

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 3, 2013**

Selectmen present (for session at school): David Barrows, Chairman, Jason Trundy and Ladleah Dunn.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barrows at 6:30 p.m. at Lincolnville Central School (B-5). The quote was read by Dunn.

1. Breezemer Park Float Arrangement:

Selectmen present: David Barrows, Rosey Gerry, Jason Trundy and Ladleah Dunn.

The Board members met at Breezemer Park with representatives of the Recreation Commission and the Lincolnville Boat Club to view the current float locations, discuss safety, hear neighbor concerns, and determine float locations. By consensus the Board instructed the Town Administrator to work with the Boat Club and Recreation Commission to relocate the floats so that to the greatest extent possible the floats would not be visible from the Nolan's front windows, to provide greater distance from the Devoe residence for noise mitigation, to provide for a safe distance between the boat club float and the swim float, and to maintain access to the launching ramp.

2. Citizens' Forum:

Greg Boetsch presented a display of budget summaries since 2003 with a few years missing. He pointed out a summary page on administration to show that the budget was highlighted by line item, which you don't get in the town report. Boetsch said this was important because this is where the citizens get their information from before coming to town meeting. He pointed out the format shows the salaries including retirement, health and dental cost along with a footnote. He said for the 2010-2011 budget the format was changed and no longer shows a footnote or line item breakdown. Boetsch asked the Selectmen if they were aware of the change and the reason. He said the new format makes it harder for the citizens to understand the budget.

Trundy said he wasn't a Selectman in 2003 and 2004. He said when they go through the budget process it's pretty well detailed breaking out everybody's wages, FICA and Medicare cost.

Boetsch asked why the format was changed.

Kinney said it was in respond to some people's complaint that they couldn't understand all the different numbers and columns. He said we tried to make it clearer and neater and we received a number of positive comments from citizens and Budget Committee members. Kinney said we also added additional columns to explain each item as to what was expended in past years, what was approved in the current year, what we expended out of the current year through December, percentages and a column for the Selectmen's and Budget Committee's recommendations.

Boetsch said the earlier budgets had four to five more pages explaining everybody's salaries.

Kinney said if you're interested solely in salary, you're absolutely correct, but there's more information on the overall expenditures in the budget than what existed before.

3. Administrator's Report:

Kinney reported on the progress of the town office. He said the inside was gutted and they are framing the new configuration. He said they found a huge rock in the corner where the foundation was going, so they had to step up the footing over that. They plan to replace one additional window in the attic. Kinney said when they uncovered the south wall there was some water damage. He said in the coming weeks they will be putting the plumbing in the new portion of the town office, placing the concrete slab and starting the framing.

Kinney said absentee ballots are available at the town office during normal business hours.

The walk ability of Lincolnville Center that the citizens wanted to explore with DOT will be on June 25th in the morning, tentatively at 9:00 a.m. and is open to anyone interested.

4. Meetings & Announcements:

Town Administrator Kinney read the upcoming meetings.

5. Upcoming Community Events:

None

6. Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board approve the May 13, 2013 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: 3-0.

7. Review and Discuss EMS Review Team Recommendation:

Skip Day asked the Board what was the final outcome and what was the rationale leading to it.

Barrows said the decision of the committee was to go with Northeast Health. The reasons for that were their service, track record and price. Barrows said that's nothing against Camden First Aid, but there is around \$380,000 difference between the two services.

Trundy said the makeup of the group was Town Administrator or Manager from each of the four towns along with a Selectman and a citizen. The Town of Hope sent someone from their Budget Committee, so three representatives from each town. The group was responsible for reviewing the proposals they got from the RFP we put out. Trundy said they put the RFP out because of the fact that the request from Camden First Aid for

Lincolnton went from \$10,000 last year to \$77,000 and all the other four communities also saw a substantial increase in their cost to a total of a little over \$400,000.

Trundy said we had some discussions by our Board about the need to diligently research why that increase was required and whether it was right to put that increase in the budget without looking at other options. We were concerned that at town meeting we would have a lot of people who would be very upset with us for not having done our job.

Trundy said we started the process of putting together an RFP for Lincolnton and shortly thereafter we were approached by the other communities asking if we would be willing to do a joint RFP. The joint RFP allowed any of the agencies that wanted to respond to do so for any number of the towns. We ended up getting four responses. Sterling was interested in serving only the Town of Hope. Delta, Camden First Aid and Northeast responded to all four Towns. Rick Petrie from Atlantic Partners was retained as a consultant to help us understand ambulance services and terminology. Petrie helped us understand what we were looking at, so we could compare apples to apples. We started by having him do a couple of presentations to give us a basic overview of how EMS is structured in Maine, explain the rules that they operate under and how billing works. After we reviewed the RFPs we held a meeting with the three candidates. Trundy said our questions came from going through these RFPs. When we saw something that didn't make sense we wrote it down and at the end of the day the Town Managers got together and boiled all those questions down. Each one of the vendors was able to come in and answer those questions and we all had the opportunity to quiz them about the particular issues that we had.

Trundy said the decision as to how to choose the agency was not an easy one. We wrestled with the same concerns that every citizen is going to wrestle with when they go to the polls. Camden First Aid is an agency that employs our neighbors, our friends and has been in this community for 77 years. Those facts were not taken lightly. Trundy said they knew that when it came to the town vote there would be a lot of emotion and support for Camden First Aid regardless of price tag or the situation they are in at the moment. He said that regarding the situation they are in at the moment, he thought that the fact that they had to go from a \$10,000 request to Lincolnton to \$77,000 would tell anybody looking at it with any degree of objectivity there is some sort of internal problem.

Trundy said Northeast is the largest ambulance service in the State of Maine. In his opinion, and in the opinion of many of the other members of the Review Team, stability isn't a problem for Northeast. He said as far as the quality of service, training requirements and the level of care that each person is going to receive from a paramedic we really couldn't see any discernible difference between Camden First Aid versus Northeast Ambulance Service. Northeast has an extensive management team. So when you look at the level of service you're going to get, the management team is there, Northeast is on the cutting edge of EMS service, not only in Maine, but across the country. This puts them right out in the forefront. Trundy said you couldn't help but to talk about the cost factor. He said that when he read Northeast's proposal he could not

figure out how Northeast could do what they were saying they could for \$5,000 a year. Delta put in their proposal it would cost \$44 a person, which was slightly more than Camden First Aid thought it would cost to do the same service. Trundy ask the Director to explain to him how Northeast can do this service for \$5,000 a year for Lincolnville when both of the other agencies say it was going to cost from \$38 to \$44 per person. His answer was pretty simple. Northeast already has an ambulance service doing transports in Rockport; they do somewhere around 500 to 600 calls a year. The director explained the crew that services Rockport is not being one hundred percent utilized, so there is still room for them to tack on addition responsibilities for that crew. If they use that crew as their base and then build on that they are going to increase the number of billable calls that can sustain the ambulance service.

Trundy said Petrie explained that on a statewide average an ambulance service is going to require around 2000 billable calls per service year to be financially viable. Camden First Aid has about 1600 billable calls a year. That shortfall in number of calls is why they are asking for \$400,000; they need that extra money to fill the gap between their 1600 billable calls and their actual cost of running the ambulance service. Trundy said if you take the 1600 billable calls Camden First Aid has right now and Northeast picks those up and add them to the 500 to 600 calls that they already run out of their ambulance service they now have 2000 or more billable calls a year. This makes their paramedic level ambulance service sustainable at \$5,000. Trundy said that's why Northeast is in a unique position to offer their service at the cost they are proposing.

Trundy said it was a big concern because people felt they were putting a low cost out there as a way to lure us in to a contract for a couple of years and later hit us with a higher amount. The Hope Town Administrator called Bowdoinham, who has been served by Northeast for twelve years, and learned that their stipend was in the neighborhood of \$3,000 to \$5,000 when they started and it has decreased since then. For Trundy that removed his concern that two years from now we are going to get nailed by an increase.

Trundy said if the communities chose Camden First Aid, obviously a jump from \$10,000 to \$77,000 creates uncertainty for the future as to where the cost will go. We realized as a group there would be a lot of public sentiment for Camden First Aid. It was pretty obvious from the conversations that if the four communities decided they want Camden First Aid, regardless of the cost, the Selectmen would be willing to take that torch and run with it to create a sustainable and efficient ambulance service. Trundy said the group had the opportunity to do something most citizens don't have time to do and that is to pour over the issues for hours and hours. He said we talked the emotional side of this decision to death and through that process were able to reach a logical choice.

Day thanked Trundy for his explanation. He said that 77 years of service with trained EMS people has been done with great care. He said local governments did not push Camden First Aid's management hard enough years ago and that he was part of that group. He said he would call them to ask what funding they wanted next year and the answer was the same as last year. Day said it never dawned on him why it doesn't get a

little higher every year when everything else is going up. He said there was the matter of poor management, but other things also didn't help. He said a lot folks don't know about some of the things Camden First Aid does for free; when there's a fire they send an ambulance, if a firefighter gets hurt they get a free ride to the hospital. Day said he doesn't know if the new agency will continue that service. He said that he doesn't think the Fire Department will take that on and nor would he recommend they do so. Day said these are the things we need to keep in mind.

Trundy said there was a fair amount of discussion regarding some of the free things done by Camden First Aid. Trundy said Northeast does provide an ambulance at the scene of a fire if requested. Regarding transporting a fire fighter, the truth of the matter is that's why we all pay Workers Compensation. For a business, especially a non-profit such as Northeast, it makes sense to bill somebody regardless of whether it is a fire fighter or someone else because it's coming out of Workers Compensation not the Fire Department budget. Trundy said it comes down to good business management. Based on his experience on the board of Mid-Coast Solid Waste, which is a quasi-municipal agency run by the towns, he said there was a lot of effort every year to reduce the amount of tax burden by trying to make the transfer station as self-sufficient as possible. He said whether it's Camden First Aid or Northeast we should expect the same from those ambulance services. He said as a Town and as taxpayers we should expect that from all the services that pull from tax dollars. They should only ask for what they really need and use what they get wisely. So if there are avenues for Camden First Aid or for Northeast to legitimately bill a customer through an insurance company or Workers Compensation they should do so because that reduces the burden on the taxpayer, that's prudent. If there is a legitimate revenue source then the agency should be attaching that revenue source to offset their operating cost.

Kinney said the group learned that ambulance services are subject to all sorts of Federal rules because the primary payers are Medicare and Maine Care. Therefore, ambulance services are not supposed to bill people differently. Kinney said if you give somebody a free ride then how come everybody doesn't get a free ride. This could jeopardize the reimbursement from the various payers if you give free rides to fire fighters but not to town office employees or Joe citizen. Kinney didn't believe any organization running an ambulance service can afford to lose Medicare or Maine Care reimbursement. Kinney said an audit needs to show that everyone is treated the same whether they can pay or not or whether you're being covered by a private insurer, self-pay or a government sponsored program.

Trundy said one of the other issues is that the request for a proposal from Camden First Aid, Delta and Northeast hinges on the three large communities signing on. All of the agencies said if Hope decided to go with Sterling they would still honor the proposals, but all of them said that if anyone of the other three towns, Lincolnville, Camden or Rockport opted not to go with their service they would not be able to honor the proposal they put forward. They would have to renegotiate because the number of calls they would get would change. Trundy said our town meeting follows both Rockport and Camden and that's a benefit because at our meeting we will know which way citizens of

Camden and Rockport voted. If they both vote for Northeast it doesn't matter what we do because Camden First Aid cannot survive off the calls from just Lincolnville; they need all three towns.

Trundy said no matter what happens at Lincolnville's town meeting it also matters what happens at the other town meetings. His concern is that if the citizens of Lincolnville vote to raise the \$77,000 for Camden First Aid they need to know that if Rockport and Camden vote in another direction the Camden First Aid option won't be available.

Peter Rollins addressed the board. He has been with the Lincolnville Fire Department for 21 years and President of Lincolnville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. 17 years, assistant Fire Chief 15 years and with the Camden Fire Department for five years. Rollins said there are a lot of promises out there from other companies. He has worked with Camden First Aid on the access team and has been on fire calls. He has also been to other towns for mutual aid and have seen what other ambulance services provide. Camden First Aid service is far above what any other services provide and their level of care is proven. Rollins asked the Selectmen if they had gone with Northeast or Delta on any calls to see the level of service. Rollins said in the long run all that matters is who jumps out of the ambulance at the scene and what kind of service they provide because we care about our citizens.

Jean Botley said seven years ago when her son R.J. had the lawn mower accident at the baseball game he was transported by Northeast to Portland and their service was great. She also said three weeks ago Robin totaled her car and Camden First Aid was there. So she has used both services. Botley said she thinks both agencies offer quality service, but she wants what's best for our town and when we make our decision we can't make it emotionally.

Rollins said he is concerned that we will lose our first responders.

Stephen Bennett, Deputy Chief of Northeast, said Lincolnville has gotten tremendous service for a long time, but he thinks Northeast can do a real good job for you. He said they have opened up their organization to Camden First Aid employees should they wish to pursue a career at Northeast; they have had a number of folks who have applied with us. Bennett said their crew that works in Rockport is made up of local people and Northeast is interested in bringing on additional local people. He said they want to work with the first responder services in the communities because first responders are critical in getting there quickly, to provide that initial aid. It's important that we continue that type of relationship and make that relationship proactive. Bennett said Northeast is heavily involved in all the communities that we work with. He gave an example of the commander from Topsham who has reached out to each of the communities in that area through involvement with the senior centers, the schools and various other civic organizations.

Bennett said lift assist is an ambulance call. He said if we respond and assist to place someone back in bed or back in a chair and there is no injury and no transport then it's

done without any charge. That is what an ambulance service does as part of their business. It's what we do, its community involvement, it's going out to help folks and take good care of them.

Arlene Day said she read all the RFPs. In Northeast's RFP, which she read twice, their response was that when we take over Camden's service we're going to offer their people employment and purchase their equipment. She said it may her feel like Northeast's attitude was they can just slide in and buy their building and their equipment and it did not sit well with her. She said she is also concerned with the cost. Day said she knows Camden First Aid has had a lot of problems that can't be discussed in public. She said that if the citizens knew why there are some big problems there, they would think twice about why they had to ask for so much money.

Lynda Clancy from PenBay Pilot asked the Selectmen if they had discussed exploring a four town quasi-municipal process. She wanted to know if there was any research about that and, if so, why was it rejected.

Trundy said there was little research, but it was brought up at two or three of the meetings. He didn't know anywhere near what he knows now about EMS. He thought we could create an organization with bits and pieces of Camden First Aid, the people and some of their equipment, and thereby gain more control over the amount of funds required. Trundy said the reason he moved away from that idea after a few meetings was because after reviewing the RFPs and talking with Petrie to learn about the structure of an EMS in the State of Maine, it very quickly became apparent that this would be a very large undertaking. Management of an EMS needs to be done by people who really know the business. The question became why start a four town quasi-municipal organization with administrators and managers and the responsibility of creating what we can get for almost nothing out of pocket from Northeast. Trundy said he realizes that means the citizens have to vote against Camden First Aid to vote for Northeast at the Town Meeting. The reality is that the four towns putting their heads together are never going to run an ambulance service of the quality that Northeast can provide.

Cathy Hardy said the warrant for the town meeting on June 15th has a recommendation by the Selectmen and Budget Committee for \$77,000 as requested by Camden First Aid. Hardy asked Kinney if there would need to be an amendment from the floor recommending a change in the dollar amount to \$5,000 to support Northeast.

