

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING - 5:30 P.M.

Call to Order: First Selectman Leo Paul, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with all Selectmen present: Jonathan Tarrant, Jeffrey Zullo, Paul Parsons and Diane Knox.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion:** D. Knox moved and J. Zullo seconded a motion to adopt the regular September 19, 2017. D. Knox, J. Zullo and L. Paul voted aye and the motion carried. J. Tarrant and P. Parsons abstained because of absence.

Public Requests/Comments: None

Selectmen's Requests: Mr. Paul said the State budget was vetoed by the Governor, and they have held press conferences urging the Legislature to override the veto. No action was taken today. They are planning to meet again on Oct. 10. We did not receive our first ECS payment today, as we have been zeroed out per the Governor's executive order. They will continue to urge that a budget be presented that would protect property taxes from being dramatically impacted, protect Towns from paying into the teachers' pension, and for government reform at the State level. There was also a press conference yesterday urging the Legislature to override the Governor's veto.

Resignations

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) **Interview Teno A. West for WPCA regular member, term 1/2023:** **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to remove Mr. West from consideration at this time, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b) **Interview Nancy MacMillan-Stedronsky for EDC, alternate member, term 6/2020:** Ms MacMillan-Stedronsky said she is new in town and would like to serve. She has a background in real estate with appraisal development and government relations, with economic development always playing a part in her work. She said she would like to see new young families come into town and would like to help with a plan to infuse economic activity into the community. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to appoint Nancy MacMillan-Stedronsky to the Economic Development Commission as an alternate member, with term expiration of 6/2020. J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 9/14/17 WPCA minutes; 8/10/17 Board of Fire & EMS Commission minutes; 7/26/17, 8/23/17 special & 8/30/17 EDC minutes; 8/22/17 Conservation Commission minutes

Green Team Update: J. Zullo reported there may be a presentation in November. Chairman John Post was present at this meeting.

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

Bantam Lake Authority: 1 member 12/2019
Beautification Commission: 1 regular member 2/2020; 2 alternates 2/2019
Board of Ethics: 2 alternate members 6/2019, 6/2020
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 6/2018
Inland Wetlands: 1 regular member 2017; 2 alternate members 6/2017
Litchfield 300th Anniversary Executive Committee: 1 regular member
Litchfield Prevention Council: 3 alternate members- 1-6/2019, 2-6/2020
Milton Historic District Commission: 2 alternate members 1/2018, 1/2018
Northwest CT Convention & Visitors Bureau: 1 member 9/2018
Northwest CT Transit District: 1 member 5/2018
Park & Recreation: 2 alternate members: 6/2017, 6/2018
Pension Commission: 1 alternate member 3/2019
Recycling Committee: 1 regular member 2/2018; two alternates 2/2017, 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 regular member 1/2023; 1 alternate member 1/2021
Zoning Board of Appeals: 1 regular member 3/2021; 2 alternate members 3/2020

Tax Refunds: Motion: J. Torrant moved to approve the 6 tax refunds as submitted by the Tax Collector for a total of \$6,749.22. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Transfers

a) **Transfer #12 - \$6,851.28 from Fund Balance to Board of Education Budget:** Mr. Paul said the Board of Finance has approve this transfer because the Board of Education overspent its budget. Motion: J. Zullo moved to approve FY 16/17 Transfer #12 for \$6,851.28, coming from Fund Balance and to go on to Town Meeting. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business

a) **Presentation by MSL Group, Inc. Re Proposal for Solar Park:** Mr. Paul reminded the Board of its previous discussion on this project. Michael Licamele, President of MSL Group of Milford, explained that the proposal is a 20-megawatt solar park with 80,000 solar panels on a 180-acre property surrounded by a fence. The CT Siting Council has to approve the project before MSL Group can purchase the land from the Rossi family. The site is partially in Torrington off Rossi Road, but mostly in Litchfield on Wilson Road and Town Farm Road. They would like to get approvals in three or four months, start the building in March and be done in November, 2018. MSL Group and Eversource will have an agreement that designates the project as a community solar park. With this designation they can generate electricity at a discounted rate for qualifying residents and senior living communities. They would design the park to meet the Planning and Zoning regulations. P&Z would review the plan and provide input in an advisory capacity.

Motion: J. Zullo moved that the Board of Selectmen endorse and support the Litchfield Solar Park development as proposed by MSL Group, Inc. and will provide assistance in the Town as needed. D. Knox seconded.

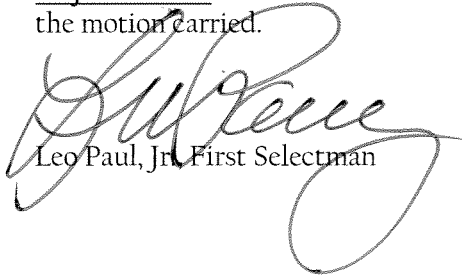
In discussion, Mr. Licamele said very few trees will be taken down for this project. Local contractors would be given an opportunity to provide their services in the construction phase and with maintenance afterward. Per Mr. Paul's request, Mr. Licamele said he could have his attorney contact the Town and Town Attorney sometime this week. Mr. Zullo said he would set up a conference call with Bob Petricone, President of the Litchfield Housing Trust, and Jim Simoncelli of the Housing Authority to discuss the Community Solar opportunities for discounted power for Housing Trust and Housing Authority locations. Voting on the motion, all voted aye and the motion carried.

b) **Public Works Bi-annual Update:** Raz Alexe, Public Works Director, said they have caught up with all the CIP projects prior to 2015/16. Now he is planning to catch up on the rest. Good progress has been done on vehicles, roads and bridges. They are ahead of schedule for 2016/17. He predicts for current year to be on schedule, minimizing the interest rate on projects. He explained a new process called fog coating being tried that is layered over chip sealing. This should extend the life of the road. They are doing paving in-house that is saving money by leasing equipment and using the crews. He discussed grants and assessments, including applying for a Community Connectivity Grant for \$400,000 to construct a parking lot in the area of the Litchfield Community Greenway. He discussed the evaluation of 71 bridges and culverts. There are 39 bridges the State inspects. The other 26 bridges have not been inspected since 1991 when the State stopped inspecting bridges between 6 ft. and 20 ft. The Town has now inspected all 26. Of these there are six that need attention and he will apply in March for grants for all of them. He shared that raising the ceiling from \$10,000 to \$20,000 on sealed bids decreased his work load by 15%. They have purchased software to diagnose International truck repairs, saving money on repairs. GPS has been implemented in 16 vehicles. Raz has applied for a Seherr-Thoss grant for GIS for \$155,000. He then reviewed staffing and concluded with recap of big ticket items. J. Zullo congratulated him on a great job, and the others agreed.

c) **Move and Sign Town Meeting Call for 10/11/17:** Motion: J. Zullo moved to call a special town meeting in the Town of Litchfield to be held October 11, 2017 at the Litchfield Firehouse at 7:00 p.m. for the purposes of the agenda items on the call. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. All Selectmen signed the call.

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: Motion: Paul Parsons moved to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.



Leo Paul, Jr. First Selectman