

**Town of Lincoln  
MINUTES  
Annual Town Meeting and Town School District Meeting**

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln and the Town School District of Lincoln are hereby warned and notified to meet at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and transact business, and on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at Burnham Hall, to open the polls from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for voting by Australian ballot.

**Agenda for Meeting at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Moderator, Will Sipsey, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.** Hearing no objection, the Moderator recognized David Wood. David called our attention to pages 10 and 11 of the Town Report, where births, deaths, marriages, and burials are listed. He called for celebration of the 17 new children born in Lincoln, and recognized the contributions of those who have passed on. We had a moment of silence in remembrance of those who have passed. The Moderator reviewed the rules of procedure for the meeting before commencing business, and asked non-registered voters to identify themselves.

- Article 1** To elect all town officers as required by law, by Australian ballot, voting to be held at Burnham Hall, polls to be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Tuesday March 6, 2012.  
*No action needed. None taken.*
- Article 2** To act upon the reports of the Town Officers and the Town School District Officers as submitted by the Town Auditors.  
**Motion: Paul Forlenza, Second: Nancy Stevens, passed by voice vote.**
- Article 3** Shall the Town authorize the payment of real property taxes to the Town Treasurer, in two equal installments, with the due dates being October 10, 2012 and March 11, 2013, in accordance with 32 V.S.A. 4871?  
**Motion: Mary Harrison, Second: Dave Wetmore, passed by voice vote.**
- Article 4** Shall the Town collect interest on overdue taxes from the due date of each installment in the amount of 1% per month or fraction thereof, in accordance with 32 V.S.A 4873?  
**Motion: Barry Olson, Second: Mark Mulqueen, passed by voice vote.**
- Article 5** Shall the voters authorize a total Highway Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$753,863 of which \$607,663 shall be raised by taxes and \$146,200 by non tax revenues?  
**Motion: Paul Forlenza, Second: Michael Burgess, no discussion, passed by voice vote.**
- Article 6** Shall the voters authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$667,119 of which \$265,610 shall be raised by taxes, \$309,290 by non tax revenues and \$92,219 is surplus revenue?  
**Motion: Dave Harrison, Second: Greg Vitercik Discussion: Selectboard member, Elwin Isham pointed out that on page 28 of the Town Report, under Expenditures, Insurance (Liability) the line item amount of \$17,500 includes a request to cover Burnham Hall at \$4,229, the coverage started in August 2011. There was intent to break this amount out as a separate line item, but it did not happen. Clarification: The \$4,229 is included in the \$17,500 amount already, we do not need to add another line. Nancy Stevens asked if this works with the Burnham Foundation Charter; Selectboard member, Barb Rainville answered that it does still fulfill the Burnham mission, but saves the Burnham Foundation money. Barb also recognized Mark Benz for all his work securing grant money to improve Burnham Hall, and pointed out that Burnham Hall was a model for successful disaster planning after Tropical Storm Irene. Christine Moriarty asked if this is a new additional expense to the Town? Barb Rainville said, yes. The Selectboard offered clarification of non tax revenues and surplus revenues. Phyllis Fenander asked why we have leftover revenue, Barb Rainville said that Elwin Isham distributed a handout, Phyllis withdrew her question. Mark Mulqueen asked if people who have just recently arrived might be non-voters? The Moderator informed anyone who came in after the start of the meeting, that if they are not registered to vote, they may not vote on articles here. Donny Sargent asked about road maintenance plans, and the Moderator ruled it not germane. **Article 6 as warned, passed by voice vote.****

## Article 7

Shall the voters of the Town of Lincoln authorize the Selectboard to purchase a new tandem axle dump truck with plow, wing and sander equipped; said truck not to exceed the purchase price of \$195,000? Funds are to come from the Capital Equipment Fund.

**Motion:** Dave Harrison, **Second:** Matt Moyer **Discussion:** Which truck would this replace? Selectboard member, Brian Goodro answered that it would replace the 2004 Mack tandem, which recently had an accident, but is back on the road. Question: does our insurance premium go up a lot because of an accident? Brian Goodro said that we won't know yet. Jodi Gale asked if our insurance company paid anything toward the repairs of the 2004 Mack? Brian answered, yes. Question: are we replacing this truck because it had an accident, or was this a planned request? Brian Goodro explained that the trucks and equipment are on a planned rotation. Nancy Stevens asked, how much will come from the Capital Fund? Barb Rainville said that we will get a low-interest loan, but the amount will depend on the trade-in value, which will hopefully be around \$20,000. We will pay off the loan over about a 5-year period. Phyllis Fenander asked how many trucks we are still paying off? Barb Rainville told people to look on page 27 of the Town Report to see the truck payment schedule. **Article 7, as warned, passed by voice vote.**

Sally Ober, Town Clerk, asked for a moment to speak. Sally recognized and thanked Judith Harris, for her four years of service to the Town as Auditor. Judith stepped forth at a particular time of need to help put the Town Report together, and she did a wonderful job, making improvements to the process each year that she did it. We thanked her with flowers and a card.

Sally Ober also recognized Larry Masterson, our Town Treasurer of 15 years, who is retiring from his position this year. Sally mentioned that Larry's contributions to Lincoln began 50 years ago with continuous service since he was in college. He also worked in State Government for 35 years and has served so many Lincoln organizations throughout the years. We appreciated Larry by presenting him a card and a group gift certificate, which many individual townspeople contributed to.

**RECESS TOWN MEETING; OPEN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING at 6:48 p.m.**

**ADJOURN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING; RE-OPEN TOWN MEETING at 8:44 p.m.**

Hearing no objections, the Moderator recognized State Legislators, Representative Mike Fisher, and Representative David Sharpe to allow them to address the body. Mike has been focused on health care reform and Dave serves on the Ways and Means Committee. Discussion of Statewide property taxes, State Police handling of search and rescue operations, and worker's compensation improvements. Reps. Fisher and Sharpe encouraged people to read the written legislative reports they brought to hand out, and to contact them with concerns or questions. Discussion about the Citizens United Supreme Court decision and a bill in the VT Legislature calling for a U.S. Constitutional amendment specifying that corporations do not have rights as persons. Discussion about a suggestion to make local teachers be State employees and reduce the challenge of negotiating contracts with local school boards. Discussion about reducing the number school supervisory unions, and shifting some tasks from superintendents to principals. Mari Cordes thanked both Rep. Sharpe and Rep. Fisher for all of their hard work and leadership, especially concerning health care reform.

## Article 8

Shall the Town authorize the Agent to deed property?

**Motion:** Claude Rainville, **Second:** Dave Wetmore, passed by voice vote.

## Article 9

Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to help support the Lincoln Cemetery Association?

**Motion:** David Wood, **Second:** Greg Vitercik, no discussion, passed by voice vote.

## Article 10

Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to help support the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool?

**Motion:** Dave Harrison, **Second:** Greg Vitercik, no discussion, passed by voice vote.

**Article 11** Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$36,500 in the support of the Lincoln Library?  
**Motion: Ed Hanson, Second: Dick Nessen, no discussion, passed by voice vote.**

**Article 12** Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to help support Lincoln Sports, Inc.?  
**Motion: Linda Daybell, Second: Christie Sumner, no discussion, passed by voice vote.**

**Article 13** Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$55,896 to the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company?  
**Motion: Claude Rainville, Second: Larry Michaels, no discussion, passed by voice vote.**

**Article 14** Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,000 to Bristol Rescue?  
**Motion: Greg Vitercik, Second: Mary Gemignani Discussion: Phyllis Fenander commented that this is level funding from last year, and they do so much for our town. Barb Rainville clarified that the amounts requested for service organizations are based on the requests from the organizations themselves, and the Selectboard does not determine the dollar figure. Auditor, Greg Vitercik pointed out that there are page references for each of these, so you can easily find more information about why they ask for certain fund amounts. **Article 14 passed by voice vote.****

