

Town of Lincoln
Selectboard Special Meeting
January 23, 2024

{Draft} Meeting Minutes

ZOOM MEETING RECORDING LINK, incorporated, and made part of these minutes:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Kb0UEuhPJ3vameLm5ObWbow-cVcVlcDfIOcwnoup2CxBen-vQF-f3aD6uvyeKEnp.g9-FacZYgRF3kwNy>

Vote format: YES/NO/Vacant, Absent, Abstention, Recusal

Meeting called to order at 6:14 PM by Bay Jackson, Chair

Present: Bill Finger, Tim McGowan, Conor McDonough (1 vacant)

Also present: Van Talmage, Treasurer

Public present: Paul Forlenza

Public Comment

Review Agenda

MOTION by Bay, 2nd by Bill to approve the written agenda.

PASSED 4/0/1

Current Business and Authorizations

FY25 Budget

- Van had been comparing totals to the 2022 tax rate by mistake, so the updated margin looks better compared to 2023 (a 0.8% increase). Many thanks to Paul, Bill, and Tim for looking at line items closely.
- The adjusted VC3 quote came in lower – change line item 16 from \$17,000 to \$11,000.
- Still a question on NMRC software/support in the Listers and Treasurer sections. Van checked and the membership fee was paid in May and July of 2023, when the first payment should have hit in 2022. He's pretty sure the amount budgeted will be enough.
- \$10,000 in the Planning section is to help with legal fees and/or consultants to write new regulations. The cost could be spread into two fiscal years, according to Matt. The Board would rather leave it at \$10,000 to get the job done as quickly as possible.
- Increase budget for dog warden to \$1,500.
- Town garage rubbish removal is a new line item to break that out separately from other town garage costs.
- No appropriations will be in the Operating Budget in the town report, because the social services organizations are listed out separately in the warning.
- Treasurer hours have increased, and the role has grown. Board is not updating the treasurer salary in the budget but will hold an evaluation with the audit results and address compensation at that time.

MOTION by Bill, 2nd by Bay to approve the FY25 Budget with the changes discussed tonight.

PASSED 4/0/1

MOTION by Bay, 2nd by Conor to approve a \$484,594 budget for the general fund that appears in the budget as drafted and give Tim authority to finalize that number.

PASSED 4/0/1

MOTION by Bay, 2nd by Tim to approve a \$1,087,680 budget for the highway fund.

PASSED 4/0/1

Warning for Town Meeting

- In this draft, Bill had moved the School District Meeting from the middle of the discussion to the end of the town meeting items. After feedback from the community, the Board decided to leave the School District Meeting after discussion of the Town Administrator article and before discussion of the law enforcement article.
- Because Town Administrator is its own article, it allows the Board to explain what that total compensation number includes and someone can suggest amending the article to lower it. No changes to the \$130,000 ask.
- Article 8 is new, regarding voting on questions involving law enforcement, including funding, by ballot beginning in 2025. SB decided to keep the article specific to this topic vs opening up ballot voting to all questions – towns that have done something similar don't have any voting from the floor of the town meeting, which diminishes the value of the event.
- The mentor program was determined to be a town service and therefore needs to be moved back out of agency requests.
- Van will confirm the accuracy of budget numbers decided earlier in the meeting for Articles 5 and 6.
- SB will sign the warning as soon as 1/24. It needs to be posted by Feb 4.

MOTION by Conor, 2nd by Tim to approve the warning for the Town Meeting as drafted.

PASSED 3/1/1 (Bay absent)

Appointments and Employment

MOTION by Bill, 2nd by Conor to enter executive session at 7:18 PM regarding the appointment, employment, or evaluation of a public officer or employee. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3)

PASSED 3/1/1

Exited executive session at 8:35 PM.

MOTION by Bay, 2nd by Conor to adjourn at 8:38 PM

PASSED 4/0/1

Respectfully submitted: Kristyn Brady