

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING - 5:30 P.M.

Call to Order: First Selectman Leo Paul, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Selectmen Jonathan Tarrant, Diane Knox and Paul Parsons were in attendance, and Jeffrey Zullo arrived at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: J. Tarrant moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 1, 2015, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Selectmen's Requests: Mr. Paul said he had been to CCM meetings where they are going to try to get the legislature to change the 2.5% cap on municipal expenditures, as 50% of the towns have increased budgets of 2.5% or higher. They have exempted bonding and special education and would like the towns to borrow money to cover operating expenses, which most do not do.

Public Requests/Comments: None

Resignations: None

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) Ruth Erickson for Beautification Commission, term 2/2016: Ms Erickson was unable to attend this meeting.

Approve Bid for 4X4 Pick-Up with Plow for WPCA: Mr. Paul said the funds come from the WPCA but the Selectmen approve the WPCA recommendation per town bidding process. Chairman David R. Wilson introduced Treatment Plant Superintendent Ted Donoghue to the Board. [J. Zullo arrived here at 5:33 p.m.] Ted then explained the four bids received from two vendors and said he is recommending the low bid from Shaker Ford, as it met all specifications. It has been approved by the WPCA.

Motion: J. Tarrant moved to approve the bid award of the 2016 F-250 4X4 super cab pick-up truck with straight plow to Shaker Ford for \$32,078.00. P. Parsons seconded. L. Paul asked about the difference between the straight and V-plows. Ted explained and said they have used a straight plow in the past and are happy with that style. They will be getting rid of the current truck, and Raz Alexe is working on where it might be used elsewhere. J. Zullo asked about the budget and was told it is not the Selectmen's Capital budget; it is the WPCA's capital budget. Mr. Paul explained he wanted to keep the approval procedure since the Town bidding process is involved. Mr. Zullo then asked about our fleet management plan where vehicles are disposed of rather than cycling them down. Mr. Paul said there is a unique circumstance involved here, so this will be discussed later. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 12/2/15 & 12/8/15 Capital Improvements Committee minutes; 11/24/15 Conservation Commission minutes (draft); 10/8/15 Fire & EMS minutes; 12/2/15 Board of Education minutes; 11/18/15 Special Board of Education minutes (draft)

Motion: J. Zullo moved to move New Business Item a) to fall before the Green Team Update. J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

New Business

a) Discussion with Media News Group Re Foothills Trader Delivery: L. Paul briefly explained the complaints from residents since the Foothills Trader publication has been hand-delivered to residential

driveways. A summons was issued but has since been withdrawn in the hope that Digital First Media representative Rick Bolognese and George, of CIPS Marketing Group, the delivery contractor, would discuss the problem with the Board and try to find a solution to everyone's satisfaction. Town Counsel Mike Rybak was also in attendance as well as resident John Morosani. Mr. Paul said there is no law banning them from delivering to the homes rather than through the mail service. Mr. Paul allowed resident John Morosani to participate in the discussion.

In discussion, Mr. Paul first said that security is the main issue with uncollected newspapers alerting burglars that no one is home. Mr. Bolognese introduced George as the contractor for the delivery company. They went to carry-delivery to save the cost of mailing. He said they can receive calls from those who want to opt out and they will be taken off the list. They do not want to litter and said George has procedures in place for the carriers to pick up abandoned papers and add the name to the list. L. Paul then said that system is not working. George said they have quality control inspectors and lists of those who have called once, twice and three times to be taken off. J. Zullo suggested placing them in newspaper tubes to get them off the driveway and suggested that they print a contact phone number on the plastic bag for cancellation purposes. J. Morosani spoke of the security aspect for weekenders. He also said that he continued to receive the paper after leaving messages for Mr. Bolognese. The carriers are also driving down the wrong side of the road to make deliveries. He urged them to train the carriers with safe procedures. Attorney Mike Rybak said they cannot regulate free speech or newspaper distribution, but the secondary effects are the issue. A reflectorized dot on the newspaper tube would help with location of the tube. He urged them to use the tubes or the mailbox "underbox". He is concerned about break-ins first and the littering aspect secondly. They need to have more care of the newspaper. D. Knox said she enjoys the paper but will not stop her car to get out and pick it up from the ground, especially when it's dark. There is a two-page list of public places where people can pick up the paper. Resident Dennie Williams said it is dangerous where he finds them at the intersection of Duck Pond Road and Brush Hill Road, and he concurs with the other concerns. Mr. Paul summarized by asking for pick-up of all non-received papers and adding those addresses to the do-not-deliver list, and asking for the carriers to use the tubes. Paul Parsons added that he has ruined many papers by backing his truck into the driveway and running over them. J. Zullo asked for a summary of procedure changes from Mr. Bolognese. Mr. Morosani said he thought this is a commerce issue rather than a first amendment issue, as there is much advertising and little editorial or news reporting. Mr. Paul said the town will monitor and re-contact Mr. Bolognese if these requested procedures are not working as a compromise. The Board thanked them for their cooperation in implementing these suggestions.

Green Team Update: J. Zullo said they met this date, and he handed out a press release. The audit report should be available in January. He also handed out a flier on Earthlight for energy solutions. They are doing a proposal for audit of electric activity in the town buildings. The 0% financing goes through SBEA, part of the Eversource program. The Green Team will come to the Board with a recommendation in February.

Mr. Paul mentioned the C-PACE program and will come to the board with a proposal in January. It is a program that helps businesses with energy improvements. The State will come and talk to the Tax Collector and Assessor as well. It involves a low-interest loan for green energy improvements and is tied to the tax bill. J. Zullo said that if the Town becomes certified as an entity, it is easy to work with them without Town obligation, as Town cost will be reimbursed.

Town Facilities Committee Update: The Board of Education and the Committee are on board with the draft of the RFQ. They would like an analysis of the old Bantam School for possible downsizing of use by shutting off a certain zone and draining pipes to save energy when the Court vacates. There are three zones, and he will propose zoning out the Court area. There will be a meeting next week.

Vacancies: The list of current appointed vacancies with term expirations is as follows:

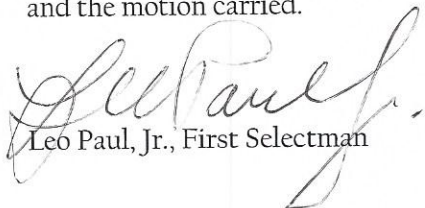
Bantam Lake Authority: 1 member 12/2018
Beautification Commission: 3 regular members: three 2/2016; 2 alternates 2/2016
Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 member 6/2017
Capital Improvements Committee: 1 PW Dir, 2 citizens at large
Conservation Commission: 2 regular members 12/2016, 12/2018; 2 alternate members 12/2015
Economic Development Commission: 2 alternate members 6/2016
Interlocal Advisory Board (Jambs): PW Dir/Eng./Construction, and 2 BLA members
Litchfield Prevention Council: 3 alternate members: one 6/17, two 6/2016
Milton Historic District Commission: 3 alternate members 1/2015, 1/2015, 1/2019
Northwest CT Convention & Visitors Bureau: 1 member 9/2018
Park & Recreation: 1 regular member; 2 alternate members: 6/2017, 6/2018
Recycling Committee: 5 members: two 2/2016, one 2/2017, two 2/2018
Torrington Area Health District: 1 member 12/2018
Town Hall Building Committee: 1 member, 3/2018; one alternate 3/2018
Veteran's Advisory Committee: 2 regular members 8/2016, 8/2015; 2 alternate members 8/2015
Water Pollution Control Authority: 1 alternate member 1/2015
Zoning Board of Appeals: 2 alternate member 3/2015

Tax Refunds: Motion: P. Parsons moved to approve nine tax refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector, for a total of \$691.27. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Old Business: None

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: Motion: J. Torrant moved to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.


Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman