

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013
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 Paul Parsons also in attendance. J. Tarrant advised he would be late and arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: D. Knox moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/5/13, and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye except absentee P. Parsons and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: Tom Battiste, 73 Richards Road, spoke about the public restrooms at the municipal parking lot. He asked why they are closed in a highly visited tourist area, while other similar towns leave their facilities open year round. He further asked why no one has ever seen an officer checking on parking in the center of town when it was supposed to be his duty. He also said people have never seen an officer outside his car in town. Further, he said there are only 36 Kindergarten students registered this year with declining school enrollment and an aging elderly population in town. We need to attract new and younger people to the area. Do we really need a police department in town? How many calls to our department were not answered and rolled over to Troop L? Do we really need an expanded Town Hall if we had more space downstairs without a police department?

Selectmen's Requests: Motion: J. Zullo motioned to move New Business Item b) to precede Selectmen's Requests. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Municipal Restrooms – Open/Close Jan/Feb/Mar - Yes/No: L. Paul explained that closing the bathrooms was a management team decision made after the first year because of the \$2,000 cost needed to keep them open for three months. This is only the second inquiry made, but he wanted to bring it to the Selectmen's attention for its opinion. J. Zullo asked if the merchants could help with the expense as a public/private partnership. P. Parsons said the cost does not justify the number of inquiries. D. Knox said that because business picks up in March and April, it might be good to open them in March. J. Zullo said perhaps LABA could fund the \$2000/year to keep the restrooms open for the three months. L. Paul will check with LABA in March.

Selectmen's Requests (cont.): Mr. Paul said the budget process has begun and he has had his initial review with the Finance Department. There will be some tough decisions to make. The car tax proposal by the Governor could cause some major problems with a projected loss of \$1.5 million in revenue. The mil is valued at \$1.1 million, so the difference would have to be made up with a tax increase. Hopefully this will not happen, as the State is looking at Town Aid Roads and LoCip money for funds. Town expenses are up 2.5% at this point. They will evaluate both with and without the school maintenance expense for comparison.

Resignations

a) Charles Dyson from Conservation Commission, alternate member: Mr. Dyson has resigned with the intention of being appointed as a regular member.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) Appoint Charles Dyson to Conservation Commission, regular member, term 12/2015: Motion: J. Tarrant moved to appoint Mr. Dyson as above and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Reappoint David T. Wilson to Pension Commission, term 3/2016

c) Reappoint Richard M. Ducci to Zoning Board of Appeals, term 3/2018

Motion: D. Knox moved to appoint David T. Wilson as in b) above and Richard M. Ducci as in c) above. J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 1/30/13 Economic Development Commission minutes (draft); 2/13/13 Inland Wetlands Commission minutes; 2/11/13 Board of Finance minutes; 2/6/13 Board of Education minutes (draft)

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

Beautification Commission: 4 regular members 2/2015, 2/2014, 2/16, 2/16; 2 alternates 2/2016

Capital Improvements Committee: 1 member 11/2013

Conservation Commission: 1 regular member 12/2014; 2 alternate members 12/2015

Economic Development Commission: One regular member 6/2013; 1 alternate 6/2013

Inland Wetlands Commission: 2 alternate members 6/2013

Litchfield Housing Authority: 1 regular member 8/2013

Milton Historic District Commission: 3 alternate members 1/2015, 1/2015, 1/2014

Park & Recreation: 2 alternate members: 6/2013, 6/2014

Recycling Committee: 4 members, 2/2015, two 2/2013, 2/2014

Social Services Board: 1 member, 2/2015

Town Hall Building Committee: 1 member, 3/2015

Veteran's Advisory Committee: 2 regular member 8/2013, 8/2015; 2 alternate members 8/2015

Water Pollution Control Authority: 1 regular member 1/2018; 1 alternate member 1/2015

Tax Refunds: None

Old Business

a) **Town Hall Building Committee Update** – J. Zullo: Mr. Zullo reported the next meeting will be February 20th.

b) **Adopt Capital Improvements Budget for 2013/2014:** Mr. Paul noted the added information has been distributed for the Selectmen's perusal. Mr. Zullo repeated his concern about this 30% increase over last year's capital budget being the largest capital budget he's seen in his experience with the Boards of Finance and Selectmen. David T. Wilson, Capital Committee Chairman came to the table to participate. Mr. Zullo asked about the school's smart board request and how they are to be used. Mr. Wilson said they had valid information for need for smart boards at Center School. Next year's request will be investigated the same way and will be pushed out if there is not a sufficient case for inclusion. D. Wilson said that last year they did not use the \$300,000 fund balance, and adding this year's \$300,000, there could be \$600,000 that could go toward Capital on a pay-as-you-go basis. Therefore they will not be bonding any more than they typically bond. **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to approve the 2013/2014 Capital Improvements Budget as presented, and J. Tarrant seconded. All voted aye, except J. Zullo who voted nay, and the motion carried.

New Business

a) **Award Bid for Capital Item - LFD Engine 4:** **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to award the bid for LFD Engine 4 to Spartan ERV for \$479,269.00 with 50% prepayment option of \$3,020.00. P. Parsons seconded. After discussion it was agreed to go with the 75% prepayment option of \$4,832.00 instead. **Amendment:** J. Zullo moved to amend the motion by including the prepayment option of \$4,832.00 instead of the 50% option. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. **Vote:** In voting on the original motion as amended, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Motion: P. Parsons moved to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. and J. Tarrant seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman