motion: Elwin Isham, **Second:** Mary Harrison, **Discussion:** (1) Elwin Isham asked about the Selectboard Report, mentioning that Town Office construction would begin in the spring. When were bids obtained? Selectboard Chair, Bill Finger, indicated that bids were solicited last year and we only received one, which was almost \$100,000 more than the bond vote. A new approach was taken to be able to get the project done within the voted amount. The Selectboard hired an architect (Keefe and Wesner, from Middlebury) and did away with the two-phased plan, which allowed us to incorporate many of the suggestions from our public meetings such as moving the entrance to the south side of the building and placing the vault on the north side. A qualified contractor, Mill Bridge Construction of Middlebury, came up with a detailed plan to stay within our budget. Putting the project out to bid again may have resulted in leaving us in the same place again with further delay. Plans are available for the public to review. Counsel was sought to be sure we have proceeded legally. (2) Rev. David Wood asked us to turn to page 12 of the Town Report and observe a moment of silence for those who have passed on. He offered

thanks for their contributions to our community. On page 10, a list of new babies born, should remind us that we are preparing our town for them. Marriages were celebrated too! (3) Nancy Stevens, Collector of Delinquent Taxes, pointed out that on page 99, Cindy Hanson and Scott Manning have paid off their taxes since publishing the report, which reduced the total due to the town down to \$21,738.87. (4) Sally Ober pointed out that the financial report for the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company on page 63 was published incorrectly. A replacement page was placed on each seat in the hall; this was provided by the town auditors.

Article 4 Shall the Town authorize the payment of real property taxes to the Town Treasurer, in two equal installments, with the due dates being the second Wednesday of October [October 12, 2016] and the second Wednesday of March [March 8, 2017], per 32 V.S.A. 4871?

Motion: David Harrison, **Second:** Mary Harrison, **Discussion:** Why the change from being the 10th day of each month to the second Wednesday? Treasurer, Lisa Truchon, clarified that it would be easier to avoid holidays with bank and post office closures, plus the town office is open late on Wednesdays. **ARTICLE 4 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Claude Rainville asked for a point of order: we never voted on Article 3. The Moderator received unanimous consent to suspend the rules and return to Article 3. **BACK TO ARTICLE 3—** Discussion continued...(5)two conflicting reports, one by the Zoning Administrator on page 68 said that there were no subdivisions and on page 60, the Planning Commission report indicated that several subdivision requests happened. The Selectboard agreed to follow up and find the answer. (6)What are the needs to be addressed by constables? Our First Constable, Josh Otey, a fully certified police officer, wants to offer more personal service to Lincoln and proposes to hold a public meeting to identify needs in the community. **ARTICLE 3 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 5 Shall the Town collect interest on overdue taxes from the due date of each installment in the amount of .5% (1/2 of 1%) per month or fraction thereof, in accordance with 32 V.S.A 4873?

Motion: Greg Vitercik, **Second:** Fred Danforth, **Discussion:** none. **ARTICLE 5 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 6 Shall the voters authorize a total Highway Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$978,445 of which \$775,352 shall be raised by taxes and \$157,000 by non-tax revenues and \$46,093 is surplus revenue?

Motion: David Harrison, **Second:** Greg Vitercik **Discussion:** Selectboard member, Paul Forlenza reviewed highlights of the budget. The Highway budget is down about \$15,900 from last year. Highlights of the budget were: health care premiums went up 5%; a consultant will be hired to do a road study for \$4,000; equipment maintenance has gone up by about \$10,000; we will rent an excavator for two months; a new heating system at the town garage is using recycled oil for a \$2,500 savings; salt, cold patch, and paving are reduced by about \$20,000; putting \$20,000 into the Bridge Fund for Bridge 46 is included; and we decreased by \$40,000 the transfer into the Capital Equipment Fund. Question: could we spend surplus on patching and pavement? Paul Forlenza pointed out that our Moderator, Will Sipsey, is the Selectboard member mostly responsible for roads, Oakley Smith's focus is the town garage and energy and the environment, James Needham is responsible for public safety, Paul does the budget, and Bill Finger is responsible for everything else. Will Sipsey asked Jim Dumont to serve as a substitute moderator, so he could respond to the question. Jim took over the meeting. Will Sipsey clarified that we are putting \$5,000 more into paving, but the really bad roads, we do not want to pave, because they need more than just pavement, the road base needs to be rebuilt. Paving grants will be pursued. This year the consultant will be looking at a plan for paved roads. New State regulations will be requiring improvements to managing storm water runoff; we are hoping to benefit from some of the new waterways grants becoming available. Any surplus in the Highway Fund can be used on highways. A comment was made that the condition of our dirt roads seems much better with Dave Cavoretto on board. Another comment was made that dirt roads are more

pleasing than pavement. Will Sipsey resumed as moderator and ruled a question about the school generator as not germane to article 6, because it is part of the General Fund. There was a question about the plan to rent an excavator and the subsequent change in contractual services? Paul Forlenza clarified that line 65 on page 24 shows budget columns for Fiscal years 2015, 2016, and the proposed budget for 2017. **ARTICLE 6 PASSED AS WARNED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 7 Shall the voters authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$341,269 of which \$256,665 shall be raised by taxes, \$33,520 by non-tax revenues and \$51,084 is surplus revenue?

