LINCOLN SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026 – 5:30PM
LINCOLN TOWN HALL - 148 MAIN STREET, LINCOLN, NH
(THE RECORDING OF THIS MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON YOUTUBE)

APPROVED

Lincoln Select Board Present: Chair OJ Robinson, Vice Chair, Tamra Ham & Jack Daly
Staff Present: Town Manager, Jim Pineo, Jane Leslie, Executive Assistant, School Resource Officer Betsy Scrafford, Detective Lieutenant, Justin Combs, Library Director, Carol Riley & Shawn Magoon, Code Compliance Officer
Public Present via Zoom: Paul Beaudin II & "Unidentified IPhone"
Public Present: Ron Beard, Library Trustees: Patricia Surabian, Rosalind Lowe, Monica Haly, Marilyn Sanderson, & Cathy Patterson

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION: "To approve the Select Board meeting minutes of June 29, 2026 as amended."
Motion: Tamra Ham Second: Jack Daly All in favor

MOTION: "To approve the Select Board meeting minutes of July 13, 2026 as presented."
Motion: Jack Daly Second: OJ Robinson Motion carries
Abstained: **Tamra Ham**

MOTION: "To approve the Select Board non-public meeting minutes of July 13, 2026 as presented."
Motion: OJ Robinson Second: Jack Daly Motion carries
Abstained: **Tamra Ham**

III. PUBLIC HEARING Per RSA 31:95-b Section III (a) – Unanticipated Acceptance of Funds more than $10K – One-Time Donation of $10K from the Lincoln Police Department Benevolent Association.

The Lincoln Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 27, 2026 at approximately 5:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Town Hall Offices, 148 Main Street, Lincoln, NH for the acceptance of unanticipated grand funds in the amount of $10,000.00 in accordance with RSA 31:95-b III (a). Funds are from the Lincoln Police Benevolent Association for the purpose of securing a "Comfort Dog" to become part of the Lincoln Police Department and School Resource Officer Program at the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District. Specific questions during the Public Hearing may be answered by James Pineo – Town Manager or representatives of the Lincoln Police Department – Detective Lieutenant Combs, or Officer Scrafford.

To facilitate the procurement and certification process, the total donation will be distributed in two (2) equal installments of $5,000.00. The first check of $5,000.00 will be required immediately upon the official pickup of the K9 from Paws with a Cause. The final check of $5,000.00 will be issued upon the successful completion of the dog's informal training program, approximately 12-weeks later.

Town Manager Pineo summarized several questions he had regarding the comfort K-9:

1) **Will the Comfort Dog program require an additional take home police vehicle?** *At this time, there are no provisions under law requiring a take home police vehicle for a comfort dog. Intentions are that the handler will report to work at the Lincoln Police Station-transfer the dog from a personal vehicle to a properly equipped police vehicle, and report to duty at the school.*

2) **Will the Comfort Dog incur additional staff overtime costs?** *The ongoing training shall be comprised of the following: a) A minimum of one hour per month of structured training. Training shall focus on maintaining and reinforcing CGC, CGCA, and CGCU skills.*

3) **Liability** – The comfort dog would be considered an asset and liability of the Town of Lincoln and shall be covered under/through the Town's Property & Liability insurance provider (PRIMEX).

4) **On-going Costs** - As an asset/liability for the Town of Lincoln, the Town should create an operational line within the Police Dept. budget for costs incurred – training/veterinarian expenses & food (no more than $3k per year).

5) **Comfort Dog Retirement** – Retirement of a Comfort Dog is determined on a case-by-case basis. It is the intention of the Town Manager and Police Dept. to create a document with Officer Scrafford that outlines upon the retirement of the comfort dog, ownership would be transferred from the Town of Lincoln to Officer Scrafford for $1.00.

Town Manager Pineo noted that this is a program which the Lincoln Police Dept. and Lincoln Police Benevolent Association have been working to implement for a number of years and is supported by the School District, and he fully supports this program.

OJ opened up the hearing for public input at 5:39 p.m. (there was no public input). OJ closed the public hearing.

MOTION: "The Lincoln Select Board as authorized by New Hampshire RSA 31:95-b accepts $10,000.00 in funding for the purpose of securing and implementing a comfort dog program as part of the Lincoln Police Department Operations."
Motion: OJ Robinson **Second: Tamra Ham** **All in favor**

IV. LINCOLN LIBRARY TRUSTEES Discussion

Library Trustee, Patricia Surabian addressed the board to discuss the Library Enhancement Project and to ask for the Board's support. Pat explained that the need for additional space was identified some years ago (as early as 2011), and since that time, the funds have been included in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) plans. In addition to the CIP funding, Lincoln Library has received a generous donation of $400,000.00. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous has stipulated that meaningful progress must be made by January when he meets with his financial and tax advisors. In addition to the $400,000.00 donation, the donor has also offered up to an additional $100,000.00 dollars in a matching fund campaign.

The Trustees have met with three (3) architectural firms: Stuart Anderson of Alba Architects, SMP Architecture from Concord, and Placework from Portsmouth, NH. In addition to planning an addition, the Trustees have requested that the architects evaluate the existing layout of the library to determine if current space is being used effectively. The Trustees plan on meeting soon to hold an official vote on which proposal to accept.

Next steps include developing a one-page questionnaire and planning informational meetings for the fall, which will hopefully enhance fund raising efforts. The Trustees would like to include members from the Select Board to become part of this team for the library enhancement project.

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MOTION: "The Board of Selectmen support the Lincoln Library Trustees in moving forward with the Library Enhancement Project with the anticipation of receiving donated funds and other matching funds, and including a possible warrant article in March."
Motion: OJ Robinson **Second: Jack Daly** **All in favor**

V. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report ***(see attached)*****:**

Anticipated Public Hearings;
- Kanc Pavilion concrete pad
- Police K-9 Insert w/heat alarm

Finance Report - Expenditures:
The board reviewed the Expenditures Report by Department through July 23, 2026 which is 58.33% through the year with 56.49% of the budget expended (this includes 50% of the Capital Reserve Funds having been transferred into their respective accounts).

Street Lighting:
The town is still awaiting a written quote from NH Electric Coop.

Camper's World Well Evaluation:
This is currently on hold due to bridge restrictions.

Solid Waste Intermunicipal Agreement:
Woodstock's Attorney is currently away on leave. Lincoln's Town Counsel, Jason Dennis anticipates further information within 30-days.

Mansion Hill Fall Zone Agreement:
Awaiting tower inspection criteria.

NEW BUSINESS:

Camper's World – Items to address:
Town Manager Pineo provided the board with the final version of a Letter of Intent (LOI) related to the proposed Camper's World Project. This document is contingent upon securing bond funding in 2027.

Tammy commented on item #20 of the LOI – **Restrictions on Short Term Rentals**, "Phase 1 will be subject to short-term rental restrictions as that term is currently defined in the Town Ordinance as being less than thirty (30) days. All subsequent phases shall be subject to similar restrictions for rentals of less than one month, conditioned upon the Town Meeting approval of related Bond Authorizations for those phases." Tammy questioned if they could increase the number of days to align with **NH RSA 78-A**, which defines the short-term rental as less than 185 consecutive days; Tammy also noted that **NH RSA 48-A:1** defines the short-term rental as less than 30 days, but she would like to go with the 185 consecutive days.

OJ explained that they had previously discussed this, however, the issue that came up was that some of the employer units may rent a unit for 6-months, however, a single local business employee may independently rent a unit that is not controlled by the local business for a 3- or 4-month period.

Tammy then questioned if there was something that they could do for the single-family homes and duplexes that are going to be built for family homes and not employee housing? Tammy also pointed out that she could not find any town ordinance for short-term rentals other than the Short-Term Rental Regulations, and her concern is about that the single-family homes being restricted to less than 30-days.

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Jack questioned Item #12 of the LOI – **Relief from Certain Town Ordinances and Regulations**, "to be economic, the Developer will seek modest relief from certain regulations related to Flood Plain, usage single-family water retention areas, use of existing retaining walls, as well as impact fees on any Affordable Product." Jack continued to say that he cannot understand how the town can grant relief relative to flood plains. OJ explained that paragraph #12 relates only to the "Affordable Product", and the items they discussed relative to the flood plain were potentially on the parking area, playground area, dog park area etc.

Jack questioned if there was any indication that there would be a temporary bridge installed for construction vehicles to go across. OJ explained that in the budget that is being worked on, there is going to be a line item for a temporary bridge (Bailey bridge: a portable, pre-fabricated truss bridge used widely in military and civil engineering) to go across the river to get excavators, dump trucks, construction vehicles etc. to the other side in preparation for constructing a permanent bridge. OJ also noted that when it comes time to build the permanent bridge, they had learned of a program from the Department of Business and Economic Affairs that is offered by Northern Borders Regional Commission that is a Forestry Economy Program utilizing forestry products for public infrastructure and community development projects that directly support the forest industry. This program could provide up to $1M for timber-based transportation infrastructure.

OJ proposed that in an effort to move this along, the Board bless the intent and purpose of the LOI (except item #20), and then have an attorney review it prior to the Select Board signing it.

Paul Beaudin commented that prior to the board blessing anything, they should hold a public hearing to allow for public comment and questions (he would also like to receive a copy of the LOI). Paul also questioned if this project would be coming before the Planning Board to be reviewed (OJ responded that there will be a public hearing & it will be going before the Planning Board). OJ explained that he wanted to get a blessing that the Select Board supports this so they can start the attorney review process, and then hold a public hearing, possibly the second meeting in August (8/24) providing there has been an attorney review.

Paul clarified that to date, all that has been accomplished is the fact that the town has voted to make this a TIF District, and has *not* voted on the funding mechanism for a TIF District. OJ explained that it has already been established that this is a TIF District, and any funding requests have to come before the Town. Paul questioned all of the current work that is being done to make this happen, and how it is being funded? OJ explained that all of the work/labor he is personally putting into this is not being reimbursed, and the Town Planner and Town Manager are paid employees. Town Manager Pineo clarified that part of the critical path for the funding plan has to be approved by the voters in March 2027 at Town Meeting. This funding plan has to be developed and cannot be done until the LOI is in place. Regarding expenditures, there will be some related to legal costs going forward, however, at this point no legal costs have been incurred. Once the LOI is approved, there will be the creation of an Advisory Board.

Paul noted that he is supportive of affordable housing, but questioned whether or not the board is focusing on the costs to purchase a home in Lincoln versus the average annual wages an employee makes working in town who wants to live here with their family, put their children in the school system and be a part of the community (is this truly the boards focus?). OJ explained that the plan includes a vast array of housing types and price points; from rentals to ownership, from small to large homes, apartments, condos, town houses, small single families, medium single families, large single families, duplexes with various price points that will try to accommodate the various housing needs, which is their goal that they will try to address.

MOTION: "To accept the general terms of the LOI with the one (1) change on item #20 of the LOI – Restrictions on Short Term Rentals; forward the LOI to an attorney to review, and upon completion of the review schedule a public hearing."
Motion: OJ Robinson **Second: Jack Daly** **All in favor**

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a) **Creation of Advisory Board** – 2026 Warrant Article 21 "Establish Camper's World TIF District authorizes the Select Board to appoint a five (5) member Advisory Board for such District and to delegate administration of the plan to the Town Manager/Town Planner in cooperation with the Advisory Board and Select Board. Note: Pursuant to **RSA 162-K:14**, the legislative body of a municipality must create a TIF Advisory Board for each development district. The public board advises the governing body and district administrator on planning, construction, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF). The Select Board should consider to move forward with publicly noticing the establishment of the advisory board for the purpose of soliciting letters of interest from the community.

OJ noted that it is suggested that people who own property within the TIF District be invited to participate on the Advisory Board. The town owns two (2) of the parcels, and the third parcel is owned by a Trust managed by Callum Grant, and he/designee should be invited to participate on this board. In addition to the Town Manager, Town Planner, designated Select Board member, TIF District property owner, they need two (2) additional members.

Paul commented that he feels that there should be regular town's people/taxpayer representation on this board. OJ noted that the Select Board will be following RSA 162-K:14 – Advisory Board.

Jack commented that resident Jeanne Beaudin has expressed an interest in being on the Advisory Board. OJ would like to post a public notice to allow everyone the opportunity to submit a letter of interest.

b) **Securing attorney with TIF District Experience** – There are a number of attorneys who are well versed and experienced with TIF Districts. The Town should begin moving forward with the co-ordination of/and securing of an attorney for this purpose. Jack questioned if NH Municipal Association (NHMA) has been contacted to see if they have any staff attorneys who are experienced with TIF Districts (they have not been contacted). Tammy explained that NHMA can only provide very limited general advice. Town Manager Pineo noted that the Bureau of Economic Affairs (BEA) provided the names of three attorneys that are experienced with TIF Districts, and one name in particular struck him based on his past experience.

OTHER BUSINESS:

26 Maple Street (M117 L001) – Gertrude & Beverly Chase Property
Town Counsel, Jason Dennis had begun the process of petitioning the Probate Court for Estate Administration. The court had asked Jason to reach out to different law firms to see if another attorney or real estate agent would be the representative of the property (he was not able to find anyone), however, he was able to locate a family member of the deceased property owner who is willing to do it. This person will be appointed by the court, and they will be able to move this process along.

Public Participation:
Paul Beaudin asked if the Library Trustees will have to hold a public hearing to accept this money, or the Select Board. OJ was not certain, but believes that the Trustees will have to hold the public hearing. Tammy clarified that pursuant to RSA 202-a, the Trustees will have to hold a public hearing to accept the unanticipated funds. Paul also questioned if this project will have to come before the Planning Board as he has concerns with parking, and the size of the parcel etc. (it will come before the Planning Board).

VI. NON-PUBLIC Session ***Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3:(II) (c,e) Personnel Issues; Consideration of Legal Advice.***

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MOTION: "To go into Non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 (III) (c,e)." Personnel issue; Consideration of legal advice
Motion: OJ Robinson **Second: Tamra Ham** **All in favor.**

The Select Board went into Non-public session at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION: "To re-enter public session."
Motion: OJ Robinson **Second: Jack Daly** **All in favor.**

The Board reconvened public session at 8:00 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to attend to, the Board made the following motion:

MOTION: "To adjourn."
Motion: OJ Robinson **Second: Tamra Ham** **All in favor.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Leslie

Approval Date: August 10, 2026

Chairman O.J. Robinson Tamra Ham Jack Daly

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July 27, 2026

Lincoln Select Board Meeting

Please PRINT Legibly

(Print Name)	Signature	Email Address
Monica Haley		1326Tilly max@gmail com
Patricia Surabian		pnsurabian@aol.com
Roz Lowen		Roz.Lowen@gmail
Cathy Paterson		paterson c40@gmail. com
CAROL Riley		CRILEY57@GMAIL.COM
Marilyn Sanderson		marilynsanderson@ roadrunner.com

TOWN OF LINCOLN NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE
SELECT BOARD

Chair, OJ Robinson **Select Board Member, Tamra Ham** **Select Board Member, Jack Daly**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing to Accept Unanticipated Funds of more than $10K.
TOWN OF LINCOLN SELECT BOARD
Monday, July 27, 2026 – 5:30PM
Lincoln Town Hall, 148 Main Street, Lincoln, NH

On Monday, July 27, 2026, commencing at 5:30 pm the Select Board will hold a Public Hearing in accordance with **RSA 31:95-b Section III (a)** – ***Unanticipated Acceptance of Funds more than $10K*** at the Lincoln Town Hall Meeting Room, 148 Main Street, Lincoln, NH to accept a ***One-Time Donation of $10,000.00** from the **Lincoln Police Benevolent Association**. This contribution is explicitly designated to fund the purchase and comprehensive training of the Town's new Comfort K9 from *Paws with a Cause*.

*To facilitate the procurement and certification process, the total donation will be distributed in two (2) equal installments of $5,000.00. The first check of $5,000.00 will be required immediately upon the official pickup of the K9 from Paws with a Cause. The final check of $5,000.00 will be issued upon the successful completion of the dog's formal training program, approximately 12-weeks later.

SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF LINCOLN, NH

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84160469645?pwd=NGZ2Z0s2MjV3MmwzMUhCMXJEYnY3Zz09

Meeting ID: 841 6046 9645
Passcode: 730008
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcSuQgv0ec

Lincoln Police Benevolent Association

July 3, 2026

Lincoln Police Benevolent Association
250 Pollard Rd.
Lincoln, NH 03251

Town of Lincoln
148 Main Street
Lincoln, NH 03251

Board of Selectmen,

The Lincoln Police Benevolent Association is pleased to formally pledge a donation of $10,000 to the Town of Lincoln. This contribution is explicitly designated to fund the purchase and comprehensive training of the town's new Comfort K9 from Paws with a Cause. We believe this addition will serve as a vital asset for community outreach, victim support, and officer wellness.

To facilitate the procurement and certification process, the total donation will be distributed in two equal installments of $5,000. The first check of $5,000 will be required immediately upon the official pickup of the K9 from Paws with a Cause. The final check of $5,000 will be issued upon the successful completion of the dog's formal training program, approximately 12 weeks later.

We look forward to partnering with the Town of Lincoln on this impactful initiative and seeing the positive influence the Comfort K9 will bring to our community.

Board of Directors
Lincoln Police Benevolent Association

HOME OF THE LUMBERJACKS
Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District/SAU#68
72 Linwood Drive, Lincoln NH 03251
Phone: (603) 745-2051 / www.lin-wood.org

Debra O'Connor, MBA
Financial Manager

Mary Steady, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Nancy Bartlett, M.Ed.
Director of Pupil Services

September 19, 2025

Chief Chad Morris
Lincoln, NH Police Department
250 Pollard Road
Lincoln NH 03251

Re: Support for the addition of a facility/comfort dog program

Dear Chief Morris,

I am writing on behalf of the Linwood School District to express our strong support for the police department's initiative to add a facility or comfort dog to its ranks. This is a forward-thinking initiative that will greatly benefit both our students and our community as a whole.

We believe a program of this nature offers a valuable tool for bridging the gap between law enforcement and the public, especially our youth. We know that the presence of a facility dog can have a profoundly positive effect on individuals experiencing trauma, stress, or anxiety. Having a compassionate, non-judgmental presence available could significantly help students who may be victims of or witnesses to difficult incidents.

We are excited about the potential for this program to strengthen the bond between our school community and the police department. We look forward to collaborating with you to explore how this dog could visit our schools for various events and support services.

Thank you for your commitment to the well-being of our community. Please let us know how we can assist as you move forward with this project.

Together,

Mary Steady, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Rep. Hunt, Ches. 14
April 27, 2026
2026-1675h
07/08

Amendment to SB 573

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT establishing certification standards for certified public safety comfort dogs.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Chapter; Public Safety Comfort Dog Certification. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 167-D the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 167-E

PUBLIC SAFETY COMFORT DOG CERTIFICATION

167-E:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. "Certified public safety comfort dog" means a specifically trained dog that provides support, comfort, and crisis response to individuals, groups, and communities in various settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, disaster relief areas, emergency response/public safety agencies and other places where people may be experiencing stress, trauma, or crisis. Certified public safety comfort dogs are trained to interact gently and empathetically with people, offering unconditional support and non-judgmental companionship to help alleviate anxiety, reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being and resilience. Certified public safety comfort dogs are not considered service dogs or emotional support animals.

II. "Certified public safety comfort dog handler" means an emergency response or public safety worker who is responsible for the care, training, and supervision of a certified public safety comfort dog during its interactions with individuals, groups, and communities in need of support or crisis response. A certified public safety comfort dog handler shall ensure that it behaves appropriately, follows commands, and maintains a calm and comforting presence in various environments. A certified public safety comfort dog handler shall be trained to understand canine behavior, communication, and emotional support techniques, allowing them to effectively guide the certified public safety comfort dog's interactions with individuals, groups, or communities in distress or crisis situations.

III. "Emergency response or public safety worker" means any law enforcement officer certified under RSA 106-L, certified county corrections officer, sheriff or deputy sheriff, state police officer, civilian law enforcement employee, civilian county corrections employee, any call, volunteer, or regular firefighter, civilian fire department employee, rescue or ambulance worker, including

ambulance service, emergency medical personnel, first responder service, and volunteer personnel, telecommunicators, and local dispatchers, including any retired emergency response or public safety workers as defined in this section.

IV. "Local dispatcher" means a person who determines the location, status, and assistance required by callers and walk-in customers for public safety services and dispatches the appropriate police, fire, ambulance, or other units to provide needed emergency services at the state, city, town, or private emergency services level.

V. "Telecommunicator" means an employee of the department of safety, division of emergency services and communications who is responsible for receiving at the public safety answering point telephone calls made to E911 and transferring or relaying such calls to public or private safety agencies.

VI. "Certified public safety comfort dog team" means a trained certified public safety comfort dog and its handler, working collaboratively to provide support, comfort, and crisis response to individuals, groups, and communities in various settings. The certified public safety comfort dog team shall undergo specialized training to develop skills in empathy, active listening, and non-verbal communication, enabling them to effectively respond to the emotional, behavioral, physical, cognitive, and relational needs of those they encounter.

VII. "Certified public safety comfort dog trainer" means any person who is employed to train dogs for the use of a certified public safety comfort dog or is volunteering and training to raise dogs for the use of certified public safety comfort dogs by emergency response or public safety worker, or an individual trainer who helps an emergency response or public safety worker to train their certified public safety comfort dog.

VIII. "Housing accommodation" means any publicly assisted housing accommodation or any real property, or portion thereof, which is used or occupied, or is intended, arranged, or designed to be used or occupied, as the home, residence, or sleeping place of one or more persons.

IX. "Public facility" means any place of public accommodation and any street, highway, sidewalk, walkway, public building, and any other place or structure to which the general public is regularly, normally, or customarily permitted or invited.

X. "Place of public accommodation" includes any tavern roadhouse, hotel, motel, or trailer camp, whether for entertainment of transient guests or accommodation of those seeking health, recreation, or rest; any producer, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retail shop, store establishment, or concession dealing with goods or services of any kind; any restaurant, eating house, or place where food is sold for consumption on the premises; any place maintained for the sale of ice cream, ice, and fruit preparations or their derivatives, soda water or confections, or where any beverages of any kind are retailed for consumption on the premises; any garage; any public conveyance operated on land or water, or in the air, or any stations and terminals thereof; any bathhouse, boardwalk, or seashore accommodation; any auditorium, meeting place, or hall; any

theater, motion picture house, music hall, roof garden, skating rink, swimming pool, amusement and recreation park, fair, bowling alley, gymnasium, shooting gallery, billiard and pool parlor, or any other place of amusement; any comfort station; any dispensary, clinic, or hospital; any public library; any kindergarten, primary and secondary school, trade or business school, high school, academy, college and university, or any educational institution under the supervision of the state board of education, or the commissioner of education of the state of New Hampshire.

167-E:2 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Training.

I. The initial training and certification testing shall be completed by the dog's second birthday. Such initial training and certification shall be comprised of the following American Kennel Club certificates, or an equivalent certificate from another nationally recognized organization:

(a) Canine Good Citizen (CGC).

(b) Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA).

(c) Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU).

II. The ongoing training shall be comprised of the following:

(a) A minimum of 1 hour per month of structured training. Training shall focus on maintaining and reinforcing CGC, CGCA, and CGCU skills.

(b) Exposure to various emergencies or public safety environments, including interactions with first responders and the public.

III. The emergency response or public safety agency employing or owning the certified public safety comfort dog shall maintain detailed training records. Records shall include:

(a) Dates and duration of training sessions.

(b) The type of training conducted.

(c) Progress and any corrective actions needed.

(d) Certificate completion and renewal dates.

167-E:3 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Handler Training.

I. Each certified public safety comfort dog handler working with the certified public safety comfort dog shall complete training with his or her assigned certified public safety comfort dog. Such training and certificate testing shall be comprised of the following American Kennel Club certificates, or an equivalent certificate from another nationally recognized organization:

(a) Canine Good Citizen (CGC).

(b) Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA).

(c) Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU).

II. The following training shall also be required of certified public safety comfort dog handlers:

(a) Training on recognizing and responding to individuals experiencing mental health crises.

(b) Education on crisis intervention techniques for emergency response or public safety workers, including CIT training.

(c) Training on providing basic emergency care and first aid for canine partners.

III. The ongoing training shall be comprised of the following:

(a) A minimum of one hour per month of structured training with the certified public safety comfort dog. Training shall focus on reinforcing RSA 167-E:2 certification skills, handling techniques, and scenario-based public interactions.

(b) Regular exposure to emergency/public safety environments to maintain proficiency.

IV. The emergency response or public safety agency employing or owning the certified public safety comfort dog shall maintain detailed training records for both the dog and handler. Records shall include:

(a) Dates and duration of training sessions.

(b) The type of training conducted.

(c) Progress and any corrective actions needed.

(d) Certificate completion and renewal dates.

167-E:4 Animal Duties. The official duties performed by a certified public safety comfort dog shall be directly related to the handler's role as an emergency response or public safety worker. Official duties may include but are not limited to: critical incident stress management, survivor advocacy and support, school support, crisis response, community mental health support, and community relations.

167-E:5 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Licensing, Rabies Certificate and Insurance.

I. The owner or employer of the certified public safety comfort dog shall comply with all state and local ordinances regarding licensing and rabies certification under RSA 466:1 and RSA 466:1-a. The owner or employer of the certified public safety comfort dog shall also fully insure the dog for the duration of its service career.

II. Nothing in this section is intended to inhibit, interfere, or impede with the protections provided to service animals and search and rescue dogs under RSA 167-D.

167-E:6 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Team Certification.

I. Each certified public safety comfort dog team shall complete all training requirements outlined within RSA 167-E:2 and RSA 167-E:3 in order to be certified in the state of New Hampshire.

II. Each certified public safety comfort dog shall be retested with his or her assigned certified public safety comfort dog every 3 years. Such retesting shall be comprised of the following American Kennel Club certificates or an equivalent certificate from another nationally recognized organization:

(a) Canine Good Citizen (CGC).

(b) Advanced Canine Good Citizen (CGCA).

(c) Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU).

III. The emergency response or public safety agency owning or employing the certified public safety comfort dog shall maintain all training and certification records, including:

(a) Initial certification documentation.

(b) Recertification dates and results.

(c) Any ongoing training or corrective action records.

IV. All certified public safety comfort dog teams working in the state of New Hampshire shall have one year from the effective date of this chapter to meet certification and recertification requirements outlined therein.

167-E:7 Certified Public Safety Dog May Accompany Handler. A certified public safety comfort dog may accompany their handler into any public facility, housing accommodation, or place of public accommodation to which the general public is invited, while they are in the course of performing their official duties, and/or, while in the course of, or traveling to or from the location of, their official duties.

167-E:8 Prohibited Acts.

I. It is unlawful for a person, directly or indirectly, either to prohibit, hinder, or interfere with a certified public safety comfort dog team, while in the course of performing their official duties.

II. It is unlawful for any person to represent, and/or fit, a dog with a collar, leash, vest, sign, or harness of any type which represents that the dog is a certified public safety comfort dog if the dog is not a certified public safety comfort dog certified under this chapter.

167-E:9 Certified Public Safety Dog Care.

I. A certified public safety comfort dog shall be confined when traveling above 55 miles per hour. Confinement may be a crate or tether attached to a harness but not to a collar. A remote temperature sensor shall be placed in any vehicle in which the certified public safety comfort dog will be left unattended.

II. No prong or electronic collars shall be used for American Kennel Club testing, and no dog may wear prong or electronic collars while being deployed.

III. The decision to spay or neuter a certified public safety comfort dog shall be determined by the recommendation of the dog's veterinarian.

167-E:10 Certified Public Safety Comfort Dog Retirement. Each emergency response or public safety agency employing a certified public safety comfort dog shall have a policy which outlines the certified public safety comfort dog's safe and humane retirement. If it is determined that a certified public safety comfort dog in training cannot meet the standards set forth in this chapter, such policy shall outline the certified public safety comfort dog's permanent ownership, and/or, options to return to the agency, non-profit, business or breeder the certified public safety comfort dog was obtained from.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2026-1675h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes certification standards for certified public safety comfort dogs, certified public safety comfort dog handlers, and certified public safety comfort dog handling teams.

UNAPPROVED

Lincoln Police Benevolent Association

We are a non-profit formed in 2026 to support the members of the Lincoln Police Department, including our K9 partners. Our team is made up of dispatchers and police officers who give their time and skills to serve the community. LPBA offers help during difficult moments for the staff, provides for advanced training and equipment, and assists the K9 program: ESD K9 Watson

The Comfort K9 Iniative

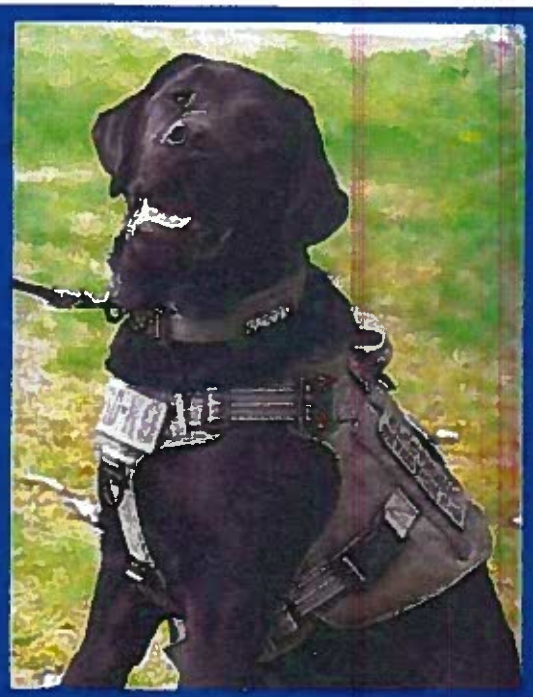
Lincoln Police and the Lin-Wood School District are teaming up to bring a Comfort K9 to the school. This effort is funded entirely by donations, and we're working to raise $15,000 to make it happen.

Paws with a Cause

The Comfort K9 Facility Dog Program

We are working with Paws with a Cause for our Comfort K9.

- **Professionally Trained** Our Comfort K9 is a Facility Dog, specifically bred and socialized to have a calm, steady temperament suitable for high-stress public environments.
- **The Journey to Us** These dogs undergo rigorous training, where they learn advanced skills and socialization before being custom-matched to a handler and facility.
- **Their Purpose** Unlike a standard service dog dedicated to one person, our Comfort K9 is trained to support multiple people. They provide emotional support, reduce testing anxiety, improve reading and writing skill and provide a sense of safety for both our staff, the Lin-Wood School and the community members we serve.



ESD K9 Watson

This is Electronic Storage Detection (ESD) K9 Watson. Watson belongs to Detective Lieutenant Combs. We don't see Watson a lot because he is busy sniffing out electronics. He works with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, so he is all over the state helping his Dad catch bad guys. Due to K9 Watson's unique abilities, he is requested often and therefore maintains a somewhat low profile at Lincoln Police Department

To get in touch and donate

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Lincoln Police Benevolent Association

Who Wants a Comfort Dog?

LW Does!