

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012
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. Also present were Selectmen R. Christopher Blake, Paul Parsons and Jeffrey Zullo. Diane Knox arrived at 5:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion:** C. Blake moved to approve the regular May 15, 2012 minutes and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: None

Selectmen's Requests: **Motion:** C. Blake moved to add to Correspondence a) a letter he will present at that time. J. Zullo seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Resignations: Lois V. Pike from Board of Ethics effective 5/14/12: Received and noted.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments: None

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 4/25/12 EDC minutes (draft); 3/6/12 & 4/3/12 ZBA minutes; 5/23/12 Conservation Commission minutes (draft); 5/9/12 Inland Wetlands Commission minutes; 5/14/12 Board of Finance minutes; 4/16/12 P&Z minutes; 4/19/12 Sandy Beach Commission minutes; 5/2/12 Board of Education minutes (draft)

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
Bridge Committee: 1 member, P&Z Liaison
Economic Development Commission: One regular member 6/2013; 1 alternate 6/2013
Ethics: 1 regular member 6/2014
Inland Wetlands Commission: 1 regular member 6/2014; 1 alternate member 6/2012
Milton Historic District Commission: 2 alternate members 1/2012
Park & Recreation: 1 regular member 6/2014; 2 alternate members: 6/2013, 6/2014
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; 1 alternate member 1/2015

Transfers

a) **Transfer #2 - \$5,000 from Capital Non-recurring to E. Litchfield Fire Bldg. 6-9516-57123-821 for Engineering Expense:** **Motion:** C. Blake moved to approve Transfer #2 and P. Parsons seconded. In discussion, Mr. Paul recounted that the East Litchfield Fire Co. had been planning this project since last October but had no cost estimates for installing drainage around the firehouse building to present to the Capital Committee. They were to go back to get engineering and total cost estimates to present to the Capital Committee in October. [D. Knox arrived here at 5:34 p.m.] Since then they have paid \$5,000 to have the engineering work done and are now asking for reimbursement. Mr. Paul suggested transferring the \$5,000 out of Capital Non-recurring because it is a capital project. The Board had questions about the attached invoices and decided to wait for complete paperwork before giving approval. Mr. Blake then withdrew his motion, and Mr. Parsons his second. This item will be revisited at the next meeting.

Old Business

a) **Town Hall Building Committee Update – J. Zullo:** Mr. Zullo said there will be a meeting June 6th. There has been progress on the needs assessment. J. Martin has gone back to cut about 2,000 sq. ft. from the plan.

b) **Jail Property – State Offer:** Mr. Paul referred to the letter from the State Treasurer's office offering the property to the Town for zero cost. He said that office had previously followed incorrect procedure according to the statute (Section 18-31b) that if there is a community jail that becomes surplus property, the State Treasurer may offer that property to the Town at no cost. It had previously been offered to the Town by the Department of Administrative Services for a cost of \$120,000. This new offer, if accepted, puts

the Town in the line of title and in the “property flipping” business if it chooses to re-sell it. It would need to then request about \$35,000 - \$40,000 from the Board of Finance to cover maintenance cost and the cost of advertising and selling the building. The State would then get back 50% of the selling price. J. Zullo questioned why the State bid this out twice without offering it to the Town at zero cost first. Attorney Mike Rybak further explained the history of the offering of the property according to another statute (Section 4b-21c and 3-14b) that should have been considered in tandem with the statute above. L. Paul then said because the State realized the oversight in not offering the property to the Town gratuitously, it halted the sale it was working on and sent this letter to the Town. If the Town says no, the Treasurer’s office will put the property out to auction. Mr. Rybak said that if the Town were to take this property, it would be a negative considering the expenses and liability.

Motion: C. Blake moved to respectfully decline the offer set forth in the 5/11/12 letter from the State Treasurer. J. Zullo seconded the motion. Upon voting, all voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Paul will draft a reply letter to be reviewed first by Attorney Rybak.

c) CRRA/USA Hauling Contract: L. Paul said at last discussion they were looking at signing a Tier 2 contract with CRRA for three years for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). They discussed the spread sheet comparison of options with Jack Healy. L. Paul said this Tier 2 option is \$17,000 more costly over the three years, but it gives an option to earn more of a payback with increased recycling, but also could reduce tonnage for MSW. It affords us more ways to manage our trash without being at CRRA’s mercy should they decide to increase tipping fees. The intent in choosing Tier 2 is to get a firm price without putting the burden on the taxpayers’ backs.

C. Blake said he would like to try the Tier 2. Fourteen towns have opted out of CRRA entirely and Manchester has gone with Tier 2. For the short term of three years it is worth the effort. Any town that can extricate itself from CRRA in any part would be pleased to do so. J. Zullo said Tier 2 gives the maximum flexibility while staying under the umbrella of CRRA.

Motion: C. Blake moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the “Tier 2 Municipal Solid Waste Management Services Agreement for the Provision of Acceptable Solid Waste Services” between CRRA and the Town of Litchfield for a three-year agreement. J. Zullo seconded the motion. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: C. Blake moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the contract titled “Town of Litchfield Disposal of Recyclables and Recyclable Hauling Services Agreement” between the Town of Litchfield and USA Hauling & Recycling Inc. and to authorize the spending of additional funding up to \$25,000 for Recycling Center modifications to accept the recyclables from USA. J. Zullo seconded. J. Healy estimated \$25,000 is needed to construct a retaining wall and an asphalt driveway. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

a) Approve \$5,000 Capital Engineering Expense for E. Litchfield Fire Co: This item has been moved to the next meeting.

b) Award Bid for Carpet Replacement at Bantam Courthouse: **Motion:** C. Blake moved to award the bid for carpet replacement at the Bantam Courthouse in the amount of \$43,995 to 3B Flooring in Torrington in accordance with the Public Works Director’s memo of 5/16/12. D. Knox seconded. P. Parsons asked why we are investing in carpet that will not be needed once the court moves out. J. Healy said the carpet is so worn it is a tripping hazard. He intends to spend only \$15,000 - \$20,000 immediately, replacing carpet in rooms that are in the worst condition. **Amendment:** C. Blake moved to amend the original motion to spend \$20,000 for carpet replacement in critically important areas, and D. Knox seconded. Voting on the amended motion, all voted aye and the motion carried.

c) Award Crack Sealing Bid Extension: **Motion:** C. Blake moved to award the crack sealing bid extension to Sealcoating, Inc. as outlined in the Public Works Director’s memo dated 5/25/12. D. Knox seconded. J. Healy explained this is the last year of the extension – next year they will go out to bid. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

d) **Award Tree Work Bids: Motion:** C. Blake moved to accept all four bidders in accordance with the Public Works Director's memo of 5/17/12 regarding tree work. D. Knox seconded. J. Healy said the majority of the work is being done by Harwinton Tree and Higgins Tree, but there are also competitive quotes from the other contractors. It helps in big storms and with FEMA. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

e) **Award Excavation Bids: Motion:** C. Blake moved to award the excavation bid to all vendors listed in accordance with the Director of Public Works' memo dated 5/25/12. D. Knox seconded. Mr. Healy explained he wanted hourly rates so they could use contractors if needed on small jobs under \$3,000. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried.

f) **Award Electrical, Plumbing, Painting and Carpentry Bids: Motion:** C. Blake moved to recommend all vendors be awarded the jobs in accordance with the Director of Public Works' memo of 5/25/12 concerning electrical, plumbing, painting and carpentry. D. Knox seconded. J. Healy said these contractors can be used for small jobs when the crews are tied up. C. Blake then withdrew his motion, as some of the contractors are his clients. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to approve the electrical, plumbing, painting and carpentry quotes as outlined by Jack Healy's memo of 5/25/12. D. Knox seconded. All voted aye except C. Blake, who abstained, and the motion carried.

Correspondence

a) **Letter to Board of Selectmen from Chris Blake:** Mr. Blake passed out his letter to all Board members and explained that it is his official letter of resignation from the Board of Selectmen effective June 30, 2012. He will be based out of state and will be unable to fulfill his duties here. He expressed his enjoyment in working with the Board members and serving the town. He will have one more meeting with the Board. P. Parsons said he is sorry to hear this. L. Paul said he is happy for Mr. Blake but the community and the Board will sorely miss his contributions to the town and the Board, and he will miss him and his wife. J. Zullo commended Chris for his service to the town and said he has been a pleasure to work with and wished him well in his future endeavors. D. Knox echoed all sentiments. Mr. Blake explained he will be taking on a ministry that serves the US Military Officer Corps as Director of Field Operations. He will be doing quite a bit of traveling and will be living in Evergreen, Colorado. He commended the Board for its attention to detail, collegiality and cooperation in working toward solutions.

Motion: C. Blake moved to adjourn at 6:41 p.m. and P. Parsons seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman