

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017
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. with Selectmen Diane Knox, Jeffrey Zullo and Jonathan Tarrant in attendance. Paul Parsons was absent.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to approve the regular January 17, 2017 meeting minutes with correction on spelling of "Gallow" to "Gollow" under Appointments. J. Zullo seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: Gerald Gault, resident, summarized the results of the recent impartial and non-partisan Litchfield.bz survey regarding the proposal for a new town hall. He passed out a hard copy to all.

Nancy Rogers, resident, said she realized from the survey that she did not have knowledge of the project and asked the Board to give the townspeople more information regarding its town hall report.

Selectmen's Requests: **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to add to Old Business b) "Town Hall Project Review" so the Board could respond to Mr. Gault's comments. J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Mr. Paul noted he and Paul Parsons will meet with the Bantam Borough Board at its meeting tomorrow regarding the future use of the old Bantam School.

He also noted the Greenskies solar project proposal for the WPCA and asked for a verbal nod from the Board for them to move forward to pursue having solar panels on the town-owned property at the WPCA. There will be other considerations by Inland Wetlands and an 8-24 done. The Board was amenable to them moving forward.

Mr. Paul said the budget thus far shows an \$89,000 increase that represents a bare bones operating budget. He asked the Board to respond by the 21st as to who they would like to invite to the meetings. It represents a bare bones operating budget. The Board received a letter from the Bantam Lake Protective Assn. and Mr. Paul asked the Board if they would like the group to come to present at the budget meeting.

He also pointed out the memo from the Tax Assessor regarding the grand list for 10/1/16 that shows a slight increase of \$11,611,362, or 1.12%, in assessed value over last year.

Motion: J. Zullo moved to place New Business a) to immediately follow Selectmen's Requests on the agenda, and J. Tarrant second. All voted aye and the motion carried.

New Business

a) Western Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) Exclusive Service Area (ESA) Decision/Approval: Joanna Wozniak-Brown: Mr. Paul introduced Joanna from the Northwest Hills COG, Susan, President of Torrington Water Co., Steve, also from Torrington Water, Chuck Firlotte, CEO and President of Aquarion and Ken Skov, also from Aquarion. Mr. Paul summarized the map drawn in response to a State initiative mandated by legislation for us to determine exclusive service areas in our communities. The map shows potential areas of connection for Aquarion and Torrington Water Co. in Litchfield. Joanna said she has been attending WUCC meetings. The State has divided the state into three long corridors to establish the WUCCs. This is run through the DPH with the assistance of consultant

Milone & MacBroom. The WUCC is charged with determining the exclusive service areas. Whoever holds the service areas is responsible for operation and maintenance of water supply. This is about a two-year process to determine water supply needs in the region. The town can assign a supplier to the exclusive service areas or leave an area unassigned and open. DEEP has asked that each of its property be designated as an ESA and is working on that now. Susan of the Torrington Water Co. said they have shown areas in East Litchfield and in the Town Farm Road area where they can easily serve Litchfield. Steve further defined the areas. Susan said she would fight for ESA for the red area and Chuck Firlotte of Aquarion said he was in opposition to Susan and Steve and would like to have the ESA for all the areas in Litchfield, other than marginal. Mr. Paul felt Aquarion has served Litchfield well, but did not want to designate all areas to Aquarion. He asked for a decision from the Board to identify which provider it would like for the ESAs or if they would like them to remain unassigned. George Logan, State Senator and former engineer for Aquarion, said most municipalities have designated one provider, as opposed to two or more, to provide continuity in dealing with one source. Without the ESA designation, it brings uncertainty to future development projects and adds complication to issues of water service.

Motion: J. Zullo moved to table this WUCC decision for the full board's review at a future meeting, and J. Torrant seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) Reappoint Denise Raap to Recycling Committee, term 2/2020

b) Reappoint Gerald Geci to Recycling Committee, term 2/2020

Motion: J. Zullo moved to reappoint Denise Raap and Gerald Geci to the Recycling Committee as noted above for terms ending in 2/2020. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

c) Reappoint Elisa Bauer to Social Services Board, term 2/2020: **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to reappoint Elisa Bauer to the Social Services Board for term ending in 2/2020. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

d) Reappoint Michael Dunn to Pension Commission, term 2/2020

e) Reappoint Margaret Perusse to Pension Commission, term 2/2020

Motion: J. Zullo moved to reappoint Michael Dunn and Margaret Perusse to the Pension commission as noted above for terms ending in 2/2020. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion: J. Zullo moved to add under Interviews f) "Interview Thomas Roman for Economic Development Commission, alternate member". J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

f) Interview Thomas Roman for Economic Development Commission, alternate member: Mr. Roman said he has been here since 2004 and retired in 2008 from his own advertising business. He would like to preserve the character of the community while balancing a stable tax base and growth. He attended an EDC meeting and found the members to be serious and knowledgeable. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to appoint Thomas Roman to the Economic Development Commission as an alternate with term expiration to be determined. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 1/12/17 WPCA minutes; 1/11/17 Inland Wetlands Commission minutes; 12/8/16 Fire Commission minutes; 11/22/16 Conservation Commission minutes; 11/30/16, 12/14/16 & 12/20/16 Economic Development Commission minutes; 1/18/17 Board of Education minutes (draft)

Green Team Update: J. Zullo said the meeting was postponed until tomorrow to review where they are. Len Fasano has been designated by the First Selectman to do the portfolio data entry.

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

Bantam Lake Authority: 1 member 12/2016
Beautification Commission: 2 alternates 2/2019
Board of Ethics: 2 alternate members 6/2017, 6/2019
Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 member 6/2017
Capital Improvements Committee: 1 citizen at large
Conservation Commission: 1 regular members 12/2016; 2 alternate members 12/2018
Economic Development Commission: 1 alternate member 6/2017
Inland Wetlands: 1 regular member 2017; 2 alternate members 6/2017
Litchfield Prevention Council: 2 alternate members 6/2017, 6/2019
Milton Historic District Commission: 2 alternate members 1/2018, 1/2018
Northwest CT Convention & Visitors Bureau: 1 member 9/2018
Park & Recreation: 2 alternate members: 6/2017, 6/2018
Pension Commission: 1 alternate member 3/2019
Recycling Committee: 5 members: two 2/2016, one 2/2017, two 2/2018
Social Services Board: 1 member 2/2017
Veteran's Advisory Committee: 2 regular members 8/2016, 8/2018; 2 alternate members 8/2018
Water Pollution Control Authority: 1 alternate member 1/2016
Zoning Board of Appeals: 1 regular member 3/2021; 2 alternate members 3/2020

Tax Refunds: Motion: J. Torrant moved to approve the 10 tax refunds for a total of \$1,090.61, and K. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Transfers: None

Old Business

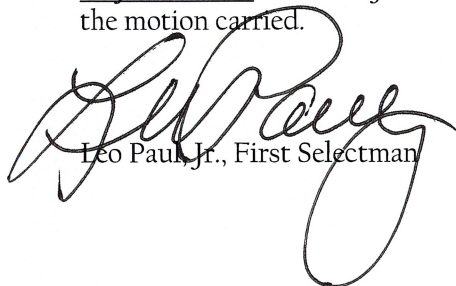
a) Revisit LIS/LHS Sidewalk Project: Public Works Director Raz Alexe explained they have investigated this with the contractor who had pictures that showed #4 rebar was placed in the curb and the wire mesh. He also brought a metal detector that can go through concrete, surveyed the entire job, and found the rebar sagged a bit in the area of question as the metal was right at the edge of the pavement. After research, the contractor determined the solution to be an extension-joining grout. This was the only area of concern. They feel confident that section of the monolithic slab will not be further affected, but they will monitor it. They have a retainage of \$4,682.52 that will not be reimbursed until they are sure none of the other joints will back out. Mr. Paul directed Mr. Alexe to send a letter of explanation on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to Ron Glander, who brought this to their attention.

b) Town Hall Project Review: Mr. Paul said he has met with Dick Sheldon, Bantam Borough Warden, and John Langer, Borough P&Z Chairman, who both feel the old Bantam School property is the best piece of property the town owns. Mr. Paul told them they do not have a municipal use in mind and that there is no value to the property as zoned as two-acre residential. He told them he would like to work with them to hear their views and how they would like to proceed. Paul Parsons will attend the Borough meeting Wednesday evening with him. Mr. Paul then explained in response to Mr. Gault's town hall survey results and Ms Rogers that there have been at least three committees that have review all the options and suggestions posed by the comments in the survey. They have been passed over for the current plan recommended to the Board of Selectmen. As far as getting the information out, there have been minutes from the meetings and articles in the newspaper. We will definitely go out to the public with public informational hearings and a referendum if and when we get to that point. There are options presented in

the Town Hall Report that is posted on litchfield.bz. He said he has had a conversation with the State Property person on the courthouse in Litchfield who does not want to talk about it until they have moved their people out. The Stop & Shop is a privately-owned facility that has a long-term lease with the current Stop & Shop. They will continue to pay the owner. He has not asked about a Town Hall because of this. J. Zullo asked if the Board agreed to decide on the disposition of the old Bantam School first, and Mr. Paul said they had not, as that that would open up many problems. He is hoping the Borough will be open to some ideas that are contrary to their recommendations. The Borough does not want the property, as they would need to hire a third party to maintain it. Mr. Zullo said the straw poll survey indicates clearly what the responders want, and Mr. Paul disagreed. He said there were group emails sent out asking people to respond to the survey, causing it to be flawed. D. Knox said she would like to move forward with this. J. Torrant said he was embarrassed that so many people had to stand at this meeting because of lack of meeting room space which proves we need to do something, whether it's a new town hall or something different.

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: Motion: J. Torrant moved to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman