

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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. Present were Selectmen Paul Parsons, Diane Knox and Jeffrey Zullo. Selectman Jonathan Torrant was away on business.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion:** D. Knox moved to approve the regular 9/4/12 meeting minutes and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: None

Selectmen's Requests: **Motion:** At Mr. Paul's request P. Parsons moved that the letter from Finance Director Karl Fisher be added to correspondence. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** At Mr. Paul's request P. Parsons moved to add under New Business a) Draft Letter to Litchfield Borough re Yellow Ribbons. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Paul then said they will be interviewing for a Facilities Manager next week. The salary range will be the same as for the current position.

Resignations

a) Michael Brunetto from Veterans Advisory Committee, effective 8-7-12: Received and noted.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) Appoint David A. Luzi to Board of Ethics, alternate member, term expiration 6/2013: **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to appoint David A. Luzi as above to the Board of Ethics, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 9/10/12 Board of Finance minutes; 8/2/12 Design Review Advisory Committee minutes; 8/29/12 Economic Development Commission minutes (draft); 9/5/12 BOE minutes

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

Beautification Commission: 2 regular members 2/2015, 2/2014; 1 alternate 2/2013
Economic Development Commission: One regular member 6/2013; 1 alternate 6/2013
Inland Wetlands Commission: 1 regular member 6/2014; 1 alternate member 6/2013
Milton Historic District Commission: 2 alternate members 1/2015
Park & Recreation: 1 regular member 6/2014; 2 alternate members: 6/2013, 6/2014
Recycling Committee: 4 members, 2/2015, two 2/2013, 2/2014
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 1/2013; 1 alternate member 1/2015

Tax Refunds: **Motion:** P. Parsons moved to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$4,555.85 and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye except Mr. Zullo, who abstained as he was a recipient of a refund, and the motion carried.

Transfers

a) Transfer #2 - \$20,846 Assessor 2013 Revaluation, from 60-9516-57630 CAMA Software to 27-1301-42007-007 Revaluation

Motion: J. Zullo moved to approve Transfer #2 in the amount of \$20,846, Assessor 2013 Revaluation, and forward it to Town Meeting for approval. D. Knox seconded. In discussion Finance Director Karl Fisher explained that there were funds left over in the conversion from Walsh to Quality Data, and the Assessor has suggested using them for the revaluation this year. The Board of Finance has already approved this transfer. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

a) **Town Hall Building Committee Update – J. Zullo:** Mr. Zullo said there is a second estimate being prepared by Committee member Bill Deacon. There was also talk about revising the Committee's scope to do some additional analysis on this building, which will be discussed at the next meeting. There was also a suggestion to get one additional cost estimate.

New Business

a) **Draft Letter to Litchfield Borough Re Yellow Ribbons:** Mr. Paul recounted the history of the yellow ribbons on the green in 2009-2010 and said it became a national embarrassment to the Town with him receiving nasty calls nationwide. He had to explain this had nothing to do with patriotism or with the Town, but was rather a Litchfield Borough difference of opinion on how to honor the service men and women. Now, again, he is getting calls and emails asking to request that the Borough reconsider its decision to take down four yellow ribbons. He has tried to contact Mr. Losee, but has not received any return phone calls, so he thought a letter would be in order.

In discussion, D. Knox said she was fully in favor of sending a letter to the Borough. She has heard a lot of anger from residents, and she feels that something is wrong for them to make this decision. J. Zullo suggested putting yellow ribbons on the Town Hall trees. He also asked if the Borough has the authority over the Green, even though the Town owns the property, and Mr. Paul said they do. L. Paul said there is, however, an Interlocal Advisory Board composed of Town and Borough members that rules on parking issues. For example, before we could make the change from a Parking Enforcement Officer to a full police officer, we had to go to the Borough for its agreement because the Parking Enforcement Officer supported Borough parking. Mr. Zullo stated the Town must respect the Borough's responsibilities and they should respect the Town's. The Green area is the image of the Town statewide and nationally, and they seem to be making one-sided decisions without input from other elected officials. Mr. Paul said he found it more troubling when they make these decisions and then are not available to comment or respond to the public or the media. D. Knox added there do not seem to be any checks and balances. J. Zullo asked for common sense to come into play by having a dialogue before taking this type of action instead of blind-siding in the dead of night.

Motion: P. Parsons felt the Board of Selectmen should go on the record as disagreeing with the Borough decision in a letter to the Borough asking them to reconsider their decision to take down four yellow ribbons from trees on the Green. J. Zullo seconded the motion. The Selectmen reviewed the draft and made a couple changes to be reflected in the final draft to be mailed tomorrow. **Vote:** Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

a) **Letter from Finance Director Karl Fisher:** Mr. Paul said it is unfortunate that the Town is losing a very good employee, Karl Fisher. Mr. Fisher was present and said he has been offered and has accepted a financial position with the Hartford Public Library. It was a tough decision, but both his wife and he felt it was the best decision personally and professionally. He said it was a tough decision because this is such a great place to work with a great support staff in Stacey Dionne and Lisa Beyer, and also in working with Leo, David T. Wilson and the Boards of Finance and Selectmen. He said it has been an honor to work with everyone in the Town Hall. Mr. Paul

added that Mr. Fisher has done a phenomenal job, has worked very hard, and it has been a pleasure to work with him on the bond refinancing and the budgets. He also liked the way he worked with the Board of Finance, always with clear and concise answers. He very rarely had to get back with answers he did not have ready and will be difficult to replace, doing an outstanding job in a short time. J. Zullo expressed disappointment for the Town to lose someone like him, but congratulated him on his decision and complimented him on being one of the most competent, capable and committed employees in the position of Director of Finance in a long time, guiding, advising and adding critical inner strength to the Board's decisions, always in a pleasant and professional manner. The other selectmen echoed his sentiments.

Motion: D. Knox moved to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. and P. Parsons seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman