

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2010**

Selectmen present: Rosendel Gerry, Chairman, Stacey Parra, Vice-Chairman, H. Bob Plausse, Cathy Hardy, and Jason Trundy

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gerry at 6:00 p.m. The quote of the day was read by Selectwoman Parra.

1. Citizen's Forum:

Yvonne Walker, Chairwoman of the School Committee, told Board members that the Reorganization Planning Committee (RPC) will start meeting again in March to determine if school reorganization is in the Town's best interest; due to changes in the reorganization legislation, it's not looking as financially bleak to consolidate as in the past. The RPC needs three people from each of the five towns to serve on the Committee, which will meet one or two times monthly for several months. Any interested citizen of Lincolnville willing to serve on the RPC should contact the Superintendent's office. Selectwoman Parra volunteered to serve on that Committee.

Motion by Plausse, second by Hardy, to appoint Selectwoman Parra to the RPC. Vote 4-0-1 (Parra abstained).

2. Administrator's Report:

David Kinney, Town Administrator, reported:

- There are still approximately 45 unregistered dogs. Starting February 1, an additional fee has been charged. In March, the Animal Control Officer will be notifying dog owners, which could mean more additional fees.
- Residents should not plow snow from their driveways onto the roads or culverts. This applies to snowblowing and shoveling, too.
- The Fire Station project went out to bid for spring construction. A prebid conference is scheduled for Thursday, February 11th, 4 p.m., at Lincolnville Central School.

Selectman Plausse brought up the issue of public hearings at Selectmen's meeting, stating he felt they should be held at the beginning of the meeting in order to avoid shuffling items mid-meeting to adhere to a published public hearing time. Town Administrator Kinney said he would include copies of the Selectmen's *Rules and Procedures* in their next packets for discussion at the February 22nd meeting.

Selectwoman Parra asked the Town Administrator if he had heard about a letter sent to the Waldo County Commissioners regarding their nonpayment of fees to the Eastern Maine Development Corporation and, as a result, the Corporation is withdrawing its services in Waldo County. Selectwoman Parra wondered how many Lincolnville businesses this would affect. The Town Administrator had not seen the letter.

Chairman Gerry asked about the procedure for getting the closure of roads on the June Town Meeting Warrant, as he would like to see this item move forward. Town Administrator Kinney reported that the Town Attorney is working on the paperwork for two of the road closure issues. The residents of those roads had been agreeable to the closures.

Selectwomen Parra and Hardy will have the Town Administrator's evaluation form ready for the February 22nd meeting.

3. Meetings & Announcements:

Town Administrator Kinney read the meetings and announcements from the agenda, stating there is no Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, February 10.

4. Upcoming Community Events:

Town Administrator Kinney announced the Winter Carnival will be held Saturday, February 20th, at Breezemere Park, and the Winterfest will be held that same day at the Cellardoor Winery.

5. Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Plausse, second by Trundy, to approve the minutes of January 25, 2010, as written. Vote 5-0.

6. Citizens for Value in Education – Continuation of Discussion from Last Meeting:

Alex Armentrout, of the Citizens for Value in Education, had been asked at the Board's January 25th meeting to return to tonight's meeting to answer any additional questions Board members had. As a follow-up to Yvonne Walker's previous comments, Mr. Armentrout started by voicing his support for the bill before Legislature that delays imposing penalties on school systems which had not consolidated.

Mr. Armentrout then explained that the CSD Finance Committee met last week to address the next budget process step with the various school departments. At the beginning and end of that meeting, Superintendent Pat Hopkins stated the school will try to absorb the 1.35 million dollar revenue loss within the school budget; the five Towns may not be asked to absorb the revenue loss. Lincolnville's share of that revenue loss would have been over \$200,000.

Board members brought up issues of vocational-technical education costs and special education costs. Mr. Armentrout suggested that Edmund Hartt, Lincolnville's representative on the Midcoast School of Technology Board, look into reviewing the agreement that establishes the formula for payment. The current agreement, signed over thirty years ago, results in the CSD cost per student in the vocational-technical education system to be approximately \$25,000 per student. Although a strong supporter of vocational education, Mr. Armentrout feels the expense is high and the contract should be readdressed. He went on to say that 101 students in the CSD, or 15.2%, are currently in special education; the national standard is around five percent. The State pays almost nothing now towards that expense, even though it is State-mandated program. The RTI process, which Hope and Lincolnville have worked on, focuses on young-aged students not keeping up with their peers

and tries to work with them on their deficiencies to, hopefully, avoid the need of special education further down the road. Yvonne Walker stated that the State has strict RTI guidelines; the special education in Lincolnville is also about 15%.

There will be several CSD Budget review meetings over the next few weeks, and Mr. Armentrout encouraged everyone to attend.

1. Citizen's Forum: (revisited out of order):

Marsha Knight addressed the Board. She was a Lincolnville resident until November 5th, when her house caught on fire. Fortunately, she and her baby daughter got out alive. She wanted to publicly thank Fire Chief Ben Hazen and Finance Director Jodi Hanson (both in tonight's audience) for going "above and beyond the call of duty" to help her the night of the fire and the weeks following the fire. She was very grateful for all they had done for them. Chief Hazen and Finance Director Hanson received a round of applause.

7. Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Update:

Barbara Gould, Chairwoman of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, informed Board members that the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, the Land Use Committee, along with Jane LeFleur and Eric Gallant, had been meeting to hammer out revisions to the Gateway 1 funding application, which will soon be sent to Town Administrator Kinney. She said the next step is to form a subcommittee to gather information/input on how the Town's ordinances line up with Gateway 1. Ms. Gould said the 9-12 member subcommittee would "meet and think" for about one year, and have specific task-oriented projects. Barbara Gould and some Land Use Committee members will serve on the subcommittee, while Chris Osgood and Will Brown will be liaisons between the subcommittee and Gateway 1. Interested citizens are encouraged to serve on the subcommittee.

Town Administrator Kinney said he felt this subcommittee would be an extension/next phase of the previously formed Town Response Panel, and felt a charge could be written by the Board of Selectmen which could leave the number of members open-ended.

Motion by Hardy, second by Plausse, to have Town Administrator Kinney and Barbara Gould and/or the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee get together to write a charge to be presented at the Board's next meeting. Vote 5-0.

8. Town-Owned Land Sale–Discussion of Public Hearing/Future Town Meeting Possibilities:

Town Administrator Kinney explained that at the end of 2009, the Board had discussed selling three Town-owned properties. Included in their packets were possible warrant articles for the June Town Meeting or a Special Town Meeting. It was the Board's consensus to move these sales forward as quickly as practical, but Board members also realized the state of the real estate market is not ideal for selling right now. They hope the market will start to rebound, but in the meantime, Board members would like input from Assessors' Agent Vern Ziegler and Code Enforcement Officer Frank Therio regarding the properties' values, land use possibilities, etc., to get a sense of their worth. Local realtors could also be consulted.

Town Administrator Kinney also mentioned that Fire Chief Hazen will address the subject of a drill to burn the structure on the Greenacre Road property at the Fire Department's next meeting.

9. As Board of Assessors – Abatement to Correct Error in Building Record/Secotte Property:

Motion by Parra, second by Plausse, to suspend their meeting as Board of Selectmen and convene as Board of Assessors. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Parra, second by Plausse, to approve Abatement Number 2009-12 in the valuation amount of \$7,200 (\$84.24 in tax) per the Assessor's Agent recommendation. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Parra, second by Plausse, to adjourn their meeting as Board of Assessors and reconvene as Board of Selectmen. Vote 5-0.

10. Authority to Post Roads for Seasonal Weight Limits:

Motion by Parra, second by Hardy, that the Board authorizes the Road Commissioner to post the roads for weight limits as he deems to be in the best interest of the Town and that the Board further authorizes the use of their signature stamps on those postings. Vote 5-0.

11. Update on Planning Board Secretary Search:

Town Administrator Kinney reported that he and Planning Board Chairwoman Lois Lyman had interviewed a recording secretary candidate, and recommends the Board appoint the candidate, for a six-month probationary period, at a rate of pay of \$20 per hour. Town Administrator Kinney passed out the candidate's resume to Board members for their review.

Motion by Parra, second by Plausse, to approve the appointment of Lara J. Ballard as Planning Board recording secretary at a rate of \$20 per hour. Vote 5-0.

12. Treasurer's Warrant(s) – Approve and Sign:

Motion by Parra, second by Plausse, to approve the Treasurer's Warrant. Vote 5-0.

13. Executive Session – Application(s) for Property Tax Abatement Due to Poverty and/or Disability (Title 1 MRSA § 405(6)(F) & Title 36 MRSA § 841(2)(E)):

Motion by Plausse, second by Parra, that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of hearing an application for a property tax abatement due to poverty and/or disability pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(F) and Title 36 Section 841(2)(E). Vote 5-0.

Upon returning to open session:

Motion by Parra, second by Hardy, to come out of executive session. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Plausse, second by Parra, to grant a poverty abatement in the amount of \$1,460.55, plus costs and interest. Vote 5-0.

14. Adjourn:

Motion by Parra, second by Hardy, to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bacon
Administrative Assistant