

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015
LITCHFIELD TOWN OFFICE BUILDING – 5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Leo Paul, Jr, called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m. with Selectmen Diane Knox, Paul Parson and Jeffrey Zullo. Jonathan Tarrant was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Motion:** D. Knox moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of the 5/19/15 and L. Paul seconded. D. Knox and L. Paul voted aye, P. Parsons and J. Zullo abstained. Motion carried.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: None

SELECTMEN'S REQUESTS: **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to add to Transfers b) Transfer #8, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** J. Zullo to add Correspondence to the agenda after New Business for a) Letter from Lynn Alexander, and P. Parsons seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. L. Paul explained that the Resident State Trooper program through the State may have a shortfall in the budget of approximately \$28,000 because we funded that line at 70% reimbursement to the State and the State budget indicates an 85% share. A trade off is the overtime costs will drop to a lower level. L. Paul announced the Planning & Zoning appeal on the Stop and Shop decision has been denied. J. Zullo asked for a brief synopsis on the Eversource Transmission Project. J. Zullo asked J. Healy for an update on the School Building Project.

LIAISON REPORTS: 5/6/15 Board of Education minutes (draft); 4/7/15 Litchfield Zoning Board of Appeals minutes

RESIGNATIONS

a) Declined Reappointment: Ann McCarthy from Park and Recreation Commission: received and noted

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:

a) Reappoint Diane Knox to Cable Television Advisory Council, Term 6/2017: Motion: J. Zullo moved to reappoint D. Knox to Cable Television Advisory Council, Term 6/2017, seconded by P. Parsons. Paul, Parsons, J. Zullo voted aye. D. Knox abstained. Motion passed.

b) Reappoint David Dean to Economic Development Commission, Term 6/2018: Motion: J. Zullo moved to reappoint David Dean to Economic Development Commission, Term 6/2018, seconded P. Parsons. All voted aye and the motion carried.

c) Reappoint Renee Betar to Economic Development Commission, Term 6/2018: Motion: J. Zullo moved to reappoint Renee Betar to Economic Development Commission, Term 6/2018, seconded by P. Parsons. All voted aye and the motion carried.

d) Reappoint Margaret Perusse to Board of Ethics, Term 6/2018: Motion: J. Zullo moved to reappoint Margaret Perusse to the Board of Ethics, Term 6/2018, seconded by P. Parsons. All voted aye and the motion carried.

e) Reappoint Dr. Frank Schildgen to Inland Wetlands Commission, Term 6/2018

f) Reappoint Barbara Brower to Inland Wetlands Commission, Term 6/2018

Motion: J. Zullo moved to reappoint Dr. Frank Schildgen and Barbara Brower to the Inland Wetlands Commission, Terms 6/2018, seconded by P. Parsons. All voted aye and the motion carried.

g) Reappoint Kelly Garden to Litchfield Prevention Council, Term 6/2018

h) Reappoint Nicholas Fitzgerald to Litchfield Prevention Council, Term 6/2018

i) Reappoint Robert Berson to Litchfield Prevention Council, Term 6/2018

Motion: J. Zullo moved to reappoint Kelly Garden, Nicholas Fitzgerald and Robert Berson to the Litchfield Prevention Council, terms 6/2018. P. Parsons seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

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

Beautification Commission: 6 regular members: three 2/2016, one 2/2017, two 2/2018; 2 alternates 2/2016

Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 member 6/2017

Conservation Commission: 2 alternate members 12/2015

Economic Development Commission: 2 alternate members 6/2016

Litchfield Prevention Council: 3 alternate members: one 6/17, two 6/2016

Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regular member 1/2020; 3 alternate members 1/2015, 1/2015, 1/2019

Park & Recreation: 1 regular member; 2 alternate members: 6/2017, 6/2018

Recycling Committee: 5 members: two 2/2016, one 2/2017, two 2/2018

Town Hall Building Committee: 1 member, 3/2018; one alternate 3/2018

Veteran's Advisory Committee: 2 regular members 8/2016, 8/2015; 2 alternate members 8/2015

Water Pollution Control Authority: 1 alternate member 1/2015

Zoning Board of Appeals: 2 alternate member 3/2015

TAX REFUNDS: **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to approved tax refunds from Nancy Southard in the amount of \$71.35, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

TRANSFERS

a) Transfer #7 - \$19,000 from Contingency to Professional Services Legal 1801-52105: L. Paul explained the transfer is necessary to account for legal shortfalls. This leaves \$7,524 in the account. **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to approve Transfer #7 for \$19,000, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Transfer #8 - \$165,000 from Capital Non-Recurring to Oil Tank Fund: L. Paul explained that after this transfer there would be a remainder of \$277,204 in Capital Non-Recurring. Town Meeting approval is needed for this transfer. **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to approve Transfer #8 for \$165,000, and D. Knox seconded. J. Zullo asked why they were 30% over budget. J. Healy explained the bids and funding put into Capital that they thought was sufficient. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Approve MIRA Contract – (Tabled from 5/19/15): Mr. Paul said they were considering not going to MIRA for this long-term contract, but their recycling guarantees us \$10/ton for the first year, and we are not subject to market prices as per others. We currently receive \$22.50 per ton in our current USA contract; but because of current market conditions, those payments are no longer available. The current is a variable rate and could be \$10/ton one day and 0 the next day. Therefore, the \$10/ton from MIRA was attractive. Further Town saving will be realized by not having to fund construction at the Recycling Center to convert it to a transfer station. That funding has been removed from the recent proposed capital budget. Guests were Don Stein, Barkhamsted First Selectman, and Tom Kirk from MIRA.

