

Memo To: *Lincoln Town Council*
From: *Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager*
Subject: *Weekly News*
Date: *January 29, 2010*

ITEM 1. The Town is soliciting Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) from architects/engineers interested in the development of the proposed recreational center. The RFQ outlines the scope of the project which is a design/bid/build proposal. This means that the firm selected will work with the Town to develop a design for the recreational center. If the financing of the project is approved by the voters, the firm will continue to work with the Town through the bid phase of the project and will work with the contractor and Town to oversee the construction phase. The initial design phase of this project will be paid for from the Lincoln Community Recreational Center Trust Fund.

When the Town created the Trust Fund in 2002 it was the intent to not build the facility until there were enough money in the Trust Fund could cover the costs of construction. Many residents have become impatient and frustrated with the length of time it is taking to raise the necessary funding for this project and have asked to have the project presented to the voters. The Trust Fund currently has a balance of \$408,523. The first design study done by Foresight Engineering in 2004, which included all the bells and whistles that the community said it wanted, carried with it a price tag of 6.7 million dollars (2005 dollar). This design also encompassed an area of 25 acres. The design study was based on all the wants of the community.

Our site is approximately 10 acres +/- . Recognizing the residents desire to move this project forward, the Town Council authorized the RFQ so that the voters can be presented with a design and cost for the project to make an informed decision at the polls to move forward with financing. If approved, the Town will move forward with the construction of the facility.

A copy of the RFQ is enclosed in the Council packet and also can be viewed at www.lincolnmaine.org. The deadline for submitting an RFQ is February 19, 2010. It is anticipated that a firm will be presented to the Town Council for approval at its regular meeting in April.

ITEM 2. As State revenue sharing with municipalities continues to decrease, we need to look closely at the municipal services we provide to determine if the services should remain and at what cost to the residents. Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, recently did an analysis of the actual costs of providing each of the programs offered through the recreation department. The analysis includes the cost of equipment, supplies and staff time. The results show that the revenue received from participants in the majority of the programs is much less than the actual cost to provide the program. Mr. Weatherbee will present the data to the Recreation Committee for review to determine if any of the fees should be adjusted. Any recommendations of the Recreation Committee will be submitted to the Town Council for consideration and ordinance change.

The following table lists the current fee charged to each participant of the program as well as the actual cost to the Town for each participant.

Program Name	Current Fee	Actual Cost	Profit/Loss
Adult Trips	\$10.00	\$25.00	(\$15.00)
Archery & Crossbow (DIFW)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00
Arts & Crafts	\$10.00	\$38.00	(\$28.00)
ATV & Snowmobile-(DIFW)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00
Basketball Camp	\$25.00	\$29.00	(\$4.00)
Basketball Camp	\$50.00	\$29.00	\$21.00
Beach Day	\$0.00	\$1.00	(\$1.00)
Summer Cheerleading Clinic	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Co-Ed Basketball	\$10.00	\$15.00	(\$5.00)
Co-Ed Soccer	\$10.00	\$34.00	(\$24.00)
Farm League	\$10.00	\$55.00	(\$45.00)
Green Valley Golf	\$10.00	\$4.00	\$6.00
JATO Golf	\$10.00	\$2.00	\$8.00
Hunter Safety-(DIFW)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00
Music & Movement	\$12.00	\$9.00	\$3.00
Sing and Sign Class	\$15.00	\$44.00	(\$29.00)
Soccer Day Camp	\$30.00	\$32.00	(\$2.00)
Summer Trips	\$20.00	\$51.00	(\$31.00)
Summer Walking	\$0.00	\$11.00	(\$11.00)
Free Swim	\$0.00	\$51.00	(\$51.00)
Swimming Lessons w/staff	\$25.00	\$62.00	(\$37.00)
T-Ball	\$10.00	\$41.00	(\$31.00)
Track & Field	\$30.00	\$161.00	(\$131.00)
Tennis	\$10.00	\$21.00	(\$11.00)
Trapping Course-(DIFW)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00
Wrestling Clinic	\$25.00	\$17.00	\$8.00
Winter Walking Club	\$0.00	\$2.00	(\$2.00)
Wii Open Activities	\$0.00	\$10.00	(\$10.00)
Fall Arts & Crafts	\$10.00	\$56.00	(\$46.00)
Fall Cheerleading	\$10.00	\$46.00	(\$36.00)
Fall Co-Ed Soccer K-2	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Fall Co-Ed Soccer 3-6	\$15.00	\$33.00	(\$18.00)
Fall Field Hockey	\$15.00	\$26.00	(\$11.00)
3/4 Football	\$25.00	\$81.00	(\$56.00)
5/6 Football	\$25.00	\$95.00	(\$70.00)
Flag Football	\$10.00	\$24.00	(\$14.00)
5/6 In-house Travel Bball	\$10.00	\$29.00	(\$19.00)
Cheerleading 3-6	\$10.00	\$43.00	(\$33.00)
3-6 Co-Ed Basketball	\$10.00	\$31.00	(\$21.00)
Wrestling	\$10.00	\$50.00	(\$40.00)

ITEM 3. Are you interested in becoming a water steward? That is a question that Assessor, Ruth Birtz, is asking residents after a meeting with several professors from the University of Maine this week. The group is working on several graduate study programs. The studies are looking at the current economic challenges facing owners of forest land and the economics of communities with seasonal waterfront populations. The University Economics and Forestry Department picked a sampling of towns to participate in this study, and Lincoln was picked because of its abundance of both forest and water bodies. In return for Lincoln's participation the University asked what services they could provide for Lincoln. Mrs. Birtz suggested that the University work with the Water Shed Stewards Program to provide training to volunteers to do lake water quality monitoring.

Several years ago Mrs. Birtz was approached by local road associations who were concerned about the water quality of their lakes. The Stewards Program trains volunteers to take water samples. This data is put into a state wide data base of participating water bodies to monitor changes in the water clarity. The training for this program is only available in southern Maine, which has made it difficult to start the program in Lincoln. By having the training available in Lincoln, residents can begin to collect the data necessary to determine if more work needs to be done to protect our lakes. Mrs. Birtz reports that the University was more than happy to make this training available in Lincoln. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mrs. Birtz at 794-3372.

ITEM 4. Cemetery, Parks & Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, reports that last summer a resident pointed out a potential safety issue at the cemetery in South Lincoln. There was an old oak tree that had some dead branches on it that were hanging over the resident's cemetery lot and headstone. The resident was concerned about damage if the branches fell. After hearing of this concern, Mr. Weatherbee inspected the rest of the South Lincoln cemetery as well as our other cemeteries. He found that there were numerous trees that needed to be cut back, pruned or cut down.

The FY10 cemetery budget does not contain funding for these repairs. As he prepares his budget for FY11, Mr. Weatherbee is including a request for funding to alleviate these issues. This week Mr. Weatherbee met with an arborist and spent two hours at the cemeteries inspecting trees. Mr. Weatherbee said that they looked at cedar, oak, spruce, fir, weeping willow and pine trees and discussed what would be best for each and why some were growing well and others were not. He reports that some trees are diseased, some are rotting from the bottom up, some have dead shoots and some are fine.

Through this inspection Mr. Weatherbee received some suggestions on what should be done as well as some cost saving ways to get the job done. Mr. Weatherbee received an estimate of \$10,000 for the arborist to cut, trim, prune and dispose of all the waste. However, this cost can be cut considerably by having our own employees dispose of the waste and also by having the Bangor Hydro trim the trees that are near the power line on Park Street. Mr. Weatherbee has contacted Bangor Hydro and was told that they would be in the area in a few weeks and would look at the area.

ITEM 5. In an effort to create a stronger library team Library Director, Linda Morrill, has developed a plan to enhance each employee's skill set. Working in teams of two, the staff will learn a new library skill. For example, Mary Jo Hammond will work with Shandi Daigle on the Inter Library Loan process. Throughout this learning, it is Mrs. Morrill's goal for the employees to develop a better process as well as bond as team members. Other areas that the staff will be cross-training in include genealogy information, children's programs, and the volunteer program. Mrs. Morrill said, "*Everyone is excited about these changes and I look forward to reading/hearing their weekly progress reports.*"

ITEM 6. Library Director, Linda Morrill, was recently asked why the library offers programs to the community. Mrs. Morrill responded by telling the patron that programs are a way to invite non-library users to visit the library and discover the treasures within. All of the programs that are offered promote reading. Mrs. Morrill and the library staff have been working for several months on developing a plan for library programs for all ages. The following programs will be offered at the Lincoln Memorial Library during February and March:

- *Turtle Tales* for ages 5 and under - Wednesday at 10:30 am. (Ongoing story time)
- *Baby Tales* for ages 2 and under - Thursday at 11 am. (Ongoing story time)
- *Reading Buzz* for ages 6 to 10 - Thursday afternoon reading program from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. Children will be introduced to a variety of authors and titles. Snacks, games and other creative activities will be included.
- *Library Bingo* for children of all ages - second Tuesday of each month from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Features book related themes and prizes.
- *5th and 6th Grade Reading Adventures Book Club* - third Thursday of each month at 3:30 PM. Students will read and discuss a different book each month and create special reading logs.
- *Lego Club* for ages 7 and up - Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:00 PM.
- *Teen Advisory Board* for ages 13 and up - the third Friday of each month at 4:00 PM.
- *Adult Reading Program* (Reader's Advisory Club) for ages 18 and up - four times per year featuring 4 to 5 gift baskets as prizes. Readers read, review and receive free raffle tickets for each book read.
- *Books & Tea Book Discussion Club* for ages 18 and up. Meet with Library Director once a month to discuss favorite books and enjoy tea from around the world. This club will meet the second Wednesday of each month.

Pam Fuller, Nutrition Associate at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, will present the program "Creative Snack Ideas" at the library on March 3rd at 4:00 PM. This is open to adults and children. The library's collection of healthy cookbooks for both adults and children will be featured. No registration is necessary. In April, Pam will offer a workshop on Staying Healthy which will include soap making. The library's collection of books featuring natural products will be on display and used for this presentation.

The Lincoln Memorial Library and the Lincoln Conservation Association will host its first bird workshop at the library on February 22, 2010 at 10:00 am. Paul Markson, Audubon

coordinator of the Orono bird circle, will share his knowledge on birds. He will discuss birds of the northeast, their identification, songs, habits, nesting, and migrations. Plans for a bird circle will be discussed, what it is used for and how to enjoy the experience.

ITEM 7. Mother Nature may be busy making ice but Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, is thinking about open water and preparing for the installation of docks. Mr. Weatherbee contacted the Department of Conservation regarding replacement signage and additional dock for the South Lincoln boat landing to accommodate the fluctuation in water levels. The Department of Conservation can supply new signage however the replacement of docks is planned more than a year in advance. The Department also anticipates that the dock systems will have a life expectancy of 12 years. Our current dock was installed in 2001. This boat landing has been placed on the 2011 replacement list. Our dock at Long Pond was installed in 1999 and that has also been placed on the list for a 2011 replacement.

ITEM 8. Fire Chief, Phillip Dawson, has wasted no time providing training for the Fire Engineers on the newly acquired aerial platform truck. On Tuesday Engineers started the day in the classroom where they reviewed the operating systems of the truck. After the classroom instruction, Engineers then conducted inspections to check systems and have hands-on training before actually operating the truck. Once this was completed, the truck was placed outside where Engineers Miller and Millett guided other Engineers through set-up, aerial operations and take-down operations.

Engineers then moved the truck to the Veterans Memorial Square to assist with taking down Christmas lights. This task was an excellent opportunity for the Engineers to receive additional hands-on training in truck operations. Later in the afternoon, Engineers were put through their paces driving this truck throughout the various streets in town to hone their driving skills with this significantly larger truck. Once their initial driver training was conducted Chief Dawson rode with each Engineer selecting a series of streets to challenge their skills as well as evaluate their ability to handle the truck. Chief Dawson said, *"I'm happy to report that all of our Engineers did very well and we missed all obstacles encountered!"* Although all our Engineers are cleared to respond with the new truck, training will be ongoing to enhance the Engineers' skills on all truck tower operations.

I spoke with Engineers Cory Stratton and Jon Spearin today and asked their opinion of the truck. They like the idea of being safer while 100' feet in the air. The bucket doesn't waiver and the stabilizing system on the truck lends more confidence that the truck will not move while they are in the air.

ITEM 9. Over the last several months Interim Police Chief, Phillip Dawson, has heard many complaints and/or comments regarding the kids causing trouble at Veterans Memorial Square. Patrols in this area have been increased which have resulted in various enforcement actions being initiated. Although the public sentiment may be that the juvenile population is causing the problems, Chief Dawson said it is actually the adult visitors to that area who are actually responsible for the majority of the issues. For example, recently over the course of two nights officers conducted probable cause and consent searches of vehicles and persons, this

resulted in several drug related charges to all but one juvenile who was 17. The others charged were 19 and 20 years old. Chief Dawson also reports that there have been very few juvenile related crimes as of late which has been noted and commented on by Juvenile Probation Officer, Josh Ash. Officers have and will continue to monitor and address issues that arise in Veterans Memorial Square.

While incidents at the Veterans Memorial Square have lessened, charges of operating under the influence (OUI) are on the rise as is the blood alcohol content (BAC). The BAC level considered by Maine law to be legally under the influence of alcohol is 0.08%. The aggravated level is 0.15% and up and this level will result in a jail sentence as well a higher fine amount. Out of the last five OUI arrests over the last two weekends the average BAC was 0.19% and three of those five were 0.25%! Chief Dawson said that the arrests made by our officers represent only approximately 5% of the people driving while under the influence. Our officers can only be in one place at a time or may be busy handling complaints while other intoxicated drivers may be driving and potentially endangering the public. Chief Dawson encourages the public to report suspected drunk drivers to help make our roads and citizens safer.

ITEM 10. Generally when the town advertises for a vacancy the number of applications received usually range between 10 and 25 depending on the position. Town Clerk/Office Manager, Diana Hill, recently advertised for the vacant counter clerk position. With a week yet to go, she has already received 37 applications! This is a clear indication of our economic time. With the large pool of applicants, it will certainly make the choice a very difficult one!

ITEM 11. The street light report is enclosed.

ITEM 12. Have a great weekend!