

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2011
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING ~ 3:30 P.M.**

Call to Order: First Selectman Leo Paul, Jr. called the special meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with all Selectmen present: William Dranginis, Paul Parsons, Diane Knox and R. Christopher Blake.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to approve the regular July 19, 2011 minutes and C. Blake seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: Richard F. Dauphinais suggested the old jail, if purchased by the Greater Litchfield Preservation Trust, be used as a winter shelter for the veterans who have no place to sleep.

Barbara Putnam urged the Board to keep an open mind about the future of the jail, especially the idea of a private/public partnership where private investors can benefit from tax relief if the Town is part owner.

Selectmen's Requests: None

Resignations

- a) Pamela D. Stockamore from Economic Development Commission, effective 7/20/11
- b) Douglass A. Parker from Economic Development Commission, regular member, effective 5/28/11
- c) Alexander Vandenberg from Economic Development Commission, alternate member, effective 7/28/11

The above resignations were noted and accepted. W. Dranginis asked about the significance of all three resignations from the EDC, and Mr. Paul explained that one is a resignation and two are moving between the alternate and regular boards.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

- a) Appoint Douglass A. Parker to Economic Development Commission, alternate member, term 6/2014
- b) Appoint Alexander Vandenberg to Economic Development Commission, regular member, term 6/2014

Motion: W. Dranginis moved to appoint Douglass A. Parker as an alternate and Alexander Vandenberg as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission as above. C. Blake seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 6/16/11 Fire & EMS Commission minutes; 6/6/11 and 6/20/11 Planning & Zoning minutes; 7/14/11 WPCA minutes; 6/29/11 Economic Development Commission minutes

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

Beautification Commission: 2 regular members 2/2012, 2/2014; 1 alternate 2/2013
Board of Ethics: One regular 6/2012; 1 regular 6/2013; 2 regulars 6/2014; 2 alternates 6/2013, 6/2014
Cable Television Advisory Council: One member 6/2013
Economic Development Commission: One alternate member 6/2013
Inland Wetlands Commission: 1 regular member 6/2014; 1 alternate member 6/2012
Milton Historic District Commission: 2 alternate members 1/2012
Park & Recreation: 2 alternate members: 6/2013, 6/2014
Pension Commission: 1 alternate member 3/2013
Recycling Committee: 3 members, 2/2012, 2/2013, 2/2014
Veteran's Advisory Committee: 1 regular member 8/2012; 2 alternate members 8/2012
Water Pollution Control Authority: 1 regular member 1/2013
Zoning Board of Appeals: 2 alternate members 3/2015

Tax Refunds: None

Transfers: None

Old Business

a) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action if Necessary on Jail Offer from Department of Administrative Services: L. Paul explained that per Perley Grimes, the Greater Litchfield Preservation Trust is willing to pay for a Phase I environmental assessment and also a Phase II. Phase I estimated cost is \$1,500 and Phase II is \$2,500. Mr. Paul will try to get access to the building to accomplish this. The price of \$120,000 will remain open to the Town for 45 days after the date of the DAS letter, or until August 22nd. This will allow the Board another meeting to discuss. P. Parsons saw no reason to go forward with this. W. Dranginis expressed desire to remain in the process. L. Paul stressed that we cannot control what happens unless we buy the building. The Preservation Trust has recommended the Town buy the building and it would raise \$3 million to enable the Town to reduce the cost of renovation for its offices. He said it is a nice gesture, but there is no cash on the table, and all agreed it would be a win for all to have a private party buy it and put it back on the tax roles. Mr. Paul says there is a private individual now looking at it. W. Dranginis asked if there would be an opportunity to tour the building, and Mr. Paul said there have been a number of opportunities and he would inform him if another one was scheduled. C. Blake asked about the Preservation Trust's study that was presented to the Board. They were going to continue with the economic analysis part, and Mr. Paul added they were also light on the environmental part. L. Paul will ask Mr. Grimes if there is anymore forthcoming on these areas for the next meeting. The Board is happy to entertain input from the public at that time as well. David Dean, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, said the State has put everyone in a difficult position. They should sell it to the Town for \$1 and then the Town will sell it to the public and split the profits. Attorney Mike Rybak said the State does have limitations on what it can do because they do not want to give any bidder an inside track. They will allow the Town to tour the jail, but they will not allow private parties to go through it, other than on an equal basis. He also cautioned that if the Town steps into the chain of title, it steps into the chain of environmental ownership as well.

New Business

a) Award Center School Window Shades Bid: Motion: C. Blake moved to award the bid for installation of window shades at Center School to low bidder Kilcourse Specialty Products for the 0% Option in the total amount of \$25,500 in accordance with Jack Healy's memo dated 7/29/11. D. Knox seconded the motion. Tony Crowe said the installation will occur in September after school hours. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Award Bid for Intrusion Alarm at LIS and LHS: Motion: C. Blake moved to award the bid for intrusion alarms at LIS and LHS to low bidder Stanley Works in the total amount of \$29,450, in accordance with Jack Healy's memo of 7/29/11. D. Knox seconded the motion. T. Crowe said this will be done after school is back in session but after school hours. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried.

c) Award Bid for LIS Handrails: Motion: W. Dranginis moved to approve the bid for installation of handrails at LIS to sole bidder Sterling Metals in the total amount of \$5,800 in accordance with Jack Healy's memo of 7/27/11. C. Blake seconded the motion. J. Healy said they went out to bid five times and finally got a bid they could accept. There will be a walkway between the parking lot and the school that requires handrails for handicapped accessibility. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried. This will be done before school begins.

d) Draft Letter from BOS to Liam Dwyer: C. Blake explained that Litchfield resident Marine Sgt. Liam Dwyer was wounded by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on May 22nd of this year while on patrol. Mr. Blake's son, Jamie, who is a First Class Midshipman at the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, had the opportunity to go to visit Sgt. Dwyer at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. He is in the surgical ward now after suffering a hit from an IED, with left leg amputated above the knee, shrapnel wounds and serious wounds to the arm. His spirits are high and he is motivated in his recovery and glad to see visitors from home. C. Blake suggested the First Selectman draft a letter of appreciation for delivery by him and his son to Sgt. Dwyer. **Motion:** P. Parsons moved have the First Selectman draft a letter of appreciation for Marine Sgt.

Liam Dwyer for the Board's signature at the next meeting, and W. Dranginis seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Motion: W. Dranginis moved to adjourn at 4:10 p.m. and C. Blake seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman