

Pending Approval
Town of Lincoln, Vermont
Regular Selectboard Meeting
Held at the Lincoln Town Office and
from multiple remote locations via Zoom.
January 4, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: At the Town Office, Selectboard Chair Bill Finger; Via Zoom, Vice Chair, Paul Forlenza; members Oakley Smith, Will Sipsev and Bay Jackson; Selectboard Ass't & Zoning Administrator Ann Moreau-Kensek; Sally Ober, Town Clerk

Bill brought the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

1. Agenda approval and adjustments:

Added: Approval of Regional Management Emergency Committee Delegates

Executive Session to discuss ongoing legal matters where legal disclosure would put the Town at a significant disadvantage.

Paul moved and Oakley seconded to approve the agenda with adjustments as amended. Passed 5-0-0

2. Public Comment: none

3. Consent Agenda:

Minutes 12.21.21 Regular Meeting

Non-elected employee year-end Bonus Warrant for \$1468.88

Payroll Warrant #22.27 for \$3,500.11

Payroll Warrant #22.28 for \$4058.36

Accounts Payable Warrant for \$39,089.96

Paul moved and Will seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Passed 5-0-0

4. Reports

a. Highway:

- Highway Dept is keeping up with the snow & ice
- The truck that was damaged in an accident recently was repaired (plow and plow frame replaced with new. Bill reviewed the costs. The driver was cautioned to be careful.
- The property owner with the leaking waterline on Gove Hill has been in touch. He will be meeting with the well-driller and Steve Revell. Bill reminded him his permit to work in the Town ROW permit has expired.
- Dave seems on top of everything going on, and Averi Smith does too. Will noted that he had the opportunity to interact with Dave over the last few weeks and he was impressed with his professionalism. Bill affirmed this as well.

b. Selectboard Ass't:

- UVM Intern: Bill reported that the experience was a major disappointment, and the Selectboard agreed that the report was not of good quality. If UVM reaches out Bay will give them a response.
- Ann's been at work on the Town Report, and she is setting up a structure over the next couple of weeks to get the remaining job descriptions done, the Personnel Policy done, and to suggest some timing and review questions, etc. for employee reviews so that most of the outstanding HR items are completed by Summer.

c. Budget and Finance:

- Paul did a presentation to review the initial budget for FY 2023. Discussion highlights included Employee wages and hours, stipend positions, whether there is funding in reserve for the Emerald Ash

53 Borer, Law Enforcement vs. traffic calming measures for speeding, Transfer Station costs, Highway
54 wages, fuel, and changes if sand pit is operational, maintenance on the Town Garage, maintaining the
55 tree canopy.

- 56
- 57 • The Capital Fund and Capital Equipment Fund were also discussed as were reserve funds such as
58 paving.
- 59

60 The Selectboard will hold a Special Meeting just for the budget on January 11th at 6:30 p.m. Paul asked members
61 to consider the budget bottom line- higher, lower, or about the same.

62

63 d. Clerk & Treasurer:

64 Town Treasurer change from elected to appointed position: Sally has a proposal that may help clarify a
65 route through the change. She'll write it up and send to Bill.

66

67 e. Planning and Zoning Ad Hoc Committee:

68 A report will be given to the Selectboard after the January meeting.

69

70 f. Zoning Administrator update: The year ended with about 109 permits. Ann will have a report on
71 breakdowns for the next regular meeting.

72

73 5. Old Business:

74 a. MAUSD withdrawal process update: Paul gave an update. Among other things in play, Ripton will ask the
75 State Board of Education for a delay so they can talk with Lincoln about creating a Supervisory Union.
76 The Merger Committee seems like they'll be issuing a report in favor of merging.

77

78 b. ARPA Funding update: Paul will run the spreadsheet of projects by VLCT regarding what may or may not be
79 eligible. Bill received an email from Jo Jackson emphasizing Lincoln Sports' project.

80

81 c. TH36 (USFS 291) discontinuation update: Nothing new

82

83 d. Sand Pit: Bill has been trying to contact Benj Putnam and also Robert from Otter Creek.

84

85 e. Transfer Station transition: Lots of people made positive comments on Saturday. Things went well.

- 86 • Merry Mulch from 8-1 on Saturday the 8th at the Transfer Station. Brett Sargent and Wade Acker
87 are working together on this.
- 88 • The Contract came to a close with Moose, and the trailers are a payment for his services.
- 89 • Wade and Moose will get rid of the tires at the Transfer Station.

90

91 Will moved and Paul seconded to transfer ownership of the trailers to Randy Orvis. Passed 5-0-0. The
92 insurance and registration will be taken care of.

93

94 f. Board, commission, and committee updates:

- 95 • Tree Warden- Brief discussion on statutes for Tree Warden. There are two needs in Lincoln- one is to
96 diplomatically ease tension when large, old trees need to be maintained or removed from the town
97 ROW to keep the road safe for travel and reduce the potential for damage to vehicles or injury to
98 pedestrians and bicyclists. The major current role of Tree Warden will be to work with the
99 Conservation Commission to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer.
 - 100 • Will Sipsey help the Highway Supervisor with nuisance trees without being the Tree Warden.
 - 101 • Will moved and Paul seconded to appoint Josiah Jackson Tree Warden. Josiah is aware of statutes and
102 what the duties are and are not. Discussion on whether the statutes apply to Lincoln- not necessarily.
103 There is no job description other than the statutes.
- 104

- Paul noted that the Tree Warden can take on the Ash Borer and work with the Conservation Commission.

Vote called: 3-0-2 Paul, Will and Oakley yes, Bay recused herself, Bill abstained. Passed.

6. New Business:

- Decisions re: March 2022 Town Meeting (decisions made pending authorization by the Vermont General Assembly est. 1.19.22): Sally updated the Selectboard on pending changes in the Legislature regarding having Town Meeting held virtually and all voting by Australian Ballot the next day. Discussion on how it worked last year. A bill is being reintroduced to allow Towns to hold completely virtual meetings due to Covid 19. Soonest it can be done is the 14th of January, and it is very likely the Legislature will say yes.
- Bill moved and Paul seconded to hold Town Meeting virtually via Zoom as an informational meeting, with voting by absentee and on the following day at the Polling Place.
- Discussion on whether there is a way to preserve the traditional Town Meeting and options, such as postponing, were discussed. One option would be to have a Zoom cell at Burnham for those who want to attend in person.
- Bill would add to the motion to send a message to Montpelier to hurry the decision. Sally noted the decision can't be made until January 14th.
- Vote passed 5-0-0.
- Question on whether ballots should be mailed to all voters. After brief discussion with Sally, the consensus was that ballots will only be mailed to those who request them.
- Sally saw in the previous meeting's minutes that bonuses were given to non-elected employees, and she wondered why elected staff was not included. The Selectboard said if they voted to give elected officers a bonus that would include them, and they can't vote to give themselves a bonus. Will noted that this is the Selectboard's way of rewarding employees they supervise.

Oakley moved to go into Executive Session to discuss ongoing legal matters where legal disclosure would put the Town at a significant disadvantage. Paul seconded, passed 5-0-0. The Selectboard went into Executive Session at 9:12 p.m. Ann and Sally left the meeting.

The selectboard left executive session at 9:32 PM. There were no decisions made as a result of discussion in executive session

~~Metting~~ Meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM.