

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015
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 all Selectmen present: Jonathan Tarrant, Diane Knox, Paul Parsons and Jeffrey Zullo.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to adopt the regular meeting minutes of March 3, 2015 and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: None

Selectmen's Requests: **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to add to New Business c) "Adopt Resolution of Endorsement of the Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Corporation for the Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Application." J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. Mr. Paul then reminded the Board of the Board of Finance meeting on 3/23/15 when the discussion of the operating budget, and hopefully the capital budget, will be held. He then said he was testifying in Hartford last week against the Resident Trooper proposal to charge towns 100% of the Trooper's salary rather than the current 70%.

Resignations

a) Nicholas Fitzgerald from Litchfield Prevention Council, alternate member, effective 3/10/15: received and noted

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) Interview John L. Cox for Conservation Commission, regular member, term 12/2016: Mr. Cox said he was a resident in Litchfield from 1979 – 1992, went to Hong Kong for 22 years, and came back in November. He had previously been on the Board of Education for nine years and was Chairman of the Center School Building Committee. He would like to be re-involved in the town. In Hong Kong he worked for George Ching and later became a Guidance Counselor working with children at international schools. He is interested in sustainable development in a responsible manner. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to appoint John L. Cox to the Conservation Commission for term ending in 12/2016, and J. Tarrant seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Interview Thomas Elliott for Recycling Committee, term 2/2018: Tom Elliott said he has lived in Bantam for 30 years and currently works at the Recycling Center. He thinks he can help the recycling program by being on the Committee. J. Zullo said that some residents have remarked that their recycling bins fill up faster than they are collected, and asked him to look into that. **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to appoint Thomas Elliott to the Recycling Committee for a term ending in 2/2018, and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

c) Appoint Nicholas Fitzgerald to Litchfield Prevention Council, regular member, term 6/2015: **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to appoint Nicholas Fitzgerald to Litchfield Prevention Council as a regular member with term ending in 6/2015. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

d) Reappoint Lynne Brickley to Town Hall Building Committee, term 3/2018

e) Reappoint John Langer to Town Hall Building Committee, term 3/2018

f) Reappoint Lisa A. Losee to Town Hall Building Committee, term 3/2018

g) Reappoint Peter Ebersol to Town Hall Building Committee, term 3/2018

Motion: J. Torrant moved to reappoint d) through g) above to the Town Hall Building Committee with terms to end in 3/2018. J. Zullo seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

- h) Reappoint Francine Spencer to Fire & EMS Commission, LVA Rep., term 4/2016
- i) Reappoint Teresa Berry to Fire & EMS Commission, Northfield Rep., term 4/2016
- j) Reappoint Douglas Hatstat to Fire & EMS Commission, East Litchfield Rep., term 4/2016
- k) Reappoint John Campbell to Fire & EMS Commission, Bantam Rep., term 4/2016

Motion: P. Parsons moved to reappoint h) through k) above to the Fire & EMS Commission with terms to expire in 4/2016. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

l) Appoint Gary Shuhi, Jr. to Fire & EMS Commission, Litchfield Rep., term 4/2016: Motion: P. Parsons moved to appoint Gary Shuhi, Jr. to the Fire & EMS Commission as the Litchfield Fire Co. representative, with term ending in 4/2016. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

m) (Re)Appoint Board of Selectman Liaison to Fire & EMS Commission, term 4/2016: Motion: J. Torrant moved to nominate Paul Parsons as the Board of Selectmen's representative to the Fire & EMS Commission until 4/2016, and D. Knox seconded. P. Parsons accepted the nomination. J. Torrant moved to close nominations and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. Upon voting on Paul Parsons for BOS representative to the Fire & EMS Commission, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 3/9/15 Board of Finance minutes; 2/19/15 WPCA minutes; 1/8/15 & 2/6/15 Fire & EMS Commission minutes; 2/19/15 Sandy Beach Commission minutes; 2/18/15 Board of Education minutes (draft); 3/11/15 Inland Wetlands minutes

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
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: 2 alternate members: 6/2017, 6/2018
Recycling Committee: 6 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: P. Parsons moved to approve the 16 tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector, for a total of \$2,350.01. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Old Business

a) Approve Capital Improvement Committee's 2015/16 Recommended Budget: D. Knox said that in reviewing the plan she thought a history of the Capital Committee's work could be a valuable summary for the Selectmen. Mr. Paul pointed out the last page that shows projects that were eliminated with values. J. Zullo restated his position that the plan is too high with a 30% increase, but he did not know where to cut. He said again he is reluctant to approve it. He has spoken to people and says the public is concerned. We are adding to our debt levels and need to space expenditures out to slow the impact or make deductions another way. J. Torrant questioned the LHS signage request as non-critical (\$25,000). L. Paul then described the entire capital request process.

