

**Memo To:** *Lincoln Town Council*  
**From:** *Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager*  
**Subject:** *Weekly News*  
**Date:** *January 22, 2010*

**Moose Permit Applications**  
are now available on-line at  
[www5.informe.org/online/moose](http://www5.informe.org/online/moose).  
Photocopies of the application can be  
obtained at the Town Office for a  
nominal fee.

**ITEM 1.** *Do you have your 2010 Trash Pass?* If not, expect to be turned away at the Transfer Station beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>. Each year residents are given a 30-day grace period to come to the town office to obtain a new trash pass. A sign indicating the new trash passes are available has been posted at the Transfer Station since early December and also for the last few weeks the employees have been asking and informing residents that they need a new pass. Transfer Station Director, David Lloyd, reports that a few residents have found this process very frustrating. This past Saturday he overheard a resident speaking very loudly that this is the fourth time that someone has asked to see his new sticker and how many more times do he need to show it. After overhearing this statement Mr. Lloyd made his way towards the gentleman to listen to his concerns but before he reached the vehicle he heard his employee explain that if the resident placed the sticker on the vehicle where it could be viewed and not in the glove compartment the employees would not ask again until it was about to expire. The trash pass system is a tool that we use to verify that the person utilizing the facility is a resident of Lincoln. The employees are instructed to ask every person if a current pass is not displayed in the vehicle.

Many of the smaller towns surrounding Lincoln have a transfer station that is only open for a few days each week. Mr. Lloyd said there have been people from as far away as Millinocket who attempt to use our facility. *What happens when a resident from another town is allowed to dispose of their waste in Lincoln?* That cost is placed onto the taxpayers of Lincoln. For the first half of FY2010 it is costing the residents of Lincoln approximately 5.4 cents for each pound of solid waste that is being disposed of at the facility. Costs would quickly add up if people from other towns were allowed to use our facility for free. The national disposal average is 4.5 pounds of solid waste per person each day. An average family of four could produce as much as 6,500 pounds per year. If you don't display your pass and are asked to produce it, you should know that the employees are doing their job to ensure that only Lincoln residents are using the facility.

**ITEM 2.** This week the Lincoln area experienced another long drawn out snow event that deposited approximately eight inches of snow over a 48 hour time frame. With every storm comes a barrage of phone calls to the Public Works Department. Balancing the wants of the residents with the resources available is always a difficult task that Public Works Director, David Lloyd, undertakes. For instance, early Tuesday morning Mr. Lloyd received a phone call from a resident reporting that the Transalpine Road in the vicinity of Penobscot Valley Hospital was very slippery when she left for work at 6:30 and she had difficulty stopping at the intersection. She expressed concern that she would like to see that section of road have a little more attention during the morning commute. Requests such as these are very costly to the taxpayers. The Public Works Department starts its day at 6:30 am. To start snow removal operations prior to 6:30 am costs roughly \$160 per hour labor, 50 gallons of fuel (\$3.21 p/gallon) per hour for plowing and equipment cost of \$313 per hour (based on 2009 Maine DOT equipment rates).

With material cost skyrocketing each year and taxpayers' directives to reduce the municipal budget Public Works has had to scale back plowing operations compared to years ago. This means that Mr. Lloyd is going to wait longer before calling his men into work rather than calling them in after the first inch of snow. Items such as fuel, cutting edges, and tires have increased in price each year. The price of salt has increased from \$30-\$40 per ton just a few years ago to over \$76 per ton this year. Ten years ago in 2000 the Public Works budget for salt and calcium was \$30,911. In the current fiscal year that cost alone is \$100,250! The Town of Lincoln maintains the same amount of road miles as in 2000. Mr. Lloyd relies on the Police Department to notify him if the roads become slippery during the night time hours. Once notified, he comes to work to check on road conditions and then calls his crew in if needed.

Currently Public Works maintains 69 miles of road with 6 pieces of snow removal equipment, which takes the operator 3-4 hours to plow just once. By adding an additional employee and equipment that time could be reduced which would increase services provided but at additional costs. Mr. Lloyd encourages feedback from the public. These calls provide him with information that can be analyzed and forwarded either to the Roadway Committee for implementation, Budget Committee for future budgetary needs and the Town Manager for a change in the plowing operations.

