

Town of Lincoln | Weekly News

TO: Lincoln Town Council
FROM: Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager
DATE: March 2, 2012

ITEM 1. After nearly 20 ½ years I have resigned from my position with the Town of Lincoln. As you know, I have accepted the position of City Clerk for the City of Bangor. I appreciate the opportunities I have been given working for the Town of Lincoln and have enjoyed working with many talented people over the years. In both my positions as Town Clerk and most recently as Town Manager, I have had the opportunity to work with many supportive Council members. It has been a pleasure working for the town and its citizens.

My resignation does create a change in the local government landscape. With any changes come uncertainty and a bit of fear for what the future holds. Lincoln residents can be reassured that business will continue as usual. The Department Managers are very talented and capable. They will transition smoothly to a new administration and services will not be disrupted. They work well as a team and will make sure that Lincoln keeps moving in a positive direction. Lincoln is fortunate to have highly qualified employees who put the interest of the community first.

The Town Council will meet in executive session on Monday, March 5, 2012, to begin discussions on the hiring process for a new town manager as well as developing a plan for the interim period between when I leave and when the new manager is hired. A copy of the Town Council agenda is enclosed in the Council packet.

Also, enclosed in the Town Council packet is a copy of my letter of resignation. My last day of service will be March 23, 2012.

ITEM 2. Airport Manager, David Lloyd, released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an airport consultant. The consultant assists the town in airport planning and engineering services for the Lincoln Regional Airport. Our current contract with Hoyle, Tanner & Associates expires soon and in order to continue with airport projects the town needs a consultant to provide these services.

Qualification and experience statements will be accepted until 2:00 PM on March 19, 2012, to be eligible for consideration. All questions shall be directed in writing to the Airport Manager's office, publicworks@lincolnmaine.org and must be received by 2:00 PM March 5, 2012. All questions will be answered by 2:00 PM on March 12, 2012 and posted on the Town of Lincoln's website www.lincolnmaine.org and on the State of Maine Department of Transportation website at <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/cpo/>. Following the receipt of the qualification and experience statement, a review committee shall evaluate the statements and select a firm or, at the discretion of the review committee, select a short list of firms to interview. Emphasis in selecting a consulting firm shall be based on the firm's qualifications and experience in projects similar to those which the Town of Lincoln anticipates undertaking.

ITEM 3. The Street Light Committee will meet Monday, March 5, 2012, at 6:30 PM. There have been two requests this year for street light placements. The first is a request by Gary Pelkey on behalf of the Upper Cold Stream Pond Owners Association for a street light at the junction of McGregor Road and the Transalpine Road. The second request is from David Merkel for placement of a light at 93 West Broadway. Mr. Merkel has concerns for the customers entering and leaving his business as well as pedestrians and other traffic.

These types of requests are presented to the Street Light Committee in early spring for consideration. Should the Street Light Committee recommend placement of these poles, additional funding will need to be added to the proposed fiscal year 2013 municipal budget. The cost of the placement of a pole is approximately \$1,000 with an annual electric bill of approximately \$140 per year for each pole. In the past when new street lights were approved, the committee recommended moving a light from another area to the new location to avoid additional electric costs.

The Street Light Committee members are Michael Ireland, Marscella Ireland and Shaun Drinkwater. Over the weekend the committee members should visit these two areas in preparation of the meeting. A copy of the agenda is enclosed in the committee members' packets.

ITEM 4. As of the end of February, Lincoln had 21 snow/rain events this winter. Public Works Director, David Lloyd, said *"This year has been one that I will most likely not forget; it has been the wettest winter that I have seen since starting with the department in 1992. This year we have only received a total of around 38 inches of snow because 17 of the 21 storms had changed over to rain before ending."* Freezing rain requires up to four times the amount of salt and sand than what is required to maintain the roads during a regular snow storm. Each year the department stock piles between 4,500 and 5,000 yards of winter sand. Twice this year Mr. Lloyd has had his crew back in the pit screening additional sand to make sure they had enough to get through the season.

Mr. Lloyd is anticipating more calls this spring from residents due to dusty conditions around town caused by the application of more sand than normal. As everyone is aware, the town's street sweeper is no longer operational. Spring is just around the corner and Mr. Lloyd anticipates receiving many phone calls from residents wanting to know when their streets will be swept. Unfortunately, this is the year that Public Works will no longer be able to provide that service. At last month's Council meeting the Council was asked if they wanted to pursue another referendum question asking voters to approve the purchase of a sweeper. The Council wanted to receive information on pricing for new and used equipment and for both a vacuum sweeper and a mechanical sweeper before making a decision.

