

Town of Lincoln *Tape recorder folder 01/01*
MINUTES
Annual Town Meeting – 2020

*****Please note that this is a condensed, unedited, and unofficial version of the minutes for purposes of posting on the Town of Lincoln website in a timely manner. It contains the basic motions and voting results, but much of the discussion has been omitted at this time. It takes a long time to review the audio recording and fill in details, and I do not want to publish discussion which has not been verified first. [*I have indicated in brackets where there is missing information or items that need verifying, which will be included in the final draft of minutes.*] I will publish the complete unabridged, approved minutes once that task has been completed. Thank you for your patience.
Sally Ober, Lincoln Town Clerk*****

Selectboard members present: *Ellie Bryant, Bill Finger, Paul Forlenza, Will Sipsey and Oakley Smith*
Moderator, Will Sipsey, reviewed the rules of the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
Hearing no objection, State Senator, Chris Bray, gave an update on some of the things he is working on in the VT Legislature. Representative Mari Cordes had some town meeting reports to hand out which she and Rep. Caleb Elder prepared together. [More discussion]

At 6:15 p.m. there was a head count of approximately 100 people in attendance at this meeting. Many more continued to enter and filled in seating throughout the hall. Perhaps 150 attended at peak.

The Moderator asked non-voters to identify themselves and reminded them that they would need permission from the body to speak.

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln are hereby warned and notified to meet at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and transact business, and on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 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 2, 2020 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 3, 2020.

No action required. None taken.

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

Motion: Mark Mulqueen, **Second:** Tina Scharf, **Discussion:** Justin Cox, the new minister at the United Church of Lincoln, drew our attention to page 9 of the town report. He asked us to celebrate the births and young children in our community, the commitments of partnership in marriages listed, and to remember those who have passed and gone before us. We shared a moment of silence. **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 14, 2020] and the second Wednesday of March [March 10, 2021], per 32 V.S.A. 4871?

Motion: Linda Daybell, **Second:** Christie Sumner **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: Paul Forlenza, **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 \$ 1,052,578 of which \$ 682,003 shall be raised by taxes and \$ 294,236 by non-tax revenues and \$ 76,339 is surplus revenue?

Motion: Paul Forlenza, **Second:** Linda Daybell **Discussion:** Paul Forlenza asked permission to suspend the rules and present information regarding Articles 5,6, and 7 at the same time. He referred to page 37 in the town report and presented a budget overview via a slide show.
[Discussion]

Article 5 passed by voice vote.

Article 6 Shall the voters authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$ 424,452 of which \$ 262,839 shall be raised by taxes, \$ 136,120 by nontax revenues and \$ 25,493 is surplus revenue?

Motion: Lisa Truchon, **Second:** Ed Hanson, **Discussion:** None. *Article 6 passed by voice vote.*

Article 7 Shall the voters authorize a sum of \$150,000, for further restoration and improvement of existing Class 2, asphalt surface Town highways, to be deposited in the Paving Reserve Fund?

Motion: Bill Finger, **Second:** Linda Daybell, **Discussion:** Bill Finger asked permission to explain this with a slide show, there were no objections. [Presentation and discussion]

Article 7 passed by voice vote.

Article 8 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to exempt the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company from municipal and state property taxes, per 32 V.S.A 5404a(a)(4)?

Motion: Ed Hanson, **Second:** Lisa Truchon, **Discussion:** none. *Article 8 passed by voice vote.*

Article 9 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to exempt the Lincoln Cooperative pre-school from paying municipal taxes for a period of 5 years and to pay the state education tax due as a voted exemption, per 32 V.S.A 5404a(d)?

Motion: Christie Sumner, **Second:** Mark Mulqueen, **Discussion:** none. *Article 9 passed by voice vote.*

Article 10 Shall the voters of the Town of Lincoln authorize the purchase by the Town of a 7+/- acre parcel of land and appurtenant right of way from William J. Norton, Jr., and Kim M. Norton for the purpose of operating a municipal sand pit, at a purchase price not to exceed \$393,840, to be paid as follows: an initial payment of \$10,840, and the balance to be financed through mortgage financing from the sellers, William J. Norton, Jr., and Kim M. Norton, in an amount not to exceed \$383,000, with an annual interest rate not to exceed 3.00%, over a period not to exceed 25 years?

(To be voted on by Australian Ballot on March 3, 2020)

Motion: Tina Scharf, **Second:** Christie Sumner, **Discussion:** The Selectboard began distributing handouts. **Town Clerk, Sally Ober, asked for a point of order that all handouts also be distributed to the Clerk, so they can be part of the record of the meeting.** Selectboard Chair, Bill Finger, asked for permission to present a slide show which would explain some of the reasons for Article 10.

[A slide show presentation and many questions with answers from the Selectboard followed.]

[Todd Goodyear] called the question to end discussion. Sally Baldwin seconded. Dan Ober asked for a point of order that Tommie Thompson had his hand up and the Moderator had indicated to Tommie that he would come back to him. The Moderator ruled that he would give Tommie one more chance to speak then vote on calling the question.

[Tommie Thompson, Chair of Lincoln Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission Member, spoke.]

Back to calling the question, the Moderator asked all those in favor to stand, and most people stood. [Few voted no] The Moderator ruled to end discussion and called for the meeting to recess at 8:50 p.m.

RECESS TOWN MEETING

After much discussion on the sand pit topic, the Moderator allowed for time to stretch and socialize first, and this interlude ended at 9:06 p.m.

1. **Notice of School Budget vote by Australian ballot 3/3/2020** Sarah McClain, MAUHS School Board Member from Lincoln, and Dawn Griswold, MAUHS School Board from Monkton, were present. (School Board Member, Elizabeth Ratta was home sick). [Discussion]

2. **Recognition of civil service :**

Josh Otey-stepping down after 5 years as 1st Constable

Meredith Johnson-retiring after 4 years of cleaning the Town Office

Bob Hall- our Zoning Administrator for 14 years will be leaving us at the end of June.

Barb Rainville is no longer on our Zoning Board of Adjustment, where she has served for 23 years. She led the board for more than half of those years as Chair.

Elizabeth Ratta-School Board is stepping down after filling a vacancy last year.

George Vince-we neglected to recognize last year for being our Agent to Prosecute & Defend Suits, Grand Juror, and Agent to Deed Real Estate after serving for 42 years in two of these positions!

We thank all of them for their service to our Town, and we welcome new people to become involved.

Thanks also to Jill Rainville and Maple Landmark for purchasing the new seat cushions now on all the chairs in Burnham Hall.

3. **Introduction of candidates for election 3/3/2020** – *Several candidates identified themselves. [more]*

RE-OPEN TOWN MEETING

Time: 9:31 p.m.

Article 11 Shall the Town authorize the Agent to deed property?

Motion: Fred Danforth, **Second:** Christie Sumner **Discussion:** none. Article 11 passed by voice vote.

Article 12 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to help support the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool?

Motion: Ann Kensek, **Second:** Judi Danforth, **Discussion:** none. Article 12 passed by voice vote.

Article 13 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$44,000 in support of the Lincoln Library?

Motion: Mark Mulqueen, **Second:** Tina Scharf, **Discussion:** none. Article 13 passed by voice vote.

Article 14 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,000 to help support Lincoln Sports, Inc.

Motion: Jo Jackson, **Second:** Patty Schoenhuber, **Discussion:** none. Article 14 passed by voice vote.

Article 15 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$55,896 to the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company?

Motion: Barry Olson, **Second:** Tina Scharf, **Discussion:** Someone remarked that the Fire Company is out on a call right now! **Article 15 passed by voice vote.**

Article 16 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to Bristol Rescue?

Motion: Ann Kensek, **Second:** Jacqueline Olson, **Discussion:** none. **Article 16 passed by voice vote.**

Article 17 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to the Lincoln Cemetery Association?

Motion: Ann Pollender, **Second:** Mike Fisher, **Discussion:** What about the line in the budget for cemeteries? Bill Finger answered that this request is for the Maple and Lee Cemeteries, which are cared for by the Cemetery Association. The budget line item is for the care of all the other cemeteries in town, which the Selectboard oversees. **Article 17 passed by voice vote.**

Article 18 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$400 to the Lincoln Conservation Commission for invasive species control?

Motion: Tina Scharf, **Second:** Sally Baldwin, **Discussion:** [Tina Scharf, Conservation Commission Chair, spoke.] **Article 18 passed by voice vote.**

Article 19 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the Lincoln Community School Mentor Program?

Motion: Sarah McClain, **Second:** Patty Schoenhuber, **Discussion:** [Tory Riley spoke about this request.] **Article 19 passed by voice vote.**

Article 20 Shall the town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the services of the Turning Point Center of Addison County?

Motion: Ann Kensek, **Second:** Ann Fisher, **Discussion:** What is the Turning Point Center?
Ans: It helps people who are struggling with addiction to drugs and alcohol. **Article 20 passed by voice vote.**

Article 21 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 Counter 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 Hlth Svcs of Addison County – Open Door Clinic
1,600	Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.
1,000	Charter House Coalition
700	Elderly Services, Inc.
2,000	HOPE – (Addison County Community Action Group)
250	Homeward Bound
650	End of Life Services (Hospice Vol. Svcs)
1,000	John W. Graham Emergency Shelter
490	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
500	Vermont Adult Learning
1,250	WomenSafe
\$19,210.00	TOTAL

Mike Fisher asked the Moderator to seek unanimous consent not to read the entire chart of requests. Unanimous consent was granted and the Moderator did not read the entire list of agencies. Todd Goodyear asked if the Selectboard would restructure the meeting so more people would be present to vote on this large amount of money. A point of order was made that there still has not been a motion or second recorded for this article. Motion: Christie Sumner, Second: Judi Danforth, Discussion: [more discussion] Article 21 passed by voice vote.

Article 22 To transact any other legal and proper business when met.

Thank you to Robby Cavoretto and Nate Gusakov for helping with microphones during the meeting!

[Jonathan Johnson read a resolution and made a motion to pass a non-binding resolution to become a sanctuary town for keeping and bearing arms.]

*A point of order was made that this has not been warned. The Moderator believed that it is reasonable to expect that if this resolution had been warned, other people would want to be present to participate in the discussion and vote on such a resolution. **The Moderator ruled the resolution out of order.***

Bill Finger made a motion to adjourn. Mike Burgess seconded.

TIME ADJOURNED: 10:04 p.m.