**Article 15** Will the Town vote to approve the following social agency requests? (*Note: These requests represent level funding from 2011*)

\$ 1,250	Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc
250	Addison County Humane Society
1,300	Addison County Parent/Child Center
600	Addison County Readers
870	Addison County Transit Resources
2,200	Bristol Recreation Department
1,100	Champlain Valley Agency on Aging
750	Comm. Health Srvs of Addison Cty – Open Door Clinic
1,600	Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.
700	Elderly Services, Inc
2,000	HOPE (ACCAG)
425	Hospice Volunteer Services
1,000	John W Graham Emergency Shelter
375	Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
500	Vermont Adult Learning
1,000	WomenSafe
<b>\$15,920</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Motion: Linda Daybell, Second: Dick Nessen Discussion: Question: are these requests from the individual agencies? Selectboard member, Barb Rainville, clarified that they are level requests from last year, and if the organization wanted more, they would have to submit a petition. **Article 15 passed by voice vote.****

**Article 16** Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the US Congress to propose a US Constitutional amendment for the States’ consideration which provides that money is not political speech, that corporations do not possess the rights of persons under the US Constitution, the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure?

**Motion: Ed Hanson, Second: Mari Cordes Discussion: Bob Tudek pointed out that VT Senator Ginny Lyons helped to draft this language. We need 43 states for an amendment to the Constitution and he is hoping that Vermont will be the first. Dave Wetmore said that he agrees in principle, but what about non-profits, LLC’s, farms, etc.? Susan Borg pointed out that even non-profits can not influence legislation**

directly. Dick Nessen said that his concern is for the greater political good, and the idea that money is not speech is a good goal. Mark Mulqueen thought that this would help level the playing field toward individual citizens. Paul Vichi said that small LLC's still have a voice in government, but not anonymously the way the Citizens United decision now allows. Mari Cordes said that the strength of unions is through building relationships with people not with money, and this would enforce that concept. Barb Rainville had a concern about the wording, "that corporations do not possess the rights of persons under the US Constitution". She thought that line ought to be removed. Phyllis Fenander believed that if we pass this, we will send a clear message that corporations are not people. Greg Vitercik pointed out that the U.S. Constitution is about the rights of individual people, and that corporate rights and protections are addressed in other laws. Ed Hanson said that LLC's still have protections against liabilities. Claude Rainville said that we are asking the fox to guard the chicken coop, meaning that the recipients of the benefits won't change it. Mike Fisher would like to go a step further to say that only those who can vote for you can give you money toward your campaign, corporations can not vote; they are not citizens. Over 50 towns are voting on this at their Town Meetings. Todd Goodyear is voting "no" for concern of unintended consequences. Dave Wetmore is voting "no" because it is not the language he wants to see. Shawn Thompson-Snow asked if this would apply to only American or also foreign corporations? Mike Fisher and Barb Rainville clarified that there are already limitations to candidates receiving funds from foreign contributors. If this gets to the point of actually voting on an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, it will have to come back to the people for a vote in order to ratify it. Cindy Brisson thought that what we are voting on here is intent, which is good. **Jan Buker called the question. Seconded by Henry Wilmer. Voting on calling the question passed by voice vote. Voting on Article 16 as warned: passed by voice vote.**

**Article 17**

**To transact any other legal and proper business when met.**

Elliot Fenander thanked the Constables and Neighborhood Watch, as well as our State Troopers for their work and service to the Town. Jan Buker encouraged people to go to the Lincoln Community School for lunch, to help support the lunch program. The cost for a meal is about \$4.50, and it is great food! An announcement was made that Patti Casey is playing at Burnham Hall on Saturday. **Ann Pollender made a motion to adjourn. Barry Olson seconded. Passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sally Ober, Town Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes reviewed and approved by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 Will Sipsey, Town Meeting Moderator Barbara Rainville, Selectboard Chair