

**Town of Lincoln
MINUTES 2018
Annual Town Meeting and Town School District Meeting**

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Moderator Will Sipsey called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m., and immediately offered the floor to State Rep. Fred Baser, to give us an update about what work is being done in the VT Legislature. Fred serves on the House Ways and Means Committee and he discussed tax law changes including income tax, property taxes, and education taxes. He fielded questions about proposed gun legislation and about the state budget relative to projected revenues. Next was Rep. Dave Sharpe, who serves as Chair of the House Education Committee; this is his 16th year serving in the VT Legislature. Dave announced that he will not seek re-election this fall. Dave's committee is working on changes to the way we fund education, and shifting some of the burden away from property tax toward income tax. Dave highlighted some of his accomplishments as our legislator through the years including transportation projects, access to voting, fair tax policy, unemployment insurance, education, and more. Dave was thanked for his service to our community and Vermont.

Moderator Sipsey reviewed the rules of the meeting and asked non-voters to identify themselves. He introduced our cordless microphone runners, students Laurence Romain, an exchange student from the Bahamas, and Will Schoenhuber, a Mt. Abraham senior.

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, March 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and transact business, and on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at the Town Office, the polls to open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for voting by Australian ballot.

Agenda for Meeting at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Article 1 To elect all town officers as required by law, by Australian ballot, voting to be held at the Lincoln Town Office, polls to be open from 7:00 am until 7:00 p.m., Tuesday March 6, 2018.

No action required, none taken.

Article 2 To act upon the reports of the Town Officers and the Town School District Officers as submitted by the Town Select Board.

Motion: Bill Finger, **Second:** Scott Bernoudy, **Discussion:** Bill Finger presented a list of corrections and omissions from the Town Report. The list was distributed on the seats in Burnham Hall prior to Town Meeting:

- Correction, inside front cover (first bullet item, line 3): The phone number for the Forest Fire Warden, Matt Atkins, should read: (802)349-9142.
- Omission, page 10 (Candidates for Election on March 6, 2018):

<u>Office</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
Mt. Abraham Unified School District, Lincoln Director	3 years	Sarah McClain Annie Svitavsky

- Omission, page 13 (2017 Burial Permits):

<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Date of interment</u>
May 06, 2016	Harold L. Purinton	Maple	August 27, 2017

- Correction, page 25 (Revenue Estimates for FY 2019, Highway Department) on line 37 in the far right column F, Proposed Budget FY19:

On line 37 column F, the figure \$123,500 should be moved down to line 39 column F, labeled "State Aid". This correction does not change the total on the bottom line.

- Rev. David Wood drew our attention to pages 11-13, the lists of births, marriages, deaths and burials. He asked us to consider our work in relation to those who have contributed so much to our community, and to the new families being established here as well. We held a moment of silence to celebrate our people.
- Glynn Simpler reported that the Lincoln Wood Bank is looking for a new location to store firewood if anyone is willing to host it. Glynn said that the work of wood bank volunteers has distributed about 6 cords of wood this year. Kindling is also available to anyone who needs it.

Article 2 passed by voice vote.

Article 3 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 10, 2018] and the second Wednesday of March [March 13, 2019], per 32 V.S.A. 4871?

Motion: Lisa Truchon, **Second:** Linda Daybell, **Discussion:** none.

Article 3 passed by voice vote.

Article 4 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: Claude Rainville, **Second:** Lisa Truchon, **Discussion:** none.

Article 4 passed by voice vote.**Article 5 Shall the voters authorize a total Highway Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$978,893 of which \$770,492 shall be raised by taxes and \$149,750 by non-tax revenues and \$58,651 is surplus revenue?**

Motion: Barb Rainville, **Second:** Nancy Stevens, **Discussion:** Paul Forlenza introduced himself and the rest of the Selectboard members present: Bill Finger, Oakley Smith, and Will Sipse. (James Needham was absent). Paul handed out some information sheets from the Selectboard entitled Proposed FY19 Review. Paul began to review the handouts and the Moderator ruled that information about the General Fund is not germane to Article 5, and requested that remarks be confined to the Highway Budget.

1. Lisa Truchon asked if we could suspend the rules to allow Paul to discuss both the General Fund and Highway Fund budget review at the same time. Hearing no objection from the voters, Paul proceeded to explain the highlights of changes. The bookkeeper position is the major change in the General Fund budget, but provides services to both General and Highway Departments. Health care premiums went up 9.2%, the Road Crew has been reduced from 4 to 3 people. The proposed General Fund budget for FY19 is up 14.3% but the Highway Fund proposal is down 4.4% with an overall combined change of 0.2% or \$3,110. Paul reviewed graphic presentations of budget expenditures through the last several years.
2. **Questions and comments:** Please use less salt.
3. Do employees pay toward health insurance? Answer from Selectboard: yes, employees contribute 4% this year and will pay 5% next year.
4. How does our cost per mile compare to that of other towns? Answer from Selectboard: it is almost impossible to compare, because of factors such as proximity to gravel pits, state highways, miles of paved vs. gravel roads, etc.
5. Comment: our paved roads are deteriorating. Bill Finger acknowledged the constant challenge of road maintenance, including the 17 miles of paved roads which rely mostly on property taxes and little State aid. Portions of paved roads such as Quaker Street need to be rebuilt, not just resurfaced. Now we are facing the added pressure of upgrading road infrastructure to comply with the new VT water quality rules. The Selectboard is working on a priority list and capital plan, to address the work that needs to be done on our roads. The Board is trying to keep taxes steady but also accomplish a lot of work. This past year, work was done on Gove Hill Road and Page Hill, removing the pavement and improving the drainage. Question: What if we tear up Quaker Street and turn it into a dirt road? Bill Finger replied that this action was not popular among residents when it was done temporarily on Gove Hill Road.
6. Lincoln Gap Road has also been a focus, addressing recreational access to the area, culverts, and drainage.
7. The West Lincoln Bridge is another Selectboard concern. The deck is not in very good shape, and we are waiting to move up the priority list for State aid, to help us replace it. Lisa Truchon commented that in the proposed budget for the highway department, the transfer to the Bridge Fund is down \$10,000 from \$20,000. She couldn't find the

Bridge Fund Comparative Report, but we have negative numbers there. Is there a reason why we are putting less money into that fund if we are facing the need to replace the York Hill Bridge? Bill Finger replied that the deficit in the bridge fund is due to Truchon Bridge costing more than we anticipated. Contractual services are up \$10,000, to work on a priority list to address all the highway needs we face.

8. *David Marsters called for a point of order. A motion is on the floor but we are talking about action on other things.*
9. *Moderator Sipsey clarified that Article 5 is the motion on the floor and he repeated it. Hearing no further discussion, **Article 5 passed by voice vote.***

Article 6 Shall the voters authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$385,102 of which \$304,868 shall be raised by taxes, \$32,670 by nontax revenues and \$47,564 is surplus revenue?

Motion: Linda Daybell, **Second:** Claude Rainville, **Discussion:** none. **Article 6 passed by voice vote.**

Article 7 Shall the voters authorize the Select Board to use a sum from the Town Capital Plan Fund Balance not to exceed \$30,000 for completing energy efficiency improvements at the Town Garage located at 281 South Lincoln Road?

Motion: Mark Mulqueen, **Second:** Alison Parker, **Discussion:** What is this about? Selectboard member, Oakley Smith, responded that there are energy efficiency defects to our building, which need upkeep. When moist trucks are driven into the warm building, condensation can lead to mold or rot. We need to realign the thermal and air barriers of the building to prevent problems from growing. This is not an extensive problem, but where there is no insulation, problems exist. Paul Forlenza clarified that the money is in a reserve fund and will not add to the budget which we already passed. Lisa Truchon disagreed and thought the capital fund plan did not reflect this yet, but a new line could be added if we vote this action. Tim McGowan moved to take \$30,000 and put it toward filling potholes instead. The Moderator ruled this not germane to Article 7. Hal Saunders pointed out that the building is not very old. Barb Rainville noted that the original building was built with many short cuts, which saved money in the short term but ended up costing us in the long run. **Article 7 passed by voice vote.**

RECESS TOWN MEETING Time: 7:40 p.m.

OPEN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING Time: 7:49 p.m.

ADJOURN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING Time: 8:20 p.m.

RE-OPEN TOWN MEETING Time: 8:30 p.m.

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

Motion: Barb Rainville, **Second:** David Wood, **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: Mark Mulqueen, **Second:** Sarah McClain, **Discussion:** How is the money used, is there additional money to run the school? Paul Forlenza pointed out that these articles for social services are outside of the Town budgets we passed. Any amounts voted on tonight are in addition to those budgets. Kerry Malloy, the preschool teacher, clarified that the board of directors comes up with the amount they are going to ask for.

