

Lincoln Fire conducts ice water rescue training

By Ben Meiklejohn

LINCOLN -- Lincoln Fire Department reported to Lincoln News on Monday that in the previous week, the department responded to 17 emergency medical service and six fire calls.

Prior to that, in the week of Feb. 9 to 15, the department answered 34 EMS and 10 fire calls.

Capt. Blake Miller said the department engaged in ice water training exercises on Cambolasse Pond on Feb. 21.

Miller said one of the department's full-time staff, who has a family camp on the pond, arranged for the department to conduct exercises from the property.

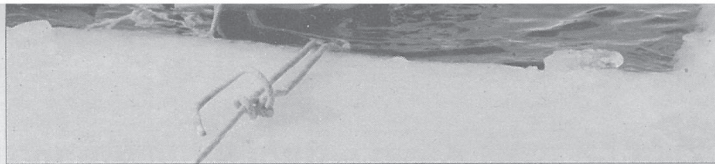
The department's entire full-time roster, except for two employees, were able to participate in the training.

Miller said two ambulances, a pickup truck and a utility terrain vehicle were used for the training exercises.

Personnel were split into two groups and training exercises occurred with one group at the station and the other at the pond, with the groups switching locations later in the day.

Miller said proficiency in ice water rescue is "very, very, very important to have."

"Especially with 13 lakes and a nice big river," he added.



(Photos above) Lincoln Fire Department conducted ice rescue training exercises on Cambolasse Pond on Saturday, February 21. (Photos courtesy of Lincoln Fire Department)

Passadumkeag seeks various work contracts

By Ben Meiklejohn

PASSADUMKEAG -- The Passadumkeag Board of Selectmen held a brief meeting Feb. 19 to summarize needed requests for work and receive a report from the planning board.

Third Selectman Jana Spencer reported that the town needed to issue a request for bids for winter plowing for next year and another request for a town maintenance worker.

Spencer added that the town also needs to contract with an HVAC specialist to look at the heat pumps in the town office. The heat pumps failed several weeks ago, causing staff to need to set up space heat-

ers to work in the office.

Spencer said the selectmen would soon need to hold a budget workshop to prepare the budget for the 2027 fiscal year.

Planning Board Chair Sergio Batista reported that the board plans to issue a quarterly newsletter to mail to residents to solicit involvement and ideas and build interest.

"Build a community closer together by sharing," Batista said. "We're all spread apart. There's the ridge, there's the town, there's St. John's, there's Route 2 -- four distinct areas and we're all in the same town. We're looking at ways to tie them all together."

Batista said that in developing the town's first comprehensive plan, the planning board needs

to "do a survey and ask pertinent questions so we can incorporate that in the comprehensive plan."

Spencer commended the planning board on how well they are proceeding in planning to create a comprehensive plan.

"You guys are doing a lot of hard work and it's greatly appreciated," she said.

Several residents mentioned during public comment that there were no attractions or businesses in towns to entice people to visit and the town should sponsor events.

The Passadumkeag Selectboard meets every first and third Thursday of the month with the next meeting currently scheduled to occur on March 5 at 6 p.m. at the Passadumkeag Town Office.

RESIGNATION

Cont. From Page 1

At the most recent town council meeting held Feb. 9, Crocker reported that the town only received one bid for mowing of the town's cemeteries, parks and recreation areas -- for \$145,210.

Crocker reported at the time, "that is three times what it costs us to do it (using town staff)."

At that meeting, Hanington questioned Crocker's assessment of the cost it would take for the town to mow its own properties, accusing Crocker of not taking into full account the costs, and suggesting that the real cost would be "much, much higher," and perhaps even greater than the cost indicated in the bid the town received.

Hanington didn't provide at that meeting financial details as to

why he thought the town would not be able to mow its own lawns at a cost significantly less than \$145,210.

Crocker told Lincoln News the primary reason he was leaving is because he came across a better opportunity for financial growth and a job with a better balance between "work life and home life."

Crocker acknowledged that he didn't feel he "fit" the position and the needs of the current town council, but there was "not really any one thing, but a whole collection of things" that lead to his decision.

Crocker said he had already been accepted to a new position with another employer, but declined to reveal the details.

Burlington-Lowell transfer station budget proposed to stay at current tax level

By Ben Meiklejohn

BURLINGTON/LOWELL -- The Burlington-Lowell Transfer Station Board of Directors met Feb. 18 to finalize a budget for the next year.

The board, which comprises the selectmen of both Burlington and Lowell, reviewed the budget for the current year and determined that the same amount could be budgeted for next year, with each town contributing \$50,000 toward the waste-processing facility.

Under new business, Lowell Selectman Kirk Fogg said a citizen came to him with a request to have the money generated from returnable bottles and cans split between two non-profit organizations.

The transfer station previously donated all the money received from the bottle redemptions to the Burlington Food Pantry.

Fogg said the resident that approached him suggested having the money split between the Burlington Food Pantry and the Labelle-Perkins Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1605, also located in Burlington.

Burlington Selectman John Smith said, "Both organizations support both towns, obviously, but I think the food pantry provides a service to a much broader resident base for both towns than the VFW does. That's my opinion, so I guess I would say, keep it at the food pantry."

The directors also discussed who would return the bottles since a previous volunteer was no longer

able to transport the bottles to the redemption center, and how the money would be counted and divided equally.


Fogg suggested that the money could be split each time bottles are returned, or given to one organization in one month and the other organization in the next month.

"I guess they'll have to fight it out," he said.

The motion passed 3-2 with Smith and Burlington Selectmen Beverly Harding opposed, and no plan in place for how to divvy up the funds equitably.

Fogg, Lowell Selectman Michael Gostin and Burlington Selectman Philip Stanton voted for the measure.

"I just think it's going to be hard to try to figure it out," Harding said.

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