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**MINUTES of the
SPECIAL MEETING of the
LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT
August 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Burnham Hall,
52 East River Road, Lincoln, Vermont**

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The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Oldham, Acting Chair of the Lincoln School Board, at: 7:09 p.m. Jen introduced herself along with fellow board members Abby Reynolds and Mary Gemignani. Jen recognized Paul Forlenza for his time on the board (Paul has recently resigned and Mary Gemignani was appointed by the Lincoln School Board to fill the remainder of his term until the next annual meeting.) Jen thanked Paul for his work surrounding Lincoln's withdrawal from the Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD).

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ARTICLE 1. To elect a school district meeting moderator for the ensuing year until the next annual meeting. [16 V.S.A. § 493]

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*Christie Sumner nominated Todd Goodyear. Jan Buker seconded. Hearing no other nominations, **Todd Goodyear was elected to be our School District Meeting Moderator, by voice vote.***

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[Jen Oldham stepped down and the meeting was turned over to Todd Goodyear.]

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ARTICLE 2. Shall the school district of Lincoln hold its annual meeting on the first day preceding the first Tuesday in March, at 6:00 p.m.? [16 V.S.A. § 422(b)]

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*Motion: David Wood, Second: Mark Benz, Discussion: Jan Buker asked if this would be a separate date from our annual Town Meeting? Answer: No, it will be on the same night. **Article 2 passed by voice vote.***

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ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District vote to add two additional School Directors? The terms of these additional members will be for two years, except in the first year one shall expire on the date of the next annual meeting and the other shall expire on the second annual meeting day following their election. [16 V.S.A. § 423(b)]

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*Motion: Sally Taylor, Second: Bill Finger, Discussion: Van Talmage spoke in favor of Article 3. **Article 3 passed by voice vote.***

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ARTICLE 4. To elect a Lincoln School Director for a term to expire on the date of the next annual meeting. [16 V.S.A. § 423(b)]

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Nominations: Karen Lueders nominated Rob Backlund. Sandra Steady nominated Shawn May.

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Mike Rainville questioned why we are voting this way. School District Clerk, Sally Ober explained some of the things she has learned, in this process of Lincoln withdrawing from the Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD).

- 42 I. *By default, the Town Clerk serves as the Clerk of the School District, unless another*
43 *person is elected to that position.*
- 44 II. *Sally has learned that election law for school districts can be different than for*
45 *municipalities in Vermont.*
- 46 III. *Prior to our 2016 merger into MAUSD, we used to elect five school directors by*
47 *Australian ballot. Now that we have officially withdrawn from MAUSD, we have just*
48 *established a new school district (LSD). By Vermont State Law, our new school board is*
49 *comprised of three members. We just voted to expand it by adding two more.*
- 50 IV. *The VT Secretary of State's Office informed Sally that the default method of voting on*
51 *officers and questions such as budgets, is by the floor of an in-person meeting, such as*
52 *what we are doing right now. In order to vote by Australian ballot, the body must vote*
53 *to adopt that method of voting, either at an annual meeting or a special meeting such as*
54 *this one.*
- 55 V. *Title 16 of Vermont Law says that school directors shall be elected by ballot (but it does*
56 *not specifically say "Australian ballot"), so we are going to vote now by paper ballot, as*
57 *soon as nominations are closed for this position.*

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59 *Bill Finger asked for clarification of whether we are voting for just one candidate, for one*
60 *position? Answer: yes.*

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62 *Tory Riley asked if we could hear from the candidates. Josh Fosgate, Shawn May's partner,*
63 *indicated that Shawn could not be here because he is an E.R. doctor at work right now. Josh*
64 *told us that Shawn has lived in Lincoln for about 5 years, and he would be a good candidate for*
65 *school director. Josh described Shawn as active in the community, he has the personality of a*
66 *mayor, and he is very outgoing. Shawn's 4-year-old son, Chase, was also present, and he*
67 *encouraged everyone to vote for his Dad. Rob Backlund introduced himself and informed us that*
68 *he had served previously as one of Lincoln's representatives on the MAUSD Board. He would*
69 *like to continue to serve in this capacity on the LSD Board.*

70

71 *Mike Fisher asked if anyone was interested in running for the next position or could we just elect*
72 *both of these nominees with one vote? Answer: Yes, someone else is interested in running for the*
73 *other position. The terms of office are different for each position, so we have to elect them*
74 *separately.*

75 ***Result by paper ballot vote: Rob Backlund was elected with 47 votes and Sean May received 3***
76 ***votes.***

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78 **ARTICLE 5. To elect a Lincoln School Director for a term to expire on the date of the**
79 **second annual meeting following this election. [16 V.S.A. § 423(b)]**

80 *Mark Mulqueen made the motion and Karen Lueders seconded. Coco Moseley nominated*
81 *Jeanne Albert. Paul Forlenza seconded the nomination, and both motioners spoke in favor of*
82 *Jeanne's expertise in matters of budgeting, and her study of State Law regarding schools.*
83 *Hearing no more nominations, Moderator, Todd Goodyear, informed the voters that since there*
84 *is no competition for this position, they could ask the Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of the*

85 candidate. Lisa Truchon asked Sally Ober, to cast one ballot in favor of Jeanne Albert. Sally
86 Taylor seconded. Passed. **Jeanne Albert was elected by paper ballot, with one vote cast by the**
87 **Clerk.**

88
89 [Swearing in of our two new school directors was conducted by School District Clerk, Sally
90 Ober]

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92 **ARTICLE 6. Will the voters of the Lincoln School District authorize its Board of**
93 **Directors to borrow money not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school**
94 **year, by issuing bonds or notes? [16 V.S.A. § 562(9)]**

95 Motion: Sandy Lee, Second: Mary Gemignani, Discussion: **Mary Gemignani made a motion**
96 **to amend Article 6 to read: Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District authorize its Board**
97 **of Directors to borrow money not in excess of anticipated revenue.** Seconded by Sarah
98 McClain.

99 Discussion of Mary Gemignani’s amendment: Rationale: The Board wants to increase options
100 beyond just bonds and notes, such as borrowing from an individual, short-term borrowing from
101 the Town (repayment required within 90 days), or a line of credit, etc.

102 Sandy Lee asked if by removing the language “bonds or notes”, are you taking away or
103 expanding the board’s authority? Jen Oldham explained that they are not working with a school
104 budget this year, it is just for this transition to becoming a fully functional school district. They
105 think this opens up options for the board.

106 **Amendment passed by voice vote.**

107 Back to the main motion, Article 6 as amended, now reads: **Shall the voters of the Lincoln**
108 **School District authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money not in excess of anticipated**
109 **revenue.** Discussion: Lisa Truchon wanted to also include notes and bonds. Sandy Lee read the
110 statute and questioned our authority to vote on this. The language of the original motion was
111 taken directly from statute. Jan Buker asked what other sources of money might the board
112 obtain? Jen Oldham explained that a school district could borrow from the Town, or an
113 individual, or obtain a line of credit, not just a tax anticipation note. Mike Rainville asked if
114 other forms of borrowing would be considered a “note”. Sandy Lee thought that the term
115 “note” is pretty broad. Mike Fisher thought that if statute is clear, the board will be limited by
116 what it can do anyway.

117 Van Talmage, now Treasurer of the Lincoln School District, spoke in support of this article. The
118 Moderator clarified that the words “school year” have also been struck from Article 6.

119 **Article 6 as amended, passed by voice vote.**

120 **ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve the amount of**
121 **\$50,000, to cover expenses from May 18, 2022 to December 31, 2022, for the**
122 **purpose of establishing a fully functioning school district by July 1, 2023.**

123 *Motion: Fred Danforth, Second: Christie Sumner, Discussion: Jen Oldham made a motion to*
124 *amend Article 7, to read: Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District authorize*
125 *expenditures up to \$50,000 to establish a fully operational school district by July 1, 2023,*
126 *funds to be secured from non-tax revenue (i.e. individual donations, business sponsorships,*
127 *grants, etc.)? Deborah Lubar seconded. Discussion: Kate McGowan asked if some funds are*
128 *already established or is more fundraising needed? Jen Oldham explained that we are*
129 *withdrawn from MAUSD, and we exist for the sole purpose of becoming fully functional by July*
130 *1, 2023. This money is to cover transitional costs of becoming our own district, and we can*
131 *expect to hear about a fundraising campaign soon. Jan Buker exclaimed "I love it!"*
132 *Judi Danforth asked how this would work if we join with Ripton? Jen Oldham explained that*
133 *since LSD's last public meeting a few weeks ago, the State Board of Education ruled that they*
134 *don't believe Ripton is prepared to be their own district, and now Ripton is looking at holding a*
135 *vote to go back to rejoining Addison Central School District. Jen indicated that these funds are*
136 *the amount being asked for, with the assumption that we will be assigned to an existing*
137 *supervisory union. **The vote on Jen Oldham's amendment passed by voice vote. Article 7, as***
138 *amended, passed by voice vote.*

139
140 **ARTICLE 8. To establish salaries for the Town School District Officers for the ensuing**
141 **year.**

142 *Motion: Kate McGowan, Second: William Perta, Discussion: Abby Reynolds made a motion*
143 *to table this article until our March 2023 annual meeting. Seconded by Van Talmage. Abby*
144 *explained that all the officers of the Lincoln School District would volunteer until 2023. Van*
145 *Talmage was supportive of people getting paid at some point. Dierdre Zele expressed*
146 *appreciation for all everyone is doing and said thank you.*
147 *Sandy Lee recognized the tremendous amount of work being done and suggested that each board*
148 *member should get \$1,000. Tristan Mayshark thought that all deserve compensation. Rob*
149 *Backlund asked the voters to let them get the district up and running first, and then talk about*
150 *getting paid later. Kate McGowan was not in favor of tabling.*
151 *Bill Finger asked for a point of order. He believes the motion to table is non-debatable.*
152 *Moderator Goodyear consulted his rules, and agreed that this motion is not debatable, so he*
153 *called the question. A voice vote appeared too close to determine, so the Moderator asked for a*

154 *show of hands. By division of the house, the motion to table Article 8 passed with 23 in favor,*
155 *and 22 opposed.*

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157 **ARTICLE 9. To transact any other legal and proper business coming before said meeting.**
158 *Motion: Christie Sumner, Second: Su White. Discussion: Jen Oldham indicated there is a*
159 *chance that Lincoln would become its own supervisory union, and not be assigned to one by the*
160 *State Board of Education (SBE). If this happens, the LSD Board may need to call another*
161 *meeting to ask for additional money, and the district voters would have to come together again.*
162 *There are still more meetings ahead with the SBE, and we cannot know those outcomes at this*
163 *time.*

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165 *Sally Taylor made a motion to adjourn. Bill Finger seconded the motion. Passed by voice vote.*

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167 ***Time adjourned: 8:30 p.m.***

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169 *Minutes respectfully submitted by*
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171 _____
172 *Sally K. Ober, Lincoln School District Clerk*

_____ *Date*

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175 *Minutes approved by:* _____
176 *Todd Goodyear, Moderator*

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178 _____
179 *Jennifer Oldham, Acting Lincoln School Board Chair*