**ITEM 3.** The residents of Burlington gave approval for the Selectmen to enter into a two-month fire services contract with the Town of Lincoln. Lincoln will provide essential fire services to Burlington during February and March while that community works out a long term solution to their fire service needs. The contract has been signed and forwarded to Burlington for their signatures. The contract price of \$4,528.76 is payable on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ITEM 4.** Although winter time is typically an "off season" for those who like to hang out in the Veterans Memorial Square, police patrols continue in that area. Officer Richard York reports that last weekend a male subject was arrested in that area for possession of schedule drugs with additional charges of aggravated trafficking in schedule drugs within 1000 feet of a school zone and aggravated trafficking of scheduled drugs within 1000 feet of a drug free safe zone pending.

Two additional checks of Veterans Memorial Square resulted in a search of vehicles whereby on the first search Officers York and McLaughlin seized drug paraphernalia and issued a summons and the second search conducted by Officers York and Fucile resulted in another summons for drug paraphernalia.

**ITEM 5.** As part of the \$2,500 grant awarded to the Town of Lincoln by the United Way of Eastern Maine for the heating fuel assistance donation fund Treasurer, Gilberte Mayo, is required to report on how the money was dispersed.

To date, Mrs. Mayo has helped 45 people or 17 families with heating fuel assistance. Some of these families were senior citizens, some were single parents, and others were families facing an emergency that did not qualify for LiHEAP or General Assistance. Mrs. Mayo has expended the entire amount of \$2,000 that was allotted for heating fuel. The remaining \$500 was allotted for weatherization materials. Of that amount, \$338.87 has been used to assist 7

families to get their homes buttoned up for the winter weather. The remaining weatherization funds will be used as the Town partners with the Keep ME Warm Program in the upcoming months.

Our volunteers have been instrumental in making our weatherization program a success. These volunteers have given a tremendous amount of time to visit the homes to assess the types of weatherization materials that were needed and then to install the material after it was purchased. The volunteers include: Harley Sproul, Burt Weed I, Jerry Davis, David Lloyd, Melissa Quintela, and Donald Brinkman. The volunteers will be called upon in the upcoming months as the partnership with the Keep ME Warm Program continues.

The heating assistance donation fund has received a number of in-kind donations from various individuals and businesses in Lincoln. Some of these in-kind donations included:

1. Six furnace cleanings from David McGraw of Lincoln valued at \$85.00 each.
2. One chord of split and delivered firewood from Nesting Loons Cabins of Lincoln.
3. Pickup truck loads of wood from Treeline Inc of Chester.

This type of community spirit and “neighbors helping neighbors” is exactly the type of aid and assistance that is needed if to assist those less fortunate during the long winter months. Thank you!

**ITEM 6.** The Chuck Foster Teen Dance held last Friday night was quite a success! Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, reports that 228 area teens ages 13-18 attended. *Did you know that since August 2009, the 5 dances that have been held had a total of 1,018 teenagers in attendance and raised \$6,039.66 in revenues for the Town of Lincoln Homecoming and proposed Recreational Center fund?* Since inception of this event, August 2008, more than 2,300 teenagers have participated and together raised \$12,795.86! Counter Clerk, Pat Cole, upon learning this fact stated, *“WOW, I think it is great that the kids are taking part in their community and raising the funds that will be used at Homecoming and the proposed Recreational Center!”* As always, special thanks is extended to all those parents and chaperones who turn out each dance to keep this a safe event!

**ITEM 7.** Library Director, Linda Morrill, reports that the library saw several new patrons this week. One woman, visiting the library for the first time in five years, took a moment to speak with Mrs. Morrill. She said, *“This is not the same library I visited five years ago. I have been using the Bangor Public Library. I am impressed with your selection of new books, DVD’s and the appearance of the library.”* Another patron, not having used a computer, appreciated the time the staff spent showing him how to set up an email account, how to search online, and print out tax information for Maine. If you haven’t visited the library for awhile, make sure to stop in and see the changes Mrs. Morrill has instituted over the past two years! Great job, Linda!

