

1 Town of Lincoln Regular Selectboard Meeting
2 Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 6:30 PM
3 On-line “virtual” meeting from multiple locations and by phone
4 GoToMeeting
5
6

7 In attendance: Selectboard Chair, Bill Finger; Vice-Chair, Paul Forlenza; members Bay
8 Danforth, Will Sipse (arrived after Consent Agenda vote) and Oakley Smith; Selectboard
9 Ass’t/Bookkeeper, Ann Moreau-Kensek

10
11 Guests: Robert Backlund, Jamie Brookside, Michael, Nate Gusakov, Mike Fisher, Josiah
12 Jackson, Sara McClain, Devon McCleod, Coco Moseley, Mary Beth Stillwell, Sarah Summers,
13 Erin Warnock, James Warnock
14

15 Bill brought the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

16 1. He asked if there were changes or amendments to the agenda. The Town Website and a draft
17 Zoning Administrator job description were added. He noted that most of the guests were here
18 for the school discussion, which would happen around 8 p.m.

19 Bill moved and Paul seconded to approve the amendments to the agenda. Passed 4-0-1 absent
20 (Will Sipse)

21 2. Consent Agenda: Bill briefly reviewed

22 a. Minutes 12/1/2020 Meeting

23 b. Payroll Warrants # 21/24 for \$2,640.08 and #21/25 for \$3,509.48

24 c. Accounts Payable Warrant #21.25 for \$172,842.63

25 d. Ratification of engagement letter for Stitzel, Page and Fletcher viz. CATIC Lawsuit- Bill
26 briefly reviewed the letter and gave the board an overview of what was happening.

27 e. Ratification of SB 9/21/2010 action viz. discontinued “Old Downingsville Road”- Bill noted
28 Oakley brought it to his attention the Board needed to ratify action taken in 2010 by the
29 Selectboard because some paperwork was not completed. An order of discontinuance was not
30 entered into the record at that time.

31 Bill asked if there were any questions on the consent agenda and hearing none, the vote was
32 called. Passed 4-0-1 absent (Will Sipse).
33

34 3. Public Comment: Robert Backlund and Sarah McClain, Lincoln reps to the MAUSD School
35 Board came to encourage the Selectboard’s decision to hold a special meeting on school issue.
36 They want to hear from as many people in the community as possible.
37

38 Bill asked if there was anyone else who wanted to comment on something. Sarah Summers
39 expressed concerns over the Sand Pit Hearing which had recently been cancelled so documents
40 could be reworked.
41

42 4. Conservation Easement, Willard Jackson Land donation: Jamie Montague from MALT came
43 to update the Selectboard. She gave a brief narrative on the project and the goals in preserving it,
44 as well as the process. She noted that tonight the Selectboard will approve the project, and the
45 closing date is Monday Dec.21st. This winter MALT and the Town will raise \$15,000 as
46 previously discussed. In the winter/spring a management plan will be written to describe the

47 goals and to plan further. MALT will do a BDR- what the land looks like now- to compare it to
48 going forward. She showed the Board the full legal agreement and talked about the overarching
49 values. She reviewed the restricted and permitted uses and discussion ensued regarding the
50 possibility of camping and use of bicycles on the trails, the possibility of MALT summer camps
51 on the property.

52

53 Bay moved to accept the donation of the Will Jackson Property and to authorize the Chair of the
54 Selectboard to sign the documents. Will Sipsey seconded. The Selectboard extended their
55 gratitude to Will Jackson, Jamie, and MALT. Bill called the vote, passed. 5-0-0.
56 Jamie will get back to Bill with the next steps.

57

58 5. Reports

59 a. Highway:

- 60 • Not too much plowing needed yet
- 61 • Dave is working on his budget for FY22 with Paul
- 62 • Dave will be meeting with Mike Winslow from ACRPC to learn to update segments for
63 proximity to waterways. Town maps need to be updated to make headway toward the
64 2024 deadline.
- 65 • Wayne Preston is willing to do some daytime plowing and is also able to help with
66 supervision in case Dave is not available.
- 67 • Costs from the work on South Lincoln Road will be reviewed and the grant work can be
68 finished in the spring.
- 69 • Forge Hill Road, the drainage where Atkins Road meets West River Road, and other
70 places that need work will be brought forward.

71

72 b. Selectboard Ass't/Bookkeeper:

73 The LGER Grant and Digitization Grant deadline was Friday, and documents have been
74 submitted. Work on the Town Report has begun and is in process.

75

76 c. Ann reported for the Clerk:

77 There is a webinar tomorrow on Town Meeting timing and voting which Sally will be attending.
78 Sally and Caroline have been focusing on land records.

79

80 d. Budget and Finance:

- 81 i. Budget- Paul noted the budget is a lengthy discussion and probably best done later in
82 the meeting. He also wanted to discuss wages and salaries in Executive Session.
- 83 ii. Documents for the financing the new truck- Bill asked for a motion to approve the loan
84 and to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the documents. Paul moved to approve the
85 loan of \$168,814.00 at an interest rate of 2.5% per annum to be paid in five annual
86 payments of \$33,752.80 each with the final payment due on December 18, 2025 and to
87 authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the paperwork. Vote called and passed, 5-0-0.
88 The loan is with People's United Bank.
- 89 iii. Approval of documents for the Town Website: Bay explained the contract. She will
90 reach out to the current website vendor.
91 Bay moved to approve the Service and License Agreement from GovOffice and to move
92 forward as quickly as possible. Paul seconded, no discussion. Vote called, passed 5.0.0.

93 e. Interim Zoning Administrator, Will Sipsev:

- 94 • Caught up on existing applications
- 95 • At some point Will wants to have a description on the workflow for each type of permit
- 96 • Will wants to work with the Selectboard to create an enforcement strategy

97

98 Bill invited Bay to talk about Trello. She explained that it is for project management design.

99 Discussion on the pros and cons. The Selectboard generally agreed to try it.

100

101 Bill introduced the portion of the meeting for discussion on the potential school closure. He
102 expressed concerns over Superintendent Reen's recommendation of basically closing the school
103 and sending Lincoln's children to other schools. Bill talked with Jim Carroll, who is well versed
104 in Municipal Law. He suggested we turn to Benj Putnam for most of our legal process.

105

106 Robust discussion on what other schools are doing and some options that Lincoln School has.

107

108 Bay talked about a doing a deep dive into the Articles of Agreement in Act 46 regarding the
109 legality of what the Superintendent is recommending.

110

111 James Warnock talked about making this into an asset and reimagining the school.

112 Sarah McClain (School Board member) reported there has been a lot of communication from
113 Lincoln residents. We'd be stronger if aligned with other schools. Because of our size, Lincoln
114 only has two votes whereas Bristol and Monkton together have seven.

115

116 Paul asked what people see as the role of the Selectboard and the sustainability of short- and
117 long-term actions. He reported that:

- 118 • according to the Business Manager at MAUSD Lincoln School costs 1.7 million dollars
119 to run annually;
- 120 • the Tax Structure Commission can work with the legislature to find another way to
121 finance schools;
- 122 • there is a bill to push Town Meeting out so meetings can be held safely outside. We
123 won't know till it is time to make a decision.

124

125 Discussion points included:

- 126 • Working as a five-town community and as individual communities protecting our own
127 schools. It's critical our actual potential enrollment projections are accurate. People may
128 be moving into town due to Covid-19 and so the projections may not be accurate.
- 129 • Is it possible for the Selectboard to provide support for a formalized group to step up
130 against this proposal?
- 131 • We've come to an impasse with the administration. We don't know there is such a big
132 push to do this in January. We should have a moratorium so the towns can decide what
133 they are going to do.
- 134 • There was a request to slow it down and Superintendent said they can't. Lots of people
135 ask for a pause but the financial crisis overrides any pause.
- 136 • Superintendent's actions can be seen as duplicitous.
- 137 • Lincoln Selectboard could make a vote that calls for a pause if closing the school is not
138 in good faith.

- 139 • We have limited resources- but the Selectboard can coordinate some things.
- 140 • There are lots of good ideas and the more grassroots, the better. Limit the use of lawyers.

141
142 The Selectboard wants to have a Special Meeting on Friday on this subject.
143 Bill moved and Paul seconded to hold a Special Selectboard meeting on Friday, Dec. 18 at 6:30
144 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. Discussion on the agenda and the possibility of using a moderator. Bay will
145 create a Google slides presentation. Bill reminded the Board there was a motion on the floor.
146 Vote called and passed 5-0-0.

147
148 Bill thanked everyone for coming.

149
150 Bill suggested a preview of the draft budget and then adjourn the meeting.

151 Paul had three determining questions:

152 What is the Town going to do about wages?

153 What about the sand pit?

154 What are we doing with the Highway Dept?

155
156 Paul wants to focus on wages and what we can do now and in FY22.

157 Bill suggested talking about the sand pit first. Dave has been working on costs to process sand,
158 etc. If we budget the same amount for sand as usual, then we can hone it down.

159
160 At 9:23 p.m. Paul moved to go into Executive Session to discuss wages and personnel. Will
161 seconded, vote called and passed 5-0-0.

162 The Selectboard came out of Executive Session at 10:10 p.m.

163
164 6. Old Business

165 a. Planning Commission- Review and approval of 10.19.2020 Special Planning Commission
166 meeting minutes (if available) correcting previous minutes viz. ZA hiring process. Further
167 discussion. Bay moved to request/require the Chair of Planning Commission to come to the next
168 Selectboard Meeting. Paul seconded, vote called and passed 5-0-0.

169 b. Ordinance and Policy Reviews: Nothing to report

170 c. Sand pit Conditional Use Permit process: Bill has been in communication with Benj Putnam
171 regarding a potential problem with a Selectboard member serving as Interim ZA during the sand
172 pit process viz. if Will is serving as a Selectboard member or the ZA. If Will is willing to recuse
173 himself from Selectboard decisions he can be present with two Selectboard members. The next
174 step is to have a meeting with Robert Clark

175 d. Special Selectboard meeting- Board response to MAUSD Board and Supt. Reen re: possible
176 school closings. Oakley is happy to moderate. If Todd Goodyear can't do it, then Oakley will.

177
178 Meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

179
180 Minutes respectfully taken by Ann Moreau- Kensek