

Town of Lincoln | Weekly News

TO: Lincoln Town Council
FROM: Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager
DATE: January 20, 2012

ITEM 1. Tragedy struck our community this week when a young girl was accidentally struck at the intersection of Ariel and Clark Street. Detective David Cram and Chief William Lawrence were traveling down Edwards Street after attending a meeting at Colonial Healthcare just minutes after the incident occurred. Chief Lawrence reports that he noticed someone lying in the street and a school bus pulled over to the side road with its red lights on. Detective Cram called for the ambulance and Chief Lawrence checked the vitals of a 6 year old girl lying on the ground. The girl was transported by ambulance to Penobscot Valley Hospital and later transported by Lifeflight to EMMC.

An incident like this is a tragedy for both the victim and her family and the school bus driver and her family and is felt by the whole community. Our prayers are with all involved. Chief Lawrence described the many steps his department must follow arriving at the scene of an accident. The first is to aid the victim and then secure the scene, take witness statements, photograph the scene, take road measurements, and vehicle inspections. He said all of this must be done in a matter of minutes and there is only one chance to get it right at a crash scene. Chief Lawrence said having many officers working jointly to investigate and determine what occurred is extremely valuable. Thanks are extended to Maine State Police Trooper Tom Fiske and off duty Trooper Larry Anderson who assisted our department with the scene investigation. Trooper Fisk and Trooper Diangelo of the truck weights division of the Maine State Police also assisted with conducting the inspection of the school bus. The incident is still under investigation at this time.

ITEM 2. Treasurer, Gilberte Mayo, mailed 61 tax lien foreclosure notices this week for taxes owed for fiscal year 2010. This number is similar to the previous fiscal year and indicative of the economic climate. Mrs. Mayo also mailed 59 copies of these notices to mortgage holders and unassessed owners of record. Mortgage holders will generally pay the taxes owed if the owner does not pay by the deadline.

As a requirement of the law, the Treasurer is required to conduct a search of the Registry of Deeds to determine if there have been any further mortgages or other liens recorded since the last search completed by the Tax Collector at the time the tax lien was originally filed. Mrs. Mayo completed this search and gave the new mortgage holder information to the Assessor's office to update in the TRIO data system.

TAX LIEN FORECLOSURE NOTICES		
YEAR	NUMBER TAXPAYER NOTICES	NUMBER OTHER NOTICES
2010	61	59
2009	61	36
2008	46	27
2007	44	24
2006	51	31
2005	51	26
2004	41	23

ITEM 3. Code Enforcement Officer, Dan Whittier, and the Fire Department have been working to establish an apartment inspection program. The purpose of the inspections is to

educate landlords on the upcoming new building codes or MUBEC and identify potential life safety issues. This program is not an enforcement program; it is a public relations program designed to offer recommendations to property owners. This week a landlord requested an apartment inspection after reading about this program in the Weekly News. The landlord thought his building was up to code and had all the necessary safety devices, such as smoke detectors etc. He felt having the Code Officer and the Fire Department review his building would be excellent assurance that his building was up to code. Feedback such as this lets the Town know when a new program is a good value to residents. If you would like to have your apartment building inspected, please contact Mr. Whittier at 290-3372.

ITEM 4. *“This winter has been one of the strangest weather patterns that I have seen”* said Public Works Director, David Lloyd. Almost every snow storm has had some liquid participation either at the onset of the storm or the tail end. Mr. Lloyd plans on having 2-3 freezing rain storms each year, but the amount of ice that we have had to contend with this year far outweighs what was budgeted for. Mr. Lloyd said that freezing rain is so much more difficult to manage than just a typical snow event.

During a regular snow storm the crew might use 125-150 cubic yards of salt/sand depending on the type of snow and whether it packed onto the road or not. In contrast, during a freezing rain storm each truck might be spreading 20-30 yards per hour depending on road conditions. In November, Public Works had 4,500 yards of sand which has now been reduced to about 1,800 yards before today’s storm. Mr. Lloyd reports that his department has also used over 325 tons of straight salt on the salt priority roads such as Main Street, West Broadway and the Lee Road. There have been a few times the crew applied salt to roads such as Transalpine Road and Enfield Road but only to reduce the snow that was packed on the road surface.

Mr. Lloyd said a few people have commented to him that some of the roads have an excessive amount of sand on the roadway compared to years past. Mr. Lloyd indicated this is due to the excessive ice and the frequent sanding. Last year we averaged 27.5” of snow in December and so far we have only received 23.6” for the entire season including the 8” we received in late October.

Mr. Lloyd reports that other budget line items that are directly related to winter road maintenance such as overtime and fuel are looking good for this time of year mostly from the storms being during the week. This helps to reduce the overtime and the trucks get much better fuel economy when they do not need to push a plow when it is full of snow. Mr. Lloyd will closely watch his sand supply to ensure there is enough to carry them through the season. If more sand is needed, enough money was saved by the department screening its own sand at the beginning of the season that Mr. Lloyd will be able to absorb the cost of purchasing additional sand and having it trucked to the garage without needing an additional allocation of funds.

ITEM 5. In January of 2011, Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, met with a group of people from the East Millinocket/Medway Recreation Department. The discussion surrounded grades 5-6 basketball and what might be done to create more interest in the area. One suggestion was to have our in-house teams play a team from the other recreation department. Frank Clukey, East Millinocket/Medway Recreation Director, and Mr. Weatherbee planned a time during

school vacation for this to happen. Mr. Weatherbee received a call this week from Ed Hamm, a long time volunteer in East Millinocket. Mr. Hamm wanted Mr. Weatherbee to know how well this went, how professionally all the people involved were and what a great experience it was for the kids! Not all the kids are able to play on the travel teams so this gave the children in our “in-house” program an opportunity to experience playing against and meeting kids from other towns. Discussions are now underway for the possibility of each team participating in both a home and away game rather than just playing once. Mr. Weatherbee said, *“This was a great way to end the grades 5-6 in-house season and I’m looking to expanding it for next year.”*

ITEM 6. The Presidential Election year is always a busy time in the Town Clerk’s office. Even though the election is still months away, planning is already well underway. This week, Town Clerk, Shelly Crosby, began preparations for the upcoming party caucuses. Although not required by law, the Town Clerk provides the Republican and Democratic parties with a list of voters who have served as Election Clerks in previous elections and requests that they be nominated to serve for the next two years. Each party nominates party members for the Town Council to consider for appointment as Election Clerks. The Town Council must appoint Election Clerks by the first of April.

The Town Clerk’s office will also be inundated throughout the year with information from the Secretary of State’s office regarding all aspects of the election process. This week, Mrs. Crosby received one of these informational packets. She learned that the State is finally ready to issue requests for proposals on new Optical Scan Voting machines. These machines will be issued to all municipalities and the Secretary of State is targeting the November 2012 Presidential Election as the time when the new machines will be put into use. In 2007 municipalities were notified by the State that new uniform tabulating machines would be purchased and issued to each community in the State. At that time the Town Council allocated \$10,000 to cover the cost of updating our voting tabulators to match that of the state. Initially, the decision on what type of machines would be used was to be completed by June of 2008!

According to the recent memo, it is anticipated that Lincoln will receive one new machine and will need to purchase an additional machine for local ballots at a reduced cost. The funds allocated in 2007 were placed in a reserve account and the balance in that account is \$11,100.19. Until the RFP is finished it is unknown whether the state will enter a contractual lease agreement or purchase the equipment. A Presidential Election is not the best time to roll out new equipment but hopefully the equipment will be similar to what voters are accustomed to and the changeover will be flawless!

Some dates for voters to remember are:

- Democratic Caucus – February 26, 2012
- Republican Caucus – TBA – between February 4th and 11th
- Primary Election – June 12, 2012
- Presidential Election – November 6, 2012

ITEM 7. Cemetery Parks & Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, has been pleased with the activity on the ice this winter. Both the Edwards' Family Fishing Pond near the airport and the ice skating rink at the Recreational Center lot are being used regularly. Mr. Weatherbee reports that fish are being caught and he encourages everyone to get out and enjoy some outdoor fun. If you can't skate until the evening, no problem, our ice rink is lit for your convenience!

ITEM 8. A Rabies Clinic was held last Saturday at the Public Safety Building and Town Clerk, Shelly Crosby, reports that the event brought in many residents of Lincoln and surrounding communities! Mrs. Crosby was pleased with the turnout and said plans are underway to change the date of the town's annual clinic from October to January as there was a much better turnout in January. With the looming deadline for licensing dogs before late fees are imposed, January has garnered more interest in this service. Mrs. Crosby thanks Fire Engineers, David Slomienski and Ken Lovdahl, for their assistance in keeping the animals "corralled" as well as helping to clean up and keeping things moving.

Type of Shot	October 2009	October 2010	October 2011	January 2012
Rabies Shots	42	51	66	114
Dog Distemper Shots	-	31	9	30
Dog Licensing	30	24	16	48
Cat Distemper Shots	-	16	12	15
Feline Leukemia Shots	-	3	7	1

State law requires that all dogs be licensed annually by December 31st. There is a grace period during January for owners who have forgotten to license their dogs. Mrs. Crosby is reminding residents that the January 31st deadline is just around the corner and residents will need to license their dogs by the date to avoid a \$25.00 late fee! The dog license fee is \$6.00 for spayed/neutered dog and \$11.00 for a dog capable of reproducing. As illustrated in the chart below, there are still many dogs still to be licensed! For more information on dog licensing, please call the Town Clerk's office at 794-3372.