Replacement of the sweeper is a costly expenditure. A new vacuum sweeper or mechanical sweeper costs between \$225,000 and \$250,000. The vacuum sweeper has risen in cost by \$50,000 since the last referendum request in 2009! The life expectancy of a sweeper is 7 to 10 years. A vacuum sweeper enables the Public Works department to clean its own catch basins rather than contracting that service. The current year budget has \$12,000 funded for this contracted service. Councilor Shaun Drinkwater suggested buying a used mechanical sweeper

that could be purchased for less than \$100,000. A mechanical sweeper cannot be used for catch basin cleaning. Since the February meeting, Mr. Lloyd has been researching new and used equipment throughout the United States to determine what type of sweeper will best meet the Town's need while at the same time being mindful of budgetary restraints.

Through his research Mr. Lloyd has found sweepers that are designed for use in the southwestern parts of the United States where water usage is restricted. Mr. Lloyd said the mechanical sweepers use no water and thought this type of machine may be useful in the colder climates during the winter months. A machine of this type would allow the department to start the sweeping program when temperatures are below freezing which would result in cleaner streets earlier in the spring. If sand was cleaned up after a storm before traffic crushed it into powder, the department could re-use it during future storms and also it would prevent some of the sand from washing into the catch basins.



Mr. Lloyd said this type of used sweeper costs approximately \$90,000 depending on mileage and usage hours. Of course, there will be transportation costs associated with trucking the unit across country. Mr. Lloyd estimates the total cost would be close to \$100,000.

As an example, the unit pictured to the right is a 2006 Sterling with an Elgin Eagle mechanical sweeper and has 2500 hours on the sweeper. This unit has a new conveyor, new brooms and skirts and is listed at \$92,500. There is no warranty on this equipment. There are several different used equipment dealer websites that list used sweepers that the town could pursue to continue the sweeping program.

ITEM 5. Four employees are celebrating work anniversaries this month. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

Employee	Department	Years of Service
Mark Fucile	Police Department	1 Year
Linda Morrill	Library	4 Years
Ken Lovdahl	Fire Department	5 Years
Hans Miller	Fire Department	21 Years

ITEM 6. The Homecoming Committee has chosen a theme for this year's Homecoming Festival! The theme will be "*Stars & Stripes*". Committee members felt the theme will fit nicely with 2012 being a Presidential Election year. Parade registration forms are available on the town's website at www.lincolnmaine.org or at the Town Office.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about the Homecoming Festival, please call Events Coordinator, Amanda Woodard at 794-3372.

ITEM 7. The Town's cost for airport projects will be increasing by 5%. President Obama recently signed into law the four-year FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. This law decreases the Federal Aviation Administration's funding share from 95% to 90% starting with Fiscal Year 2012 grants. Airport Manager, David Lloyd, said it is now more important than ever to become self-sufficient at Lincoln Regional Airport and to have a sustainable revenue source to fund the town's portion of future Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) projects.

Currently the FAA funds 95% of projects with the State of Maine funding 2.5% and the Town funding the remaining 2.5%. This new law will increase the Town's share of funding to 7.5% in 2012. Mr. Lloyd said that the State of Maine may even be reducing their level of funding in the near future because funding for the State share (2.5%) of aviation projects was derived from bonding in recent years. He said that the State does not expect bond funding to be available for aviation in the future. If this occurs, the Town would need to fund 10% of all CIP projects. It is important for the Town to move towards having revenue generating facilities such as hanger rentals and self serve fuel units so these revenues can fund the local share of projects. Without these new revenues, the Town's 10% share would be funded through local tax dollars.

ITEM 8. Code Enforcement Officer, Dan Whittier, has successfully completed his subsurface waste disposal certification. Dan is now a fully certified Licensed Plumbing Inspector. He has two certifications remaining to complete his job requirements; legal issues and MUBEC. Congratulations, Dan!

ITEM 9. Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, is happy to report that his department will be sponsoring a low impact exercise class for seniors. This class will be held on Wednesdays starting March 7th at the Ballard Hill Community Center. The class will be taught by Melanie Rhodes each week from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Participants should bring a water bottle and if they wish, light weights. Registration can be done right at BHCC the day of the class. If you have any questions call Mr. Weatherbee or Mrs. Rhodes at 794-6548.

The Precision Dribble team started this past week with 29 children in grades 1 through 4 participating. This program is free and is a trial run to determine if it should be added to programming for next winter. Frank Welch, Steph Dubay, Matt Guiod and Chase Vicaire will conduct three more clinics over the next two weeks with work on advanced synchronized ball handling. The kids use smaller basketballs so that they can learn the proper techniques and increase their chances of success. Mr. Weatherbee said the first night he received many positive comments and excitement from those involved.