Motion: David Harrison, **Second:** Barry Olson, **Discussion:** Selectboard member Paul Forlenza reviewed highlights of the budget: increased election cost for a new vote tabulator machine, health care costs up, decreased Listers budget, increased transfer station budget to pay for all the time it takes to maintain the facility, savings from no longer needing to monitor the old landfill, excellent recycling compliance has required a new bin on site for excess material collection, the Selectboard hired Matthew Ham-Ellis as their administrative assistant, we had to buy a new generator at the school and split the cost of it with the school. **ARTICLE 7 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

RECESS TOWN MEETING; OPEN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

Time: 7:13 p.m.

ADJOURN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING; RE-OPEN TOWN MEETING

Time: 8:38 p.m.

Article 8 Shall the Town authorize the Agent to deed property?

Motion: Claude Rainville, **Second:** Greg Vitercik, **Discussion:** none. **ARTICLE 8 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 9 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to help support the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool?

Motion: Su White, **Second:** Mary Beth Stilwell, **Discussion:** Question: How much money does the preschool get from Act 66? Answer: 23 out of 25 students receive \$3,000 in tuition reduction. James Needham made a motion to amend this to be \$175 per student to the school of their choice. Point of order, David Marsters did not think the motion was germane; the moderator ruled "not germane". **ARTICLE 9 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 10 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$44,000 in support of the Lincoln Library?

Motion: Ken Pohlman, **Second:** Mark Mulqueen, **Discussion:** none. **ARTICLE 10 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 11 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to help support Lincoln Sports, Inc.?

Motion: David Harrison, **Second:** Claude Rainville, **Discussion:** none. **ARTICLE 11 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Article 12 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$55,896 to the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company?

Motion: David Harrison, **Second:** Mary Harrison, **Discussion:** Question: Is this more than last year? Fire Chief, Dan Ober, clarified that the fire company has asked for level funding for about the past 10 years. This amount includes both operating and capital funds. Question: with almost \$20,000 in revenue from AT&T rental, do we need to continue to fund at the same level? Dan Ober replied yes, a fire station renovation is coming up and they continue to save for trucks.

Mary Harrison (LVFC Member) clarified that rescue calls cost money for supplies. The Town's support is appreciated. ARTICLE 12 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 13 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to Bristol Rescue?

Motion: David Wood, **Second:** Ilana Brett, **Discussion:** none. ARTICLE 13 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 14 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to the Lincoln Cemetery Association?

Motion: Mark Mulqueen, **Second:** David Wood, **Discussion:** none. ARTICLE 14 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 15 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to approve the following agency requests?

\$ 1,250	Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc
200	Addison County Court Diversion Program
1,300	Addison County Parent/Child Center
600	Addison County Readers
400	Addison County River Watch
870	Addison County Transit Resources
500	Addison County Economic Development Corporation
2,500	Bristol Recreation Department
1,100	Champlain Valley Agency on Aging
750	Comm. Health Svcs of Addison Cty – Open Door Clinic
1,600	Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.
700	Elderly Services, Inc
2,000	HOPE (ACCAG)
250	Homeward Bound
500	Hospice Volunteer Services
1,000	John W Graham Emergency Shelter
490	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
500	Vermont Adult Learning
1,250	WomenSafe
\$17,760	Total

Motion: Christie Sumner, **Second:** Mike Fisher, **Discussion:** It was noted that RSVP's information page #88 shows that 76% of their money goes to salaries and only 7% goes to programs. Responses were that relationships keep elderly healthy, and that some organizations may put salaries into program expenditures. It may require deeper analysis to understand this report. Todd Goodyear thanked those organizations who participated in the Hill Country Holiday variety show and would like to see more next year. ARTICLE 15 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 16 To transact any other legal and proper business when met.

Comment: in the town report, actual numbers are appreciated more than just percent changes in budgets.

Casey Ober and Aine Alexander were thanked for being our microphone runners again this year.

Bill Finger thanked Rhonda Hutchins and Greg Vitercik for all the hard work they've done as our auditors. Clarification was made that we are voting whether to eliminate the office of auditor on

tomorrow's ballot, but are also voting on whether to re-elect an auditor because we don't know the outcome of the question. If the office is eliminated, the auditors' terms would end.

Time adjourned: 8:59 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sally Ober, Town Clerk _____

Approved by Will Sipsey, Town Meeting Moderator _____

Approved by Bill Finger, Chair of the Selectboard _____