**ITEM 8.** The Children’s Fishing Pond Park construction is progressing nicely. As with all projects, unanticipated expenditures come up. The design of the pond called for a catch basin design control overflow of the pond. The culvert was designed and provided by American

Concrete. The culvert did not include two 20' sections of 36" ADS bell and spigot smooth core pipe. The cost for this 20' section came in at a cost of \$1,400 which was much higher than anticipated. Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Davis, Public Works Director, David Lloyd, and Economic Development Assistant, Ruth Birtz, began to research other less expensive possibilities. Mrs. Birtz, while working on a grant with the Water District, asked if they had a resource for this type of piping. Not only did they have a resource, they donated the pipe to the project. Thank you, Ron Gray and the Lincoln Water District! The weather forecast for this weekend into Monday is calling for rain. Rain will prevent the contractor from installing the pipe for several weeks. Mr. Davis contacted W. T. Gardner & Son who gave the town two 20' sections of pipe the company had on site that was needed before the rain halted construction. Once the Water District's pipe arrives, it will be given to W. T. Gardner & Sons to replace the pipe they provided to keep the project going. Thank you!

A & G Dirtworks's owner, Glen Brawn, the contractor for this project, relayed to the town that he had heard feedback from citizens who were concerned Lincoln taxpayer dollars were being used to build the Children's Fishing Pond Park. The park is being funded with a Land and Water Conservation grant totaling \$38,660. The Edwards family donated the land to the Town of Lincoln and the Town of Lincoln has contributed \$9,750.00 to the project. The town's portion is revenue received from tree harvesting at the land fill and economic development funds received from the sale of a home through the \$1 HUD program.

**ITEM 9.** This week Ruth Birtz submitted an application for a Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure grant seeking \$312,253.88 on behalf of the Lincoln Water District. If successful, the grant will pay for the replacement of the water main on School Street and accessory streets. The Grant Committee again played an active role in this grant application by reviewing it to insure the application was complete and addressed all criteria for a CDBG application. Successful grant applications will be notified the first of March.

**ITEM 10.** Library Director, Linda Morrill, reports that the library will be launching its "Love Your Library" campaign featuring a variety of new programs for the month of February. Staff will be asking patrons to take a paper heart, write down a thought or wish for their library, and then staff will create a giant heart of wishes/thoughts downstairs in the hallway.

There is something for everyone at the library during February. The library will be partnering with the Recreation Department to feature Arts and Crafts at the library on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The teen advisory board will be meeting on Friday February 19<sup>th</sup> to create their own art work for the Teen Zone. They will base their creations on favorite teen books. The library staff will be launching a jigsaw puzzle day each month for adults in the early afternoon and children later in the day. This is in response to requests by patrons. There will be a new reading program for students in grades 3 to 5. Passport to the World will feature stories from other countries, a sampling of food from each country and a writing activity for the children to enhance their writing/reading skills. Mary Jo Hammond and Mrs. Morrill will work together on providing this program.

**ITEM 11.** The Assessing Department is getting ready to send out 706 forms. A 706 form is a request to all businesses in the Town of Lincoln to provide a list of equipment used in the business. Mrs. Birtz is training Assessing Clerk Caitlin Brinkman on how to process the 706 forms. To update the business list new business permits from the Code Enforcement Office are checked, the town's website Yellow Pages are checked, abatements are checked for businesses that have moved from Lincoln and the local paper is checked on a regular basis to pick up business that might have started without permitting. The unpermitted businesses are passed along to Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Davis, to follow up on and to Counter Clerk, Pat Cole, to update the town's website Yellow Pages. A total of 10 new businesses were added to the business list, two business follow-ups were given to Mr. Davis and thirty-nine business updates needed to be added to our website Yellow Pages. With the number of businesses missing from our Yellow Pages, Mrs. Birtz developed a system to ensure that new business information was shared with each department.

**ITEM 12.** If you haven't licensed your dog, you have one week to do so before a late fee is imposed. Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> all dog licenses will be subject to a \$15.00 late fee. State law requires that dogs be licensed by December 31<sup>st</sup> for the following year. There is a 31-day grace period before the late fee is imposed. Also, the Animal Control Officer can now start issuing summons for unlicensed dogs on February 1<sup>st</sup> as the Town Council no longer has to sign the warrant for prosecuting unlicensed dog owners/keepers.

A dog must be licensed at six months of age or within ten days of moving to a Maine town. The fee for licensing a dog that has been spayed/neutered is \$6.00. The fee for a dog that can reproduce is \$11.00. Counter Clerk, Caitlin Brinkman, has made calls to unlicensed dog owners throughout the month to help dog owners avoid the late fee.

**ITEM 13.** The time for political caucuses is right around the corner. The Democratic Caucus is scheduled for January 31, 2010, at 2:00 PM and the Republican Caucus is scheduled for February 7, 2010 at the Town Office. Diana Hill, Registrar of Voters, will be on hand to register new voters and to enroll voters who currently are not affiliated with another political party.

**ITEM 14.** The Homecoming Committee met this week to discuss upcoming entertainment for the 2010 festival. This process has changed over the last few years as the celebration has grown. When Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, joined the planning efforts in the summer of 2007 much of the entertainment booking was labor intensive, making calls and written inquiries to fill up the schedule. However, that is no longer the case. Without making any inquiries, Mrs. Crosby is receiving phone calls, emails, and preview cd's from as far away as New York from entertainers interested in being part of the festival. Mrs. Crosby said, *"I'm amazed at how this celebration has morphed into a festival over the last few years. I have learned that we have made the festival circuit as one of the festivals not to be missed! What this means is the vendors from as far away as Florida and New Hampshire have already paid for space in the Veteran's Memorial Square. The committee and I also are able to preview entertainers to bring the best variety so our schedule remains fresh for all ages. On an even bigger scale, it puts Lincoln on the map as a community that cares and is a great place to live!"* Mrs. Crosby is pleased to

announce that so far 9 different vendors have already been approved to sell their wares and food at the Veteran's Memorial Square during the festival. Mrs. Crosby would like to remind any local area musicians or entertainers to contact her if they are interested in being considered for upcoming community events.

**ITEM 15.** Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby and Program Director, Nancy Guidod, continue to work on the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Tournament. Mr. Weatherbee reports that the tournament will have decent participation with inquiries from Winterport, Ellsworth, Presque Isle and Greenville and have commitments from both boys and girls teams from Milo, East Millinocket, Millinocket and Lincoln. The tournament will be limited to 8 boys and 8 girls teams.

Area businesses have been quite generous this week supporting the tournament. Program Director, Nancy Guidod, worked with Shelly Crosby to confirm advertisement sales and prepare documentation for the final printing of the program. Revenues generated from this solicitation resulted in \$905.00. Listed in the adjacent table are the businesses that will be featured in the program booklets.

**ITEM 16.** Periodically the Town receives a request for placement of a street light from a resident who lives in an unlit area. The policy is to have the Street Light Committee review the request and make a recommendation to the full Town Council. Over the last year there has been an increase in the number of requests made. Any new light will increase the town's utility budget however the town does not budget for anticipated placement of new lights.

At the Street Light Committee's next meeting scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> I will ask the Committee to consider additional guidelines for requesting lights. In an effort to make the process more efficient and fiscally responsible, I would like to see the Committee meet once a year in the spring to review the existing lights to determine if they are still needed and to review requests for additional lights. The Committee can then make a recommendation for installing new lights and/or shutting off lights that are deemed unnecessary. This procedure will allow for budgeting of the expenditure for additional lights. The Town of Lincoln currently maintains 304 lights throughout the town with an annual cost of nearly \$45,000. These lights are strategically placed throughout the town to provide public safety. These lights are not metered and Lincoln is charged for each street light whether or not it is working. That is why the Lincoln Police Department submits a weekly street light report. Any lights that are found not be working are reported to Bangor Hydro for maintenance.

<b>2010 Tournament Business Sponsors</b>
Capello Hair Studio & Day Spa
Clay Funeral Home
Clay GMC - Grant Clay
Cole Whitney Ford
CWA & Lake Street Realty
Delaite Trucking, Inc.
FASTCO Corporation
Gillmor's Family Restaurant
Hannaford Brothers
Ireland's Rubbish Service
Irving Oil - Circle K
JJ's Pizza & Sub
Katahdin Cellular
Larry Ham Construction
Libby's Catalog
Lincoln Color Center
Lincoln House of Pizza
Lincoln Trading & Pawn Shop
Lincoln Maine Federal Credit Union
Main St. Barber Shop
Robinson Builders
Smart's True Value
Steaks n Stuff
Subway
Thornton Bros.
Transition Hair & Tanning Salon
Wing Wah

The Weekly Street Light report is enclosed in the Town Council packet.

**ITEM 17.** Enjoy your weekend.