

**Town of Lincoln
Minutes
Annual Town Meeting – 2019**

Moderator, Will Sipse, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., and reviewed the rules of the meeting. He asked non-voters to identify themselves. Selectboard members present were Chair, Bill Finger, Paul Forlenza, Oakley Smith, and Will Sipse. Absent: Ellie Bryant. Town Clerk, Sally Ober, introduced Robby Cavoretto and Sophie Venman, students who volunteered to help run microphones during the meeting.

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln are hereby warned and notified to meet at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and transact business, and on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at the Town Office, the polls to be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for voting by Australian ballot.

Agenda for Meeting at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 4, 2019 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 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Tuesday March 5, 2019.

No action required. None taken.

Hearing no objection, Moderator Sipse invited State Representatives Mari Cordes and Caleb Elder to speak. Rep. Elder serves on the House Education Committee and Rep. Cordes is on the House Health Care Committee. They are also both active members of a climate solutions caucus. Both Caleb and Mari highlighted some of the things they have been working on and encouraged people to contact them; they want to hear from their constituents.

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

Motion: Dave Wetmore, **Second:** Ethan Ready, **Discussion:** none. **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 9, 2019] and the second Wednesday of March [March 11, 2020], per 32 V.S.A. 4871?

Motion: Lisa Truchon, **Second:** Bill Finger, **Discussion:** Nancy Stevens reminded people that property taxes are due next Wednesday, March 13. **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: Lisa Truchon, **Second:** Bill Finger, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 5 Shall the voters authorize a total Highway Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,052,136 of which \$683,810 shall be raised by taxes and \$294,000 by non-tax revenues and \$74,326 is surplus revenue?

Motion: Bill Finger, **Second:** Claude Rainville, **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 6 Shall the voters authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$387,973 of which \$313,053 shall be raised by taxes, \$34,270 by nontax revenues and \$40,650 is surplus revenue?

Motion: Paul Forlenza, **Second:** Greg Vitercik, **Discussion:** Paul Forlenza indicated that there was a \$900 mistake made when finalizing the budget and warning, so he **made a motion to amend the amounts to: operating expenses of \$387,073 of which \$312,153 shall be raised by taxes, \$34,270 by nontax revenues and \$40,650 in surplus revenue. Seconded by David Wood. Paul's amendment passed by voice vote. Tim McGowan made a motion to reduce the budget by \$10,000 and advised the Selectboard that he would like to see it come out of the law enforcement line. Tim's amendment would change Article 6 to read: operating expenses of \$377,073 of which \$302,153 shall be raised by taxes and \$34,270 by nontax revenues and \$40,650 in surplus revenue, seconded by Lisa Truchon. Tim's amendment failed by voice vote. Back to the main motion as amended by Paul Forlenza.... Vote on Article 6 as now amended: Shall the voters authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$387,073 of which \$312,153 shall be raised by taxes, \$34,270 by nontax revenues and \$40,650 in surplus revenue? 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 \$15,000 for installing an emergency generator at the Town Garage located at 281 South Lincoln Road?

Motion: David D'Alleinne, **Second:** Bill Finger, **Article 7 passed** by voice vote.

Article 8 Shall the voters authorize a sum of \$100,000, for further restoration and improvement of existing Class 2, asphalt surface Town highways, to be deposited in the Paving Reserve Fund ?

Motion: Nancy Stevens, **Second:** Greg Vitercik, **Article 8 passed** by voice vote.

RECESS TOWN MEETING (15 +/- minutes):

The meeting was recessed at 7:55 p.m. at which time, Sally Ober, and Rhonda Hutchins (Co-chairs of the Burnham Centennial Celebration Committee) presented a plaque honoring Mark Benz for the tremendous amount of work he has done to raise grant funds, for the restoration and preservation of Burnham Hall. This was a special moment in our year-long centennial celebration of the Burnham Foundation. [Mark received a standing ovation.] Sally Ober also announced a number of other Burnham Centennial Celebration events and displays, including a Burnham history exhibit in the Lincoln Library, artwork by Lincoln Community School students, and our Hill Country Holiday in February followed a theme of Celebrating 100 years of Burnham. The parade, variety show, and meals were very well attended. A Walter Burnham look-alike contest was a highlight event during the February variety show, and was won by Abigail Gusakov, age 11. [It is noted here that Town Meeting was extra festive this year in honor of the Burnham Centennial Celebration. Each person attending was handed a shiny "Mardi Gras" bead necklace, there were balloons and banners around the hall, and the Mark Benz recognition was the highlight of the meeting.]

1. **Notice of School Budget vote by Australian ballot 3/5/2019** School Board Member, Sarah McClain, and Dawn Griswold, Board Member from Monkton, gave an overview of the proposed 2019-20 Mount Abraham Unified School District budget, and the vote to establish a capital reserve fund.
2. **Recognition of civil service** Sally Ober thanked outgoing town officials for their service including: James Needham, Selectboard; Amy Heath, Rebecca Otey, and Barry Olson, School Board; Jared Buker, Justice of the Peace; and Wendy Truax has served as Justice of the Peace for around 35 years!! [round of applause]
3. **Introduction of candidates for election 3/5/2019** People running for office introduced themselves: Sally Ober, for Town Clerk, Ellie Bryant for Selectboard (1 yr), Oakley Smith for Selectboard (2 yrs.), Will Sipsey for Selectboard (3 yrs.) and Moderator, Nancy Stevens for Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Jim Brown write-in for Lister, David D'Alleinne write in for School Director, Elizabeth Ratta write-in for School Director.
4. **Stretch and socialize**

RE-OPEN TOWN MEETING **TIME:** 8:42 p.m.

Article 9 Shall the Town authorize the Agent to deed property?

Motion: Dave Wetmore, **Second:** Ann Pollender, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 10 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to help support the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool?

Motion: Greg Vitercik, **Second:** Alison Parker, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 11 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$44,000 in support of the Lincoln Library?

Motion: Mark Mulqueen, **Second:** Judi Danforth, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 12 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to help support Lincoln Sports, Inc.?

Motion: Jo Jackson, **Second:** Mike Fisher, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 13 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$55,896 to the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company?

Motion: Claude Rainville, **Second:** Fred Danforth, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 14 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to Bristol Rescue?

Motion: George Dunne, **Second:** Greg Vitercik, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 15 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to the Lincoln Cemetery Association?

Motion: David Wood, **Second:** Mike Fisher, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 16 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$400 to the Lincoln Conservation Commission for invasive species control?

Motion: Mark Mulqueen, **Second:** Christie Sumner, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 17 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$500 to support the Lincoln Community School Mentor Program?

Motion: Judi Danforth, **Second:** Christie Sumner, **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 18 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.
1,000	Charter House Coalition
700	Elderly Services, Inc
2000	HOPE (Addison County Community Action Group)
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
\$19,210	Total

Motion: Greg Vitercik, **Second:** Christie Sumner, **Discussion:** none. **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 19 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to approve the following resolution?

Whereas

We live in a democratic society founded in 1776 and governed by our Constitution, adopted in 1787 and subsequently amended;

And Whereas,

Democracy is a treasure to be nurtured and preserved as the best form of government.

And Whereas,

Democracy and self-government require fair and honest elections,

It is hereby resolved that we the people in the Town of Lincoln, do hereby support the following positions:

- Voting integrity is paramount and hence requires in the Secretary of State to use and approve all appropriate technology to allow full audit capability, which may include hardcopy of actual voting;
- Voting is a right for all eligible citizens, and there should be no efforts at the local, regional, state, or national level which suppress or hinder the voting process. Government should act to improve voter participation, and should reject actions intended to limit voting.

And, further, Whereas,

Voter participation rates in Lincoln in recent elections have been among the highest in the state,

It is further resolved that we hereby thank the voters and the officials of Lincoln who have worked together to reach this level of community involvement.

And, lastly, it is resolved that this resolution be sent by the Town of Lincoln to all appropriate elected officials including, in particular, the Governor and the Secretary of State

Motion: Van Talmage, **Second:** Judith Siegel, **Passed** by voice vote.

Article 20 To transact any other legal and proper business when met.

- *Bill Finger recognized and thanked Ann Kensek and Rhonda Hutchins for their good work on compiling the Town Report this year.*
- *Mark Mulqueen asked if people would want future Town Meetings to be held on a Saturday instead of Monday?*
- *Paul Forlenza announced an upcoming meeting in April, he is working to try to link hiking trails together in Lincoln. Contact him if you are interested.*
- *Sally Ober thanked Robby Cavoretto and Sophie Venman for being our microphone runners this evening.*
- *Sally Ober announced that a play performance is planned for May, in connection with the Burnham 100 year celebration. Two more young actors are needed.*
- *Ann Kensek thanked Rhonda Hutchins and Sally Ober for their enthusiasm in leading the Burnham Centennial Celebration.*
- *Will Sipsev thanked Bill Finger and Paul Forlenza for their organization and extra work on the Selectboard budget planning.*

Town Meeting 2019 adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Note: These minutes are unapproved by the Moderator at the time of publishing. Upon further review, more detailed minutes will be posted. If you have questions about this, ask Town Clerk, Sally Ober.