

Memo To: *Lincoln Town Council*
From: *Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager*
Subject: *Weekly News*
Date: *February 26, 2010*

ITEM 1. Scott Minckler, Lincoln's new Police Chief, will begin his duties on Monday, March 1st. To say his first week will be busy is an understatement! During his first week on the job Chief Minckler will be busy meeting employees and co-workers, learning the functions of fellow Department Managers and how the departments work as a team, various operational systems involved with the police department, setting up his own system to manage his new department as well as a host of other activities he will be involved in. After he has been given an opportunity to get settled in during the first week, residents will have an opportunity to meet Chief Minckler at an open house scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2010, from noon to 3:00 PM at the Public Safety Building. Make plans to stop by and welcome Chief Minckler to Lincoln!

Before we welcome our new police chief, I want to pause and extend my gratitude to the Interim Police Chief. Since the end of August 2009 Phillip Dawson has been Lincoln's Interim Police Chief. I want to thank Chief Dawson for his dedication and hard work throughout this period. He has kept the department operating smoothly and has done an excellent job managing both the fire and police services simultaneously. Thank you and great job, Phil!

ITEM 2. Code, Enforcement Officer, Jerry Davis, spoke at the Upper Cold Stream Lake Association meeting on February 25th at Mattanawcook Academy. Mr. Davis reports that there were approximately 25 members present plus a few property owners from other lake areas in town. He was encouraged with the interest shown by the property owners and the questions that were asked. The questions were varied and included topics such as the 30% expansion of non-conforming structures, cutting trees within the setback area, and setbacks in general. During the discussion they also discussed several options for the removal of bass that were introduced to these cold water lakes.

Mr. Davis also spoke about the lake buffer and how important it is to maintain it. He said it is the lake's last line of defense for filtering out pollutants such as sulfates and phosphates that diminish water quality, clarity and have a significant impact on the fish. There were several members willing to volunteer to do random water testing year round. To assist the residents, Mr. Davis handed out reference materials such as the shoreland zoning hand book and the Buffer Handbook. Mr. Davis said, *"I thought this was a great meeting and the lake and road association members were very well informed and proactive in protecting their lakes. It was a privilege to be invited."*

ITEM 3. Budget preparation can be very stressful for our Department Managers. There are many items in the operational budget that are out of our control which contribute to budget increases. Budgets are already extremely lean so making cuts often will result in a reduction of services. As Public Works Director, David Lloyd, prepared his FY2011 budget, he noted many areas where costs have skyrocketed to heights we have never experienced before. The table

below shows just a small sampling of cost increases over the last six to eight years. These items are necessary for the proper maintenance of our road inventory and snow removal.

Material	Previous Cost		Current Cost
15" 16-gauge culvert	FY2004	\$5.32 p/foot	\$10.50 p/foot
Road Salt	FY2002	\$47.49 p/ton	\$80.00 p/ton
10'x18" 5/8" cutting edge	FY2004	\$63.75	\$150.00

Equipment replacement costs have also skyrocketed and have now reached a level that very well could result in a system failure for the Public Works Department. *How so?* In 1997 the Town purchased a John Deere loader at a cost of \$97,000. This loader is scheduled for replacement this year at a cost of \$149,000 before trade-in. In order to replace this equipment the Town will need voter approval. If the voters turn down this purchase, there will be two pieces of equipment, street sweeper and loader, which need replacement. We can try to keep the equipment longer but we not only lose the trade-in value but also see a spike in maintenance costs. This year the grader needed an engine rebuild which cost over \$15,000. That is nearly a third of the Public Works equipment maintenance budget. The system failure will occur when new equipment cannot be purchased and there is not enough money in the budget to cover the repairs of the aging equipment or the equipment gets to a point that it can no longer be fixed. The loader, for example, is a major piece of equipment for snow removal in the downtown area. Without it, roads will not get plowed as our residents are accustomed to and the entire snow plowing operation will suffer.

ITEM 4. One of the easiest ways to help reduce the solid waste budget is to reduce what we throw into the hopper at the Transfer Station. Items such as cardboard, newsprint, glass, metal and #2 plastic can be recycled. When a resident includes these items along with their solid waste they are actually throwing money into the hopper! A tipping fee is the cost the Town of Lincoln is charged for every ton of solid waste that is brought to PERC. This is the waste that is thrown into the hopper. When items that could be recycled are mixed in with solid waste we are not only losing the revenue that we might get on the items but we are also paying the tipping fee on these items so it is a double hit to the residents. Currently the Town receives \$150 for every ton of cardboard that is recycled. If that same cardboard was just thrown into the hopper the Town pays \$72.00.

Did you know that the Town of Lincoln transports an average of 70-75 tons of solid waste per week? That's three tractor trailer loads each averaging 22-25 tons. If you are interested in tracking how fast we are disposing of items in the hopper, take a look at the new sign at the Transfer Station and watch how fast we are approaching 8,000,000 pounds of solid waste! The figure on the sign reflects the pounds of solid waste that is generated by Lincoln residents and local businesses and is updated once a month.

ITEM 5. Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, reports that the Chuck Foster Teen Dance Party held last Friday night saw 200 teenagers attending. Mrs. Crosby said that at the end of

each dance, door prizes are given to lucky ticket holders. This month's prizes were donated by Transition Hair & Tanning (two tanning packages) and Hoyt's Movie Cinema (free movie passes). Thank you for your generosity! The next dance is being held March 26th from 7-10 p.m. This popular event resulted in \$470.75 being added to the Homecoming revenue and \$179.76 for the Community Recreational Center Trust Fund. The total funds raised in FY10 for the Homecoming Celebration is \$6,117!

ITEM 6. The Town of Lincoln is selling compost bins again this year! Town Clerk, Diana Hill, contacted the individuals who purchased the bins last year and reports that they were very impressed with the product. Some of these individuals have more than one and others gave them as gifts.

Payment is due upon ordering. Stop by the Town Office before April 30, 2010, to place your order. Delivery will be

<i>Item</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Compost Bin	\$38.50
Wing Digger Compost Turner	\$16.50
55 Gallon Rain Barrel	\$55.00



made to the Transfer Station the week of May 10, 2010. For more information contact Transfer Station Director, David Lloyd, at 794-6658, or Town Clerk, Diana Hill, at 794-3372.

ITEM 7. Public Works Director, David Lloyd, reports that while en route to Bangor to purchase a load of cold patch this week, a front tire on the 10-wheeler dump truck blew. This resulted in over \$1,600 in damages to the right side of the vehicle. When the tire blew it damaged part of the rear section of the fender, headlight, turn signal, heater hoses and rim. With the plow wing attached, the trucks are extremely heavy on the right front tire. Although he has never weighed the plow gear, Mr. Lloyd estimates the weight to be close to 3,000 pounds with the wing and headgear. He said what pieces of the tire they could find still had plenty of tread on it. An incident report was filed and forwarded to the insurance company. Mr. Lloyd said the repairs will be completed at the Public Works Department once the insurance adjuster reviews the damage.

ITEM 8. Library Director, Linda Morrill, reports that she has been working with Children's Librarian, Mary Jo Hammond, on a plan to increase library usage among children in Lincoln. Beginning March 8th children visiting the library will be able to apply for their library card at the librarian's desk in the children's area. Currently all patrons, regardless of age, must go to the front check out desk to apply for their card. The "Raising Readers" organization encourages parents to bring their five year old children to their local library to receive their first library card. Mrs. Morrill said staff will be encouraging parents of five year old children to visit the library and receive their first library card. New library card packets for children will include a library card application, a library card, a plastic library card holder, a special library bookmark, "I got my library card today" sticker and a welcome card from the library. Mrs. Morrill has made many positive changes at the Lincoln Memorial Library over the last two years. If you haven't been to the library for awhile, stop by and check out the changes as well as a book!

ITEM 9. The wrestling program for grades K-4 began this week with a meeting Tuesday night at the Ballard Hill Community Center. Coach Frank Hammond, Jr., reports a record turnout of children wanting to participate. A total of 26 children have now enrolled! Last year there were only 10 children at the beginning of the season with 8 finishing the entire season. Practice starts Thursday, March 4th, at Mattanawcook Jr. High from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. There will be three meets. It is not too late to sign up, simply stop by the Recreation Department to register and receive the schedule and other program information.

ITEM 10. The first draft Homecoming schedule was completed this week with four days of excitement and entertainment planned. A copy of the draft is included in the Town Council packets and also can be viewed on our website www.lincolnmaine.org under Homecoming. Community Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, reports that the 2010 planning has gone quite smooth with many opportunities for merchants and vendors to get in on the action either through sponsorship or advertising. She said, *“The committee’s goal this year was to keep the momentum up with new entertainment mixed in with the regular schedule. By adding the Rise Above Extreme BMX/Skateboard Show, Birdie Googins – Marden’s Lady, and the Roaming Railroad, there should be something for all age groups!”* Mrs. Crosby is asking area businesses or organizations who are planning on holding an event during Homecoming but who are not listed on the schedule to contact her at 794-6548 so that the event can be included in the published schedule.

ITEM 11. It is always fun to have an author visit the library but it is even more exciting when it is an author from Lincoln! Library Director, Linda Morrill, reports that author Lynn Olsen Brown will visit the Lincoln Memorial Library on March 20th at 11:00 AM. Ms. Brown grew up in Lincoln and still has family living in Lincoln. She has published a book about her experiences visiting her aunt’s farm in Patten during the 1950’s and 1960’s. Ms. Brown will read from “Alice, Frankenstein and Saturday Night Beans”...a young girl’s memory of Bradford Farm. She will also be signing books during this event. As with all events at the library, this is open to the public and light refreshments will be served. Mrs. Morrill encourages any local authors to contact her at 794-2765 if they would like to read and discuss their book(s).

ITEM 12. The Lincoln Police Department is seeking Reserve Police Officers to complement the full time police force. The Reserve Officers work part time as needed to fill vacant patrol shifts as well as traffic details, parade details, sports events, and special events. Interim Police Chief, Phillip Dawson, is seeking candidates with prior academy trained law enforcement officers and those who have completed the pre-law enforcement course. If you have any questions call Chief Dawson at 794-8455 for more information or fill out an on-line application at www.lincolnmaine.org.

The Lincoln Fire Department is also looking for individuals interested in being Call Firefighters. All training and protective equipment is provided by the fire department. Training includes many different areas associated with fire department responsibilities such as fire suppression, search and rescue, extrication, and first-aid/CPR. If you have any questions call Chief Dawson at 794-8455 for more information or fill out an on-line application at www.lincolnmaine.org.

ITEM 13. This weekend the 8th Annual 5th-6th Grade Basketball Tournament will take place at the gyms at M.A. and MJHS as 8 boy's teams and 7 girl's teams battle it out for the championship. The increase of three additional teams over the 2009 tournament has kept the Recreation Department quite busy. Many area businesses have stepped up with either advertising dollars or product donations for the sale of concessions. New this year will be many hot items such as Chili, Chicken Stew and Chop Suey. Recreation Secretary, Shelly Crosby, commented; *"This weekend is a great way to showcase the many resources that we have here in Lincoln with teams traveling in from many regional areas. Not only are these families supporting the recreation center fundraiser but they are also supporting the area merchants in between their games! It's a win-win for all those involved and a great economic boost during the winter months!"* There is still room for volunteers who would like to take part in this great recreation fundraiser, if interested, please call Nancy Guidot at 794-5556 or Shelly Crosby or Ronald Weatherbee at 794-6548.

ITEM 14. I received notice today that Attorney Lynne Williams has filed an appeal of Superior Court Justice Anderson's decision in regard to *Friends of Lincoln Lakes vs. Lincoln Board of Appeals*. This appeal was filed on February 23, 2010 and alleges an error of law on the part of Superior Court Justice Anderson. Our attorney will receive a briefing schedule shortly from the Law Court and anticipates this process to take six to nine months.

During this fiscal year the Town has paid \$1,353 in legal fees in this case. The total legal fees paid in the defense of this case are \$14,249.91. The contractual legal fees line item in the budget had \$4,400 remaining at the end of January. I will watch this closely and may need additional funding for this new appeal.

ITEM 15. There will be no Weekly News next week. Enjoy your weekend!

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