Annual Dog Licensing Report	2008	2009	2010	2011	As of 1/19/12
Able to produce young	242	243	230	241	146
Neutered/Spayed	600	647	668	732	531
Kennel	13	6	4	2	2
Replacements Tags	5	4	5	5	0
Transfers from another Town	0	2	0	0	0
Guide/ Police/ Service Animal	0	0	0	1	1
Total	860	902	907	974	678

ITEM 9. Deputy Treasurer, Melissa Quintela, completed the OSHA 300a form required to be displayed at each building where employees work. This form contains a summary of work-related injuries and illnesses for the calendar year. As you can see from the chart below, 2011 saw a slight increase over 2010, however, still a dramatic decrease from the previous two years.

This is reflective of the dedicated work of the Safety Committee in trying to keep the employees safe and practicing safe behavior while working more efficiently as well as the employees being cautious and performing their duties safely. Great job!

Reportable Work Related Injuries and Illnesses – OSHA 300A								
Building	2011		2010		2009		2008	
	Cases	Days Lost	Cases	Days Lost	Cases	Days Lost	Cases	Days Lost
Town Office – Admin	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2.5
Police Dept	0	0	0	0	1	32	1	0
Fire Dept	1	6	0	0	0	0	3	51.5
Public Works Garage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cemetery – Tomb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation – Beach House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	1	6	1	0	2	33	6	54

ITEM 10. Fun and entertaining are alive at the Lincoln Memorial Library! This week 13 children and their parents attended “Tales for Tots” presented by Children’s Librarian, Elise Rideout. The children listened as Ms. Rideout shared stories, songs, and finger plays and then they had an opportunity to create igloos complete with a glittery finish. Library Director, Linda Morrill, said *“It was amazing to watch how smoothly everything went and the very happy faces of the children and parents.”* Library story times are a wonderful way to introduce a love of books to young children in addition to creating a welcoming environment so they will develop a lifelong love of libraries.

The Fireside Chat book discussion group also met with 10 people attending to share their thoughts about Jamie Ford’s book “The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet”. Mrs. Morrill said there were also two visitors from Millinocket who wanted to observe the book group to share the experience with their book group in Millinocket. The group’s next book is “That Old Cape Magic” by Richard Russo. Mrs. Morrill is pleased with Assistant Librarian, Mary Jo Hammond’s ability to facilitate and promote this growing book group. Nice job, Mary Jo!

ITEM 11. Cemetery Parks & Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, is happy to report that Recreation Secretary, Melanie Rhodes, is fitting into her new position well. Melanie has been working for the department now for 3 months and is feeling more comfortable each day with her new position. Mrs. Rhodes says *“I love the variety of responsibilities that the position involves”*. Mr. Weatherbee has received many positive comments about how well residents are treated when they visit or call the Recreation Department. Keep up the good work Melanie!

ITEM 12. This past December Library Director, Linda Morrill, asked four families to allow her to track their library usage for the month. Mrs. Morrill’s goal was to highlight the value the

Lincoln Memorial Library provides to the community. In the chart below, Mrs. Morrill has listed the areas of use for each family and using the Maine State Library's "Library Use Calculator" she was able to create the dollar value each family received. The value for these four families totaled \$3,164 for the month of December!

# of Family Members	Adult Books	Children's Books	Inter-library Loan	Audio Books/DVDs	Magazines	Computers Per Hour	Programs Attended	Value
3	23	24	3	13	3	2	7	\$850
4	19	32	1	16	1	0	12	\$844
2	58	0	4	4	0	0	0	\$1016
1	32	0	0	0	0	4	0	\$454

ITEM 13. 2012 is off to a positive start in the Code Enforcement Office. Code Enforcement Officer, Dan Whittier, reports that this week he issued a plumbing permit for a professional office and a plumbing permit for a new in-law apartment being built on the Big Narrows. He also met and reviewed plans for a new residence and an addition to an existing residence on Mattanawcook Lake. In January of 2011 the Code Office issued only one electrical permit. To date, January 2012 has seen three plumbing permits, three electrical permits and three building permits issued through the Code Office. The building and plumbing were for new construction. Although one month does not show the picture for an entire year, it's a bright start!

ITEM 14. Events Coordinator, Amanda Woodard, reports that the snowmobile safety class scheduled for January 23 and 24, 2012 has been cancelled. There were not enough registrations for the class to be held.

The Town in partnership with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife hosts several safety classes throughout the year. The next class is Hunter Safety and is scheduled for March 17 and 18, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Ballard Hill Community Center. The fee for the course is \$5.00. Registration forms are available on the Town's web site at www.lincolnmaine.org or at the Town Office. A full listing of all courses is available on the town's website.

ITEM 15. Have a great weekend!