Motion: J. Zullo moved to approve a Capital spending plan of \$3 million for 2015/16, and D. Knox seconded. The group discussed the plan. P. Parsons said some years there will be a spike. The big money is in Public Works projects that are all high-priority bridges and roads that should be repaired this year. J. Tarrant said the Public Works projects are needs, not wants, and we cannot let the roads deteriorate. J. Zullo said he is not weighing the burden on the taxpayers. L. Paul said everyone on the Board is extremely concerned about the taxpayers. Even during the school building project, they kept the operating budget to a .9, .9 and .6% increase respectively. He warned that a major increase would come if the budget was not increased incrementally and says now is the time to pay for things that have been previously let go. It was suggested to push out to 2016/17 the Townwide Airpack Replacement (\$100,000), but Mr. Paul said that would leave a mandatory \$401,600 for next year. D. Knox clarified that to get the budget to \$3 million, it would require a \$380,000 reduction.

Vote: Upon calling for a vote on the motion, J. Zullo voted aye and P. Parsons, J. Tarrant, D. Knox and L. Paul voted nay; motion failed.

Motion: P. Parsons moved to approve a Capital budget of \$3,280,054 that includes pushing out the \$100,000 to 2016/17 for the Townwide Airpack Replacement. D. Knox seconded for discussion. She asked Mr. Parsons, as a Fire Commissioner, if this is an appropriate reduction, and he said it doesn't matter if it is pushed out one more year, but the equipment must be bought next year. Putting it in this year's plan would simply smooth out the expenditure. It is possible the cost could go up slightly next year, but Mr. Campbell thought it would not vary too much since it was from the State bid. Then followed more discussion on the school signage, but it was not included in the cuts. J. Zullo said we should prepare ourselves when the taxpayers take issue with this budget.

Vote: Upon voting on the motion, J. Tarrant, D. Knox and P. Parsons voted aye and J. Zullo and L. Paul voted nay. Mr. Paul announced the motion carried.

New Business

a) **Adopt Fair Housing Resolution:** **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to dispense with the reading of the entire resolution, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution as presented and D. Knox seconded. Upon voting, all voted aye except for one abstention by J. Zullo. L. Paul announced the motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-

related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of Litchfield is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, That the Town of Litchfield hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of Litchfield or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Litchfield and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

b) Adopt Resolution for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program: Motion: J. Torrant moved to dispense with the reading of the entire resolution, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** J. Torrant moved to adopt the Small Cities resolution as presented and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93 – 3 83, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHERAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Litchfield make application to the State for \$800,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Litchfield in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, to carry out approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Litchfield.

c) **Adopt Resolution of Endorsement of the Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Corporation for the Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Application:** Mr. Paul read the entire resolution. **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to adopt the Resolution of Endorsement and D. Knox seconded. Doug Parker was present from the NWCTEDC to explain the grant application. He passed out the entire application to support the local CEDS plan that has been developed. This one is linked to workforce development in schools and education in a regional request. They need resolutions from all towns included in the area. The funding source is OPM, \$100,000 over two years. **Vote:** Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

Resolution of Endorsement

RESOLVED: To endorse the Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal submitted by the Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Corporation (NWCTEDC) entitled **Northwest Connecticut Career & Workforce Training Services Coalition**. The coalition would be tasked with matching employer needs with available resources to meet those needs and increasing student and worker awareness of employment, training and higher education opportunities in Northwest Connecticut.

Correspondence

a) **3/5/15 Email from Joe Privitera Re Budget Displeasure:** J. Tarrant took issue with one comment from Mr. Privitera.

Adjournment: **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman