

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING - 5:30 P.M.

Call to Order: First Selectman Leo Paul, Jr. called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Selectmen present were Jonathan Tarrant, Paul Parsons and Jeffrey Zullo. Diane Knox was absent.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: J. Tarrant moved and P. Parsons seconded a motion to adopt the regular November 1, 2016 meeting minutes. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: William Deering, 110 McBride Road, was curious why the budget transfer of funds (Transfer #4) was not on the Board of Finance's agenda last night. Mr. Paul said he would look into it. Another resident echoed the same concern.

Selectmen's Requests: J. Zullo asked if the Board of Finance member in the audience could answer Mr. Deering's question, but Mr. Paul said he preferred to wait until he could look into it tomorrow. Motion: J. Tarrant moved to delete New Business Items d) and e). P. Parsons seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. Mr. Paul noted the letter from the school Superintendent stating they want to pull out of the Custodian MOU and that it would be addressed later in the agenda. He then said he had been at the CCM Convention the past two days where they addressed many issues. The State wants to reorganize the health districts and charge each community 1.5% of their total budget. CCM will be battling against that and they will also ask the State to remove its decision to put a 2.5% increase spending cap on each community.

Resignations

- a) Jacqueline Tiul from Litchfield Prevention Council, alternate member, effective 11/8/16: received and noted
- b) Abby Conroy from Inland Wetland Commission, effective 11/10/16: received and noted

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

- a) Appoint Jacqueline Tiul to Litchfield Prevention Council, regular member, term 6/2018: Motion: J. Tarrant moved to appoint Jacqueline Tiul to Litchfield Prevention Council as a regular member with a term to end in 6/2018. P. Parsons seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.
- b) Reappoint John L. Cox to Conservation Commission, term 12/2019: Motion: J. Tarrant moved to reappoint John L. Cox to the Conservation Commission for term ending in 12/2019.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 11/2/16 Board of Education minutes; 11/8/16 Bridge Committee minutes; 9/8/16 & 9/22/16 Board of Fire & EMS Commission minutes; 10/4/16 ZBA minutes; 11/9/16 Inland Wetland Commission minutes

Green Team Update: Jeff Zullo reported the Green Team is continuing to develop the municipal action plan. He still needs someone from the municipality's town side to input data in the portfolio manager on the Eversource website. They are preparing data for a presentation in January to update work on their goal of 20% town energy reduction.

Town Facilities Committee Update

- a) Presentation of Town Facilities Report and Findings: Town Facilities Committee Chairman Bill Buckley was present as well as member David T. Wilson and John Martin, Architect. Mr. Buckley explained the Committee's charge and reviewed all the work done since the first Building Committee began in 2006. The current recommendation is to build a new town hall behind the current one, and abate

and demolish the current one once everyone is functioning in the new building. There would then be no need for the Bantam Annex. In the Town Facilities Committee's work, they examined the school and municipal buildings to see if there might be room for municipal offices. The result was there is no room in the school buildings to accommodate the town offices and the old Bantam School building is not feasible. There have been changes to the State Board of Ed standards, which impacted the definition of a classroom. Capacity standards now have decreased the number of students for certain spaces, even though the school size is the same.

John Martin presented a summary of the proposed new town hall plans with a park-like area with a skating rink in the area of the present town hall. He also explained the proposed square footage compared to the existing buildings. He then reviewed the cost of the project with construction estimates detailed. He then showed the cost of necessary upgrades with detail totaling \$2.5 million that would be needed if we do not build a new building. He then showed a chart on the operating costs of the existing town hall and annex after the courthouse vacates compared to the operating cost of the proposed town hall over a 20 year span, which showed a combined town hall much more efficient and almost half the cost over 20 years.

David T. Wilson reviewed the cost of the proposed project, looking at current debt, debt of construction, and capital projections. The school building project is amortizing down as is other debt issued in the past. Using notes and bonds he showed a graph of how the debt would be distributed over 20 years, with biggest impact in the first two years at .5 mill.

Jon Torrant liked the presentation and the plan. Jeff Zullo questioned the high operating figures for existing Annex electric/internet and heating oil/gas. Public Works Director Raz Alexe said the Annex is totally inefficient and oil figures could be correct, but he will check them. Mr. Paul asked the Selectmen to think about this and be ready to talk again about the options: 1) leave everything as is; 2) upgrade both buildings to code; or 3) go to community for new town hall. Paul Parsons thanked the Committee for all the long, hard work. Mr. Paul said this is the project he supports.

Motion: Jeff Zullo moved to terminate the Town Facilities Committee, based on this report, and J. Torrant seconded. Mr. Paul reserved the option to re-energize the Committee for future needs. All voted aye and the motion carried.

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: 2 citizens at large

Conservation Commission: 1 regular members 12/2016; 2 alternate members 12/2018

Economic Development Commission: 2 alt. members 6/2018, 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: 1 regular member; 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 three tax refunds, for a total of \$284.16 as presented by the Tax Collector. P. Parsons seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Transfers: None

Old Business

a) **Award Bid for Municipal Parking Lot Wall Repairs:** Raz Alexe said they were delayed because they needed extra money to proceed with this contract. **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to approve the bid of Deacon Excavation for \$41,640.00. J. Torrant seconded. R. Alexe said they are securing the building permit tomorrow and will be ready to begin this week and should be done by the beginning of December. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried.

b) **11/7/16 Letter from School Superintendent Re 2012 Custodial Function Memorandum of Understanding:** Mr. Paul invited R. Alexe and Facilities Manager Len Fasano to the table to discuss and said there is something very uncomfortable about this situation. He recalled the first meeting with the Board of Ed a couple months ago where they proposed changes to the MOU. He sent them to the labor attorney who thought it was an inappropriate change to the MOU, with changes too specific to dates and times. They agreed to go forward improving communications, with Raz sending an email every week alerting them to the construction issues scheduled for the week. Then a custodian left employment which enflamed the relationship with accusations of mistreating custodians. Another meeting was held with all parties with the Business Manager, David Fiorillo, saying the custodian left after 10 years because of poor management. In reality he worked 3 years part-time and full time 1-1/2 years. The truth is that he took another job that paid \$6/hr. more. To assume the Town is treating the custodians badly without asking any further questions is wrong. It was disappointing the Board of Education was so willing to take a memo from David Fiorillo as gospel without going to the Town first to discuss. Suddenly the schools are dirty, we are not responding, and we are not being truthful. Mr. Paul said we have saved over a quarter million dollars over the last four years and felt we should not consider terminating this MOU right now. Jeff Zullo said that if the Board of Education wants to get out of the MOU, it should be allowed to with 180 days' notice. He felt the Chairman, Superintendent and Business Manager should be invited to a special Selectmen's meeting to discuss, with option to go into executive session. J. Torrant did not like the negative sentiment and feels the schools are cleaner than ever before; but if they want control back, they can take it all. Paul Parsons wondered how much time was given in good faith to resolve. Mr. Alexe said there were only three meetings, after each feeling like they fulfilled the school's requests. All actions and communications were documented in a folder he brought with him. P. Parsons questioned where the feedback was that showed the BOE was not okay with the methods in place. Mr. Paul thought they were okay, too, but there occurred an extraordinary incident where Len and Raz were summoned to sign in and were scolded when they have not done so in the past and knew other employees did not have to. Raz said discussions accelerated around September 19th. L. Paul said this would have to go to Town Meeting for transfer of funds.

New Business

a) **Award Bid for Large Dump Truck:** R. Alexe explained the six-wheel dump truck chassis. **Motion:** J. Torrant moved to award the bid for the six-wheel dump truck chassis to Nutmeg International Trucks Inc. in the amount of \$93,711.69, which also covers extended warranties. P. Parsons seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b) **Adopt Selectmen's 2017 Meeting Schedule:** Mr. Paul asked the Selectmen's pleasure on the meeting scheduled for July 4th. Mr. Zullo also questioned the Election Day meeting being canceled. **Motion:** J. Torrant moved to adopt the 2017 Selectmen's regular meeting schedule and remove Tuesday, July 4th and

move the Nov. 7th meeting to Wednesday, November 8th. P. Parsons seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

c) **Award Sandy Beach Construction Bid (Capital Project):** Sandy Beach Chairman Ed Ryle was present. Mr. Paul explained the funds that have been deposited into the Sandy Beach account, which includes \$41,886.71 from the Town of Morris and \$50,000 from Seherr-Thoss Charitable Trust. The Litchfield portion would be \$41,450 from Acct. 9514-57981-0981 and \$55,598 from Acct. 62-9200-61318. The sole bidder, RJB Contracting Inc., has agreed they will hold their price, \$182,601, until the spring if need be and requested a reduction in retainage to 5%. **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to award the bid for remodeling the Sandy Beach Bathhouse to RJB Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$182,601. J. Torrant seconded and then asked about the extra charges for painting floors. Mr. Ryle said they would consider those options if the project closed out without any unforeseen costs over the bid amount. Then they can do the options and still be under the budgeted amount of \$188,934.71. Upon voting, all voted aye and the motion carried.

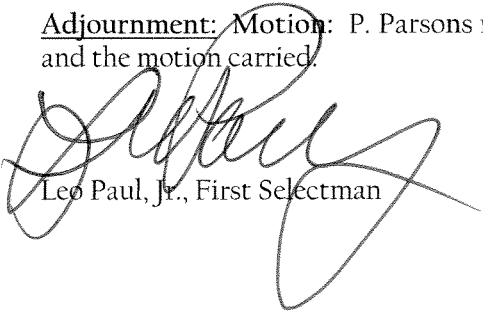
d) Gasboy Software Discussion – Rax Alexe: (deleted)

e) Cartegraph Software Upgrade Discussion – Raz Alexe (deleted)

Correspondence

a) **Letters Re Speeding Concerns on North Street:** Mr. Paul explained the letter from Sean Mathis that contains misleading information. He said we have responded every time he has raised an issue of speeding. Jim Holm has monitored speed, has talked to the DOT and State Police. They will not initiate any traffic management procedures such as speed bumps or rumble strips to slow cars down. Trooper Holm does not recommend an island in the road to act as a bottleneck, and has not found vehicles to be driving with excessive speed. The Town cannot do anything on State highways without the authorization from the DOT. He also said that two recent accidents in the area were not attributed to speeding. He has requested any speed data from that section of Route 63 that the DOT might have.

Adjournment: **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. and J. Torrant seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman