

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011  
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, Diane Knox, William Dranginis and Paul Parsons.

**Approval of Minutes:** **Motion:** C. Blake moved to approve the regular March 15, 2011 meeting minutes, and D. Knox seconded. C. Blake, D. Knox and L. Paul voted aye and W. Dranginis and P. Parsons abstained due to absence at the meeting. L. Paul declared the motion carried.

**Public Requests/Comments:** None

**Selectmen's Requests:** **Motion:** Upon Mr. Paul's request Mr. Dranginis moved to add under Liaison Reports "Board of Finance Minutes of 2/14/11, 2/22/11 special, and 3/14/11". C. Blake seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to add after Selectmen's Request "Adopt Resolution for Conveyance of Parcel A to Bantam Fire Company, Inc." C. Blake seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**Adopt Resolution for Conveyance of Parcel A to Bantam Fire Company, Inc:** **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved and C. Blake seconded a motion to adopt the following resolution. Mr. Blake asked if there were any pertinent comments at the Town Meeting and Mr. Paul said no. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen acting pursuant to authorization of a special town meeting held March 29, 2011, hereby authorizes the First Selectman to sign the deed and conveyance documents to convey Parcel A, 0.138 acre, to the Bantam Fire Company, Inc.

Attorney Rybak then had Mr. Paul sign the State Conveyance Tax Return, Town Conveyance Tax Return, and the deed. Paul Parsons accepted it as President of the Bantam Fire Company, Inc. and then Mr. Rybak had it witnessed and recorded with the Town Clerk.

**Resignations:** None

**Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments**

**a) Interview William A. Conti for Economic Development Commission, alternate member:** Mr. Conti shared that he is resigning as Democratic Town Committee Chairman and would welcome the opportunity to serve on the EDC. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to appoint Mr. Conti to the Economic Development Commission, alternate member, with term ending 6/2011, and C. Blake seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**b) Interview Gerald Geci for Recycling Committee, term 2/2014:** Mr. Geci said he served with Jack Healy on a committee responsible for bringing CRRA into town and wrote a mandatory recycling policy that was rejected by the Board of Selectmen at the time. He is now the co-chair of the Litchfield Energy Task Force. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to appoint Gerald Geci as above, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**c) Reappoint Francine Spencer to Board of Fire and EMS Commission, LVA Rep., term 4/2012**

**d) Reappoint Douglas Hatstat to Board of Fire and EMS Commission, E. Litchfield Rep., term 4/2012**

**e) Reappoint John Campbell to Board of Fire and EMS Commission, Bantam Rep., term 4/2012**

**f) Reappoint Teresa Berry to Board of Fire and EMS Commission, Northfield Rep., term 4/2012**

**Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to reappoint Items c), d), e) and f) above, and C. Blake seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes:** 3/9/11 Inland Wetlands Commission minutes (draft); 3/16/11, 3/9/11 (special), and 3/2/11 BOE minutes; 2/22/11 and 3/7/11 P&Z minutes; 2/3/11 Design

Review Advisory Committee minutes; 2/22/11 Conservation Commission minutes; 2/17/11 Fire & EMS Commission minutes; 3/17/11 WPCA minutes; 2/17/11 and 3/17/11 Sandy Beach Commission minutes; 2/23/11 Economic Development Commission minutes; (added) - Board of Finance Minutes of 2/14/11, 2/22/11 special, and 3/14/11

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

Beautification Commission: One regular member 2/2014; one alternate 2/2013  
Board of Ethics: Two regular members 6/2012, & 6/2013; two alternate members 6/2011, 6/2013  
Inland Wetlands Commission: One alternate member 6/2011  
Milton Historic District Commission: Two alternate members 1/2012  
Park & Recreation: 2 alternate members: 6/2013, 6/2014  
Pension Commission: 1 alternate member 3/2013  
Recycling Committee: Two members, 2/2012, 2/2013  
Social Services Board: One member, 2/2014  
Veteran's Advisory Committee: One regular member 8/2012; two alternate members 8/2012  
Zoning Board of Appeals: One alternate member 3/2015

**Tax Refunds: Motion:** C. Blake moved to approve 12 Refunds, for a total of \$5,022.71 in accordance with the Tax Collector's memo. W. Dranginis seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**Transfers:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business**

**a) Adopt Resolution for Joint Community Application Cooperation Agreement with Torrington:** L. Paul explained that Torrington is applying for a Small Cities Grant to do some work at the Sullivan Senior Center, and they are asking the LHCEO regional towns for their endorsement of Torrington's application in the form of a resolution. **Motion:** C. Blake moved to dispense with the reading of the resolution, and W. Dranginis seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to adopt the following resolution, and C. Blake seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

**FOR JOINT COMMUNITY APPLICATION  
COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**CONNECTICUT SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT PROGRAM**

This agreement entered into on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011 by and between City of Torrington and the Town of Litchfield.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, City of Torrington has identified need in the municipality to correct serious deficiencies in community facilities, and

WHEREAS, City of Torrington contemplates submitting on behalf of and jointly with the Town of Litchfield an application for 2011 Block Grant funds under the Small Cities Program of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose of meeting such needs, and

WHEREAS, City of Torrington and the Town of Litchfield understand that City of Torrington will act as the applicant and will have the ultimate responsibility to assume all obligations under terms of the grant including assuring compliance with all applicable laws and program regulations and performance of all work in accordance with the contract.

WHEREAS, it is understood that City of Torrington and DECD have access to all participants' community development block grant records and authority to monitor all activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant City of Torrington and the Town of Litchfield agree to cooperate in the submission of an application for such Block Grant Funds, and agree to cooperate in implementation of the submitted Small Cities Program, as approved by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Nothing contained in this agreement shall deprive any municipality of any power or zoning, development control or other lawful authority which is presently possesses.

**b) Adopt Resolution for Resident Trooper Contract 7/1/11 – 6/30/13:** L. Paul explained that this contract is renewed every two years and says the Town agrees to have the services of two resident state troopers and to pay 70% of their salaries. He then read the resolution. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to approve the Resident Trooper Contract for 7/1/11 through 6/30/13 and C. Blake seconded. Mr. Dranginis asked about the actual cost, and Mr. Paul said \$152,000 has been budgeted for this. This includes the salary, cars, uniforms, and overtime for two years. Upon voting, all voted aye and the motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLVED: That Leo Paul, Jr., the First Selectman, be and herewith authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of Litchfield with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for the services of two Resident State Troopers for the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

**c) Adopt Resolution for Historic Document Preservation Grant: Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to waive the reading of the entire resolution, and C. Blake seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to adopt the resolution as follows, and C. Blake seconded. L. Paul explained that this authorizes him to sign the grant when it comes in. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLVED: That Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman of the Town of Litchfield, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name of and on the behalf of this municipality, a contract with the State Library for an Historic Document Preservation Grant.

**d) Award Bid for Center School Parking Lot/Site Modifications Bid:** Mr. Paul explained the project that will turn part of the Center School playground from pavement into grass. This is in conjunction with another project of replacing the playscape. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to award the bid to Deacon Excavation in the amount of \$64,875.00 as recommended by Public Works Director Jack Healy. D. Knox seconded, all voted aye except C. Blake who abstained for professional reasons, and the motion carried. Work will begin when school gets out.

**e) Award Bid for Center School Boiler Replacement:** L. Paul explained that this job is fully paid for by an energy efficiency grant. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to award the Center School Boiler Bid to low bidder Gardella Mechanical Services for \$34,918.00 as recommended by Public Works Director Jack Healy. C. Blake seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**f) Readopt Fair Housing Resolution: Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to dispense with the reading of the resolution, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to readopt the resolution and D. Knox seconded. In discussion C. Blake said that he will vote no on all of these. He feels they are unnecessary given the equal protection clauses of the U.S. Constitution. They are hypocritical because we get paid to adopt them. They are divisive because they focus on people's identities and are demeaning, both to the people that may benefit and to those who are forced to adopt them. L. Paul said he agreed with many of Mr. Blake's comments and reminded the group of his reluctance to sign one of these letters a few years ago. **Vote:** Upon voting all voted aye except C. Blake who voted nay; motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

**TOWN OF LITCHFIELD**  
**FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

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

Whereas, State and 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, 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 RESOLVED, That the Town of Litchfield hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase and 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 any illegal discriminatory housing practices 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.

**g) Readopt Fair Housing Policy Statement: Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to dispense with the reading of the policy statement, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to readopt the policy statement and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye except C. Blake who voted nay; motion carried.

**h) Readopt Title VI Equal Opportunity Statement: Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to waive the reading of the entire statement and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to readopt Title VI Equal Opportunity Statement and authorize the First Selectman to sign. D. Knox seconded. All voted aye except C. Blake who voted nay; motion carried.

**i) Readopt Affirmative Action Policy Statement: Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to dispense with the reading of the Affirmative Action Policy Statement, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to readopt the Affirmative Action Policy Statement and authorize the First Selectman to sign. D. Knox seconded. All voted aye except C. Blake who voted nay; motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None

**Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to adjourn at 6:03 p.m. and C. Blake seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman

