

1 **PENDING APPROVAL**

2 Town of Lincoln Special Selectboard Meeting

3 January 5, 2021 6:30 PM

4 On-line “virtual” meeting from multiple locations and by phone
5 GoToMeeting
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7

8 Attending: Selectboard Chair, Bill Finger; Vice Chair, Paul Forlenza; members Oakley Smith,
9 Will Sipsey and Bay Jackson; Selectboard Ass’t & Bookkeeper, Ann Moreau-Kensek

10
11 Guests: Sally Ober, Town Clerk; Robert Backlund, MAUSD School Board; Nate Gusakov and
12 Sally Taylor, Lincoln Planning Commission; Tommie Thompson, Lincoln Planning and Zoning;
13 Jo Jackson, Karen Lueders, Tim Lueders Dumont, Coco Mosely, Tory Riley, Deirdre Zele
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15 1. Bill brought the meeting to order at 6:33 and asked if there were adjustments to the agenda.

16 Paul requested to add:

- 17 • Nominating Janet Butterworth to the Addison County Communication Union District
- 18 • Update on conversation with Jim Dumont and the School District
- 19 • Discussion on the petition circulating by Mike Fisher.

20 Bill moved to approve the agenda as amended. Paul seconded. Vote called and passed 5-0-0.
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22 2. Consent agenda:

23 a. Approve Minutes of 12/29/2020

24 b. Payroll Warrant #21.28 for \$2,865.83

25 c. AP Warrant # 21.28 for \$34,232.41

26 Bill moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and Paul seconded. Bay noted that
27 ANESU is now MAUSD and attendee listed as Davis Doer was named Kate Doer. Vote called.
28 Consent agenda was approved as amended 5-0-0.
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30 3. Public comment:

31 Bill asked if anyone present wished to speak. Nate confirmed he was here for the Zoning
32 Administrator discussion and Jo Jackson didn’t have any comments.
33

34 Oakley reported he’d had a complaint about Downingsville Road- that there were many potholes,
35 the banks weren’t pushed back far enough, and the “busses were plowing snow”. Brief
36 discussion.
37

38 Bill reported that there is trash up on the closed portion of the Gap Road. He sent a photo with
39 the Selectboard packet and asked for comments. He has contacted Constable Matt Collins.
40 Discussion on 4-wheelers using Town roads and the legality of it. Lincoln doesn’t have an
41 ordinance, but it is against State Law. VAST Groomers have the right to be up on the Gap doing
42 trail maintenance, but the Duckworth’s Caretaker is plowing the road with a 4-wheeler.
43 The Selectboard had consensus agreed to get signs encouraging people to pack out their trash
44 and invite the Duckworth’s caretaker to come to a Selectboard Meeting to talk about the
45 situation. Will is going to invite him.

46 Jo Jackson asked what the problem is, and Bill explained the situation.

47 Reports:

- 48 a. Highway: There isn't much going on, snow plowing is going well. The new truck isn't
49 here yet.
- 50 b. Selectboard Ass't/Bookkeeper: Ann's main activities this week were in getting ready to
51 do W-2 and 1099's and work on the Town Report. She noted that if the Selectboard
52 changes the date of Town Meeting, Greg at 802 Print said he can be flexible about the
53 date for doing the Town report. Ann also worked on the ZA job description this week,
54 with Bay and independently.
- 55 c. Paul reviewed the draft budget and noted changes from FY 21. Some increases included
56 for software support, the ZA position, IT support, and the Highway wages and salary. In
57 addition, changes are tentatively being made to road and bridge improvement lines.

58

59 Discussion followed on the possibility of having a Town Administrator who could offer
60 support for all the Boards and for highway as well. Discussion on the differences
61 between a Town Administrator and Town Manager. Paul asked each Board member to
62 write down what they do and send the list to Ann to compile before the next meeting. Bill
63 noted that the Town Manager's Association also has a copy of what people do in various
64 towns.

65

66 Discussion on health insurance and the percentages employees pay. Health insurance is
67 increasing each year the Board talked about increasing by 1% annually the portion
68 employees pay from the current 6% up to 10%. Paul moved and Will seconded to
69 increase the percent of health insurance costs employees pay annually by 1%. Bay asked
70 for more information. Discussion on what rates employees in other towns pay. Will noted
71 that he is "100%" against taking benefits away from employees. Further discussion and
72 Bill noted there was nothing to prevent the Selectboard from revisiting this. Will called
73 the question, passed 5-0-0. The original motion to increase the employee health care
74 contribution by 1% over the next four years was called and passed 5-0-0.

- 75
- 76 d. Zoning Administrator: Will Sipsey, Interim Zoning Administrator gave the report. He
77 noted he took a little time off, and some odds and ends need to be filed and recorded
78 There is a Planning Commission Hearing warned on Thursday evening.

79

80 5. Old Business

- 81 a. Discussion on the Zoning Administrator draft job description and the hiring process.
82 Bay and Ann are working on the job description and it is coming together. They'll meet
83 to further discuss and get a draft to the Planning Commission for edits and feedback.
84 Further discussion on enforcement in the job description.
85 Bay noted she'd done a draft job ad for the position.

86

87 Will noted Ann has info on HR & interview questions. An interview group may be
88 comprised of two Selectboard members, two Planning Commission members and two
89 Zoning Board of Adjustment members.

90

91 Bill talked about the report Nate Wallace Gusakov has been working on regarding the
92 possible move to having a Development Review Board (DRB) and thanked Nate for his

93 work. Nate shared his research process and said he spoke with Dave Wetmore. He talked
94 about potentially hiring administrative work for the Planning Commission and Zoning
95 Board of Adjustment so the Boards can focus on the work at hand. Having a DRB
96 doesn't merge the Boards, it just takes the subdivision piece from the Planning
97 Commission. Further discussion on the roles of the boards.
98

99 b. MAUSD School Closure Proposal: Paul and Bay

100 Bay contacted the coordinators to see where they're going.

- 101 • Community Action Group hope for/desire litigation support- anything
102 school board members can do to help.
- 103 • State Group- Mari sent a long email. People are unsure of what date the
104 School Board will vote. Is it the 20th or the 26th? Discussion on Town
105 Meeting. Bay will mail Mari's email to everyone.
- 106 • Tim Lueders Dumont will update on requests for financials.

107 Paul updated on legal counsel. He signed the agreement with Tarrant, Gillies, Richardson
108 & Shems. They'll initially advise and report on whether MAUSD can close the school
109 without a Town vote. It's critical to find out whether the decision is the 20th or 26th.
110 Agendas have not been set yet. The Dumonts also have a request for financial
111 information from MAUSD.
112

113 Discussion on having a Selectboard meeting every other week to discuss progress and
114 get committee updates, vote and talk about what's on the other side. It is daunting and
115 there are lots of hurdles.
116

117 Bill noted that some things aren't calculated yet, and the Towns aren't getting a read on
118 what can happen.
119

120 Paul shared that a petition had been written and read an excerpt from that. If the school
121 board votes in January and we can't vote till March, then what? Discussion on process of
122 becoming an Independent school. Brief discussion on a petition being circulated.
123

124 Paul called Will Jackson to thank him for his donation of property to the Town and Will
125 shared that he hopes his property could be used in a unique proposal for the school.
126 Board consensus that a petition is a good idea, and they look forward to the results.
127

128 Oakley Smith asked an attendee who had only initials showing in GoTo to please identify
129 themselves, and they did so.
130

131 Tim Lueders Dumont reported on his attempts get information discussed in Executive
132 Session of the School Board. Items like total amount of savings on the document were
133 redacted. Discussion on possible reasons for the redactions. The PDF was sent to the
134 board members.
135

136 Guests thanked the Selectboard for their work and spoke in favor of holding a Special
137 Selectboard meeting.
138

139 c. Issue of Structure and Schedule for Town Meeting:
140 Sally Ober thanked the Board for all they're doing. She reported that she and Paul came
141 up with two proposals. The legislature this year due to the pandemic gave the Towns
142 authority to vote by Australian Ballot. They also may vote later this month to allow
143 Towns to move the Town Meeting Date. Proposals are:

- 144 1. Vote all articles by Australian Ballot on March 2 and have discussion on
145 GoTo within 10 days of the meeting. Australian Ballot votes would be yes or
146 no. Bill clarified the difference in the process from a normal year.
- 147 2. Postpone Town Meeting till May 18 (a suggested date).

148 Discussion on several scenarios.

149 Bill moved to Warn Town Meeting for March 2 for voting by Australian Ballot and
150 budgets and boards to be recessed at 7pm on March 2 to a time in May. No second.

151

152 Discussion on the size of tent the Town would need in May, weather contingencies,
153 heavy or light attendance, voting complications, etc.

154

155 Bill moved to hold the entire vote by Australian Ballot on March 2, 2021. Will seconded.
156 Discussion on what would be on the ballot. Sally reported that 10 days prior there must
157 be a meeting for info and questions. Discussion on possible voter reactions and if the
158 budget is voted down. Will noted the budget being voted doesn't go into effect till July 1.

159

160 Discussion on holding informational meetings after approving the budget where people
161 could ask questions and on the Town Report and timing.

162 Paul asked what happens on March 2- polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

163

164 Bill stated there was a motion on the floor. He moved to change everything to Australian
165 Ballot on March 2. Will seconded. Passed 5-0-0.

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167 d. Town Office IT RFP: Will reported he had a couple of forms for RFPs, etc., and just
168 needs to finish. Bill asked if he could have it ready for the next meeting and Sally
169 requested that it look like the Tech Group estimate so the Town can compare apples to
170 apples. Will replied affirmatively on both.

171

172 6. New Business: Appoint Janet Butterworth to the Addison County Communication Union
173 District. Paul moved and Bill seconded to appoint Janet Butterworth as an alternate to
174 the ACCUD. Paul shared some of her background and shared his enthusiasm that she'd
175 be a good person for this. Vote called and passed 5-0-0.

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177 Bill reminded the board there will be a Special Meeting next Tuesday and asked them to
178 sign the Warrants between now and tomorrow morning.

179 Bay reminded the Board to check out the Trello Board. She has been keeping it updated.
180 Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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182 Minutes Respectfully taken by Ann Moreau-Kensek

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