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

Motion: Scott Bernoudy, **Second:** Dick Nessen, **Discussion:** Sally Baldwin, Library Trustee, announced that the Library Board President, Dick Nessen and his wife Susan Borg, would be moving to Maine soon and the Library will greatly miss them. Sally thanked Dick for his many years of work and contributions to the Library Board, including a sense of humor, leadership, and great chicken soup! She reminded people to come to the bake sale on Tuesday during voting. [Round of applause] **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: Sarah McClain, **Second:** William Perta, **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: Fred Danforth, **Second:** Alan Kamman, **Discussion:** none. **Article 12 passed by voice vote.**

Article 13 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to Bristol Rescue?

Motion: Mari Cordes, **Second:** David Wood, **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: David Wood, **Second:** Alison Parker, **Discussion:** none. **Article 14 passed by voice vote.**

Article 15 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$400 to the Lincoln Conservation Commission for invasive species control?

Motion: Mari Cordes, **Second:** Fred Danforth, **Discussion:** Christie Sumner thanked Tina Scharf for all the work she did organizing the weed pulling day last year. She encouraged others to join in the next time. Mark Mulqueen noted that the emerald ash borer beetle has been identified in Vermont recently. **Article 15 passed by voice vote.**

Article 16 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000 (One Thousand) Dollars to Charter House Coalition (CHC) which not-for-profit houses and feeds the needy in Middlebury, VT?

Motion: Ann Kensek, **Second:** Sarah McClain, **Discussion:** Question, could someone speak to this? Bill Finger said that it came in by petition, it is a homeless warming place in Middlebury across from the Congregational Church, and is a model for service in our state. Does it serve residents of Lincoln? Mike Fisher said that he's not sure if specifically Lincoln, but it does serve people in our community. **Article 16 passed by voice vote.**

Article 17 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to approve the following agency requests?

\$1,250	Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc
200	Addison County Restorative Justice Services
1,300	Addison County Parent/Child Center
600	Addison County Readers
400	Addison County River Watch
1,170	Addison County Transit Resources
500	Addison County Economic Development Corporation

2,500	Bristol Recreation Department
1,100	Age Well (formerly CVAA)
750	Comm. Health Svcs of Addison County - Open Door Clinic
1,600	Counseling Service of Addison County; Inc.
700	Elderly Services, Inc
2,000	HOPE (ACCAG)
250	Homeward Bound
650	Hospice Volunteer Services
1,000	John W Graham Emergency Shelter
490	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
500	Vermont Adult Learning
1,250	WomenSafe
\$18,210	Total

Motion: Judi Danforth, **Second:** Dick Nessen, **Discussion:** none. **Article 17 passed by voice vote.**

Article 18 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, annual global temperatures are currently the highest ever recorded, ocean temperatures are warming, and extreme and erratic temperatures, increasingly severe storms, a rise in tick-borne diseases, and threats to farmers and maple syrup producers clearly demonstrate that climate change is one of the most urgent problems facing our state, nation and the world, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont has a goal in the Comprehensive Energy Plan to achieve 90 % of its energy from renewable sources by 2050;

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

That the Town urges the State of Vermont to:

- a. Halt any new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure, including but not limited to energy pipelines;**
- b. Firmly commit to at least 90 % renewable energy for all people in Vermont, with firm interim deadlines;**

c. Ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents.

Motion: Van Talmage, **Second:** Dick Nessen, **Discussion:** Sally Ober, Town Clerk, asked if this passes, to whom should I send a letter, the petition says "State of Vermont"? Answers all around: Governor, Legislators, Fish & Wildlife, President, publish in the newspaper. A number of towns are taking this up and 350VT.ORG will help publicize it. There were many discussion points including:

Against the resolution-

- not in favor of halting fossil fuel options
- limited income residents may want less expensive fossil fuel energy
- pipeline infrastructure has less impact than fuel trucks delivering fuel
- infrastructure supports cities, don't halt it
- renewable wood is not carbon-neutral

In favor of the resolution-

- Wording of the resolution may not be perfect, but be supportive of the general activism behind it
- Gas pipelines serve a small number of people
- Natural gas is cheaper than propane, but not cheaper than oil
- Pipelines are a safety concern, the issues are not being addressed
- The people most impacted by the pipelines are at the forefront of this movement

Alan Kamman made a ***motion to call the question***. ***Seconded*** by Ari Kirshenbaum. Unanimous consent obtained. **Article 18 passed by voice vote.**

Article 19 To transact any other legal and proper business when met.

Sally Ober offered thanks to students Laurence Romain and Will Schoenhuber for helping run the cordless microphones during our meeting.

Alan Kamman made a motion to adjourn. David Wood seconded.

Adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Town Clerk, Sally Ober _____

Approved by Selectboard Chair, Bill Finger _____

Approved by Moderator, Will Sipsey _____