At its monthly meeting, the Recreation Committee suggested that the Recreation Department recognize a volunteer each month for his/her contribution to the success of our programs. This month Mr. Weatherbee recognizes Bob Wotton for the many hours he has contributed to the wrestling program over the past months. Mr. Wotton is at all practices, oversees the practices when the head coach is away and travels the state to coach at the meets. He does all of this with no children of his own involved. Congratulations and thank you to the Recreation Department's Volunteer of the Month-Bob Wotton!

ITEM 10. Taxpayers can expect to receive the second half tax bills by the end of the month. Tax Collector, Tracie York, anticipates printing bills the week of March 19th with a target mail date of March 23rd.

ITEM 11. The Mattanawcook Junior High School Helping Hands Club held a benefit variety show on Thursday, February 16th. This year, the club decided that the donations raised from their show would be donated to the Town of Lincoln Heating Fuel Donation fund.



Alex Brown and Sarah Hannington along with Club Advisor and MJHS teacher, Betty Bickford, presented a \$500 check to Town Treasurer, Gilberte Mayo to be placed into the Heating Fuel fund. Thank you to all students involved!

The Heating Fuel donation fund has had a number of recent donations. The complete list of donations is listed in the adjacent table. General Assistance Director, Gilberte Mayo, has assisted 14 families (34 people) with different types of heating fuel so far this winter. The total amount spent so far this year is \$4,907.80.

Donor	Amount
Phyllis Aiken	\$ 20.00
Rand Advertising LLC	\$ 100.00
Lincoln Maine Federal Credit Union	\$ 100.00
Charles & Diana Casey	\$ 50.00
Mainely Rent to Own	\$ 500.00
D&D Paving Inc	\$ 1,000.00
Elsie Nowell	\$ 100.00
Burton Weed I	\$ 25.00
Betsy Hunter	\$ 100.00
Sheila & David Cross	\$ 50.00
Possibilities	\$ 200.00
Anonymous	\$ 100.00
Wing Wah	\$ 30.00
David & Melanie Dumont	\$ 100.00
Louis & Delicia Bearce	\$ 100.00
Eileen Strebel	\$ 100.00
Dennis Sr & Renate Leonard	\$ 200.00
Paul & Linda Labrecque	\$ 100.00
Maple Wood Grove LLC	\$ 150.00
Christine Manley	\$ 150.00
United Way of Eastern Maine	\$ 2,000.00
Roderick Carr	\$ 100.00
Jay Nadeau & Sons	\$ 50.00
Richard & Joan Tokarz	\$ 100.00
Masonic Lodge	\$ 100.00
Kenneth Grant	\$ 3.00
Eileen Ireland	\$ 200.00
MJHS – Helping Hands Club	\$ 500.00
Tate Aylward	\$ 100.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 6,428.00

ITEM 12. The Lincoln Police Department continues to do a nice job solving crimes under the direction of Police Chief, William Lawrence. According to Chief Lawrence, Detective Cram has worked hard over the last few weeks solving a string of burglaries in Lincoln that started in August 2011 and continued through December 2011. There were 12 burglaries with 9 of them in Lincoln. During the course of his investigations, Detective Cram worked with Sherriff Deputies Mike Knights and Patty McLaughlin and brought recent grand jury indictments on a Lincoln man who is currently in jail. Some of the stolen items have been recovered and returned to the owners. Great job!

Chief Lawrence also credits our citizens for their assistance in helping the Police Department solve crimes. He said the department received a call from a victim of a stolen car which was being leased from Cole Whitney Ford. A few minutes later an employee of Cole Whitney Ford noticed the vehicle at the Irving on West Broadway but did not recognize the occupants and called the police. A few minutes later Patrol Officer, Mark Fucile, and Reserve Officer, Richard York, apprehended the two suspects and arrested them on felony theft of the motor vehicle along with other charges. The suspects were from the Bangor area and also were on bath salts at the time of the arrest. Great job Officers Fucile and York!

ITEM 13. Ruth Birtz, Economic Development Assistance, has started the process of looking into a Community Development Block Grant for Housing Rehabilitation. The grant/loan provides \$250,000 for home improvements and home repairs to low income people. The purpose of the grant is to rehabilitate older homes that have antiquated windows, insulation, heating system, wiring and roofing. These items are targeted because the end goal is to upgrade the home so it is more energy efficient. Upgrading components also stabilize the property valuations of these older homes. Mrs. Birtz is working with Treasurer, Gilberte Mayo, Code Enforcement Officer, Dan Whittier and Penquis on this project.

ITEM 14. Have a great weekend!