Kinney said the way that Lincolnville's Town Warrant articles are written is "to see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for ambulance service" along with a Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendation. Monies are raised and appropriated by the voters at town meeting. The Board of Selectmen expends those monies, as they have contract authority. If the Town voted to raise an appropriate a million dollars for ambulance and the Selectmen thought it best to spend \$5,000 then they spend \$5,000. The amount that was left would go into an undesignated fund balance. The Selectmen can expend up to the amount appropriated at town meeting; the town meeting does not choose the provider. Town meeting doesn't choose the Town

Administrator, or Fire Chief, those things are delegated to the Board of Selectmen by our Town Charter and State Law. So the monies are appropriated and then the Selectmen have the authority to expend up to that amount of money that's been appropriated by the voters for the purpose the voters intend.

Hardy asked if the citizens will be voting whether or not to appropriate \$77,000.

Kinney said after the moderator reads the article and the Selectmen and Budget recommendation someone will make a motion for a certain amount of money. Then the citizens will have discussion and debate on that motion. After that either through amendments or just voting some dollar amount will be approved. It then lands back in the Board of Selectmen's lap to decide how best to expend the funds. Kinney said most Board of Selectmen that he has worked with has tried to honor the will of the people that came to town meeting and expressed their wishes. He said we are in a partnership here with other communities whether we like it or not. Kinney said our best opportunity for service at a reasonable cost is with the four towns working together.

Trundy said when the EMS Team got together to review the RFPs the sentiment was very strong that there was a real possibility that the citizens in the four towns might vote to stay with Camden First Aid no matter what it cost. Among the representative group of Selectmen there was a commitment if that's what the citizens want then we will stay with Camden First Aid and make that arrangement work.

8. **Lease Amendment with Lincolnville Historical Society – Map 5, Lots 1 & 3:**
Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board approve and sign the lease amendment by and between the Town of Lincolnville and the Lincolnville Historical Society amending the October 2012 lease to include both Lots 1 and 3 shown on Assessors' Tax Map 5. Vote: 3-0.
9. **Surplus Float Bid:**
Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board accept the \$50 bid from Fairhaven Camps for the surplus swim float. Vote: 3-0.
10. **Utility Location Permit – Tanglewood Road:**
Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board approve and sign the Location Permit for CMP Work Order #100478832. Vote: 3-0.
11. **2013 Ratio Declaration & Reimbursement Application:**
Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board approve and sign the Ratio Declaration and Reimbursement Application. Vote: 3-0.
12. **Fire Chief – Resignation & Appointment:**
Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board accept with regret the resignation of Fire Chief Jason Peasley. Vote: 3-0.

Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board appoint Ben Hazen as Fire Chief with a term ending June 30, 2013. Vote: 3-0.

13. Confirmation of Town Clerks' Appointment of Election Warden:

Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board approve the Town Clerk's appointment of David Kinney as Election Warden for the June 11, 2013 Election. Vote: 3-0.

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

Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board approve the Treasurer's and Payroll Warrants and Coombs-Griffin Education Trust Warrants. Vote: 3-0.

15. Executive Session – Discussion or consideration of the disposition of publicly held property identified on Tax Map 29 as Lot 25 (Title 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C)):

Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board enter executive session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(C) to discussion the disposition of publicly held property identified on Tax Map 29 as Lot 25. Vote: 3-0.

Upon returning to open session, **Motion by Dunn, second by Trundy, the Town Attorney be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to take any and all action, including, without limitation, the filing of suit in State court, that is necessary and appropriate to quiet the title to the tax-acquired property formerly owned by Ducktrap Resources, Inc., and located on the South Cobbtown Road (Tax Map 29, Lot 25). Vote: 3-0.**

16. Executive Session – Personnel Matter – Title 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(A): Consideration of Employment Administrative Assistant:

Motion by Trundy, second by Dunn, that the Board of Selectmen enter into executive session for purpose of consideration of employment of an Administrative Assistant pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(A). Vote: 3-0.

Upon returning to open session, **Motion by Dunn, second by Barrows, that the Board appoint Kimberly Jackson as Administrative Assistant at Step H (hire) on the pay scale and with a six month probationary period. Vote: 3-0.**

17. Adjourn:

Motion by Trundy, second by Barrows, to adjourn. Vote: 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Ten Broeck
Administrative Assistant