Motion: D. Knox moved to approve the MIRA contract and move it to town meeting, and P. Parsons seconded. J. Zullo asked for an analysis on the amount of recycling vs. trash. Budget impact with this contact would be neutral. Upon voting, all voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Response Letter from Goshen First Selectman, R. Valentine – Region 6 Merger with Litchfield: After reviewing Mr. Valentine's letter of May 20, 2015. J. Zullo asked about the \$7 million cost savings list that Mr. Valentine said was devised by Region 6 Board of Education Superintendent Edward Drapp and former Litchfield Superintendent Deborah Wheeler. He said the list was provided at a Nov. 4, 2014 meeting attended by Region BOE Chairman Christopher Sanders, Region 6 Superintendent Edward Drapp, Litchfield BOE Chairman Frank Simone and Litchfield's Interim School superintendent, Herbert Pandiscio.

Mr. Valentine said that Region 6's Task Force presented its findings to its Board of Education, who then conducted well-attended informational meetings in each of the three towns. A survey was then taken of the residents to determine how they would vote on a referendum question about approving a regional planning committee to explore an official merger. He reported 64% of the respondents answered no, so the Region 6 BOE decided to work towards efforts other than regionalization.

The Litchfield Selectmen as well as the Board of Education are in favor of a study to regionalize both districts, 7th – 12th grades and would like to hold a referendum in each of the four towns to determine support for a merger study. The Selectmen were interested in seeing the list of cost saving measures, and L. Paul said he would ask Litchfield Superintendent Lynn McMullin if she has a copy. BOE Chairman Frank Simone was present and said he did not recall seeing a \$7 million list at the Nov. 4th meeting.

Motion: J. Zullo moved to have Mr. Paul ask Mr. Valentine for a copy of the list. D. Knox seconded and the Selectmen passed the motion unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Approve 2015 Grant Award to Connect to the Nutmeg Network: Mr. Paul explained that the grant award is available from the Office of Policy and Management in the amount of \$27,200 for the 2015 Grant to Connect to the Nutmeg Network, under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program. This money will provide assistance for the build-out costs and purchase of equipment and services necessary to connect the Town Office Building to the Nutmeg Network. He will need the Board's authorization to sign the award. It will then have to go to Town Meeting. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to approve the Notice of Grant Award, Grant No. Nutmeg Network-15-15, and to move it to Town Meeting. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Approve Litchfield County Dispatch, Inc., 2015/16 Agreement for Service: L. Paul said this contract will be valid from 7/1/15 through 6/30/16 and will cost \$85,746.57, payable in semi-annual installments. It is based on a \$10.29 per capita per annum charge. **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the LCD 2015/16 Agreement, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

c) Award Bid for Snow Removal – Center School: Motion: P. Parsons moved to award the snow removal bid for Center School to low bidder Village Grounds Maintenance. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

d) Award Bid for Removal of Underground Fuel Storage Tanks at the Town Annex, Dept. of Public Works, Intermediate School and Center School: Motion: D. Knox moved to award the bid for removal of underground storage tanks to Rivco Construction, contingent upon the approval at town meeting of Budget Transfer #8, and P. Parsons seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

e) Request to Use Town Hall Parking Lot by Jr. Women's Club for "Gallery On The Green"
6/13/15: The Board deemed it unnecessary to vote to approve the use of a public parking area.

f) Request to Reduce the Number of Members on the Recycling Advisory Committee: L. Paul said the committee has too many member slots and cannot manage a quorum for its meetings. They are asking to reduce the membership to five regular and two alternate members. Town Counsel said that since this advisory committee was created by the Selectmen, it does not need to go to town meeting. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to reduce the membership of the Recycling Advisory Committee from 11 to seven, made up of five regular and two alternate members. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

g) Request for Town Road Name Change - Tallmadge Avenue to Tallmadge Lane: Mr. Paul explained that Tallmadge Lane that we are all familiar with has actually always been named Tallmadge Avenue. Through the years there have been problems with people getting their mail, and other confusion. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to change the name of Tallmadge Avenue to Tallmadge Lane pending confirmation at Town Meeting. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Letter from Lynn Alexander: L. Paul explained that Ms Alexander expressed support for Mr. Barton's rehabilitation project at the jail.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: P. Parsons moved to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman