

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
July 22, 2019
Meeting Minutes

1.0 Convened at 6:30 PM; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman, Rayna Leibowitz, Mark Russell; **Staff:** Trudy Lamoreau, Town Manager; Steve Ochamanski, CEO; Bryan Lamoreau, Transfer Station Manager; Road Advisory Committee Members: John Upham, FOAA Officer; **and Guests Present** per the sign-in sheet.

2.0 Minutes of July 8, 2019, Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Town Manager: A. Bridge Inspections Reports for Gustin Road Bridge and Old Mill Bridge were received.

B. Trudy and staff have reviewed properties expected to be sent 30 day notices going out the third week in August. Trudy is pleased with the lower number, reflecting more folks are paying their taxes.

C. Jennifer Newendyke, the new employee for the Office Staff, replacing Lezley Sturtevant, was introduced to the Board and welcomed. Her training is going well.

D. The Maine Revenue Service had forwarded more property transfer documents. A lot of properties have been transferred and many have sold for premium prices. The Select Board requested copies of the transfers for review.

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector - A. Possible illegal junkyard inspections have occurred on Tutt Lane and Plains Road. Both are on a 2 week inspection schedule.

B. A driveway off Hallowell Road near Purgatory has had another residence built on it so needs a name for E-911 addressing purposes. The residents have requested Young Buck Drive. A motion to grant approval for the name, Young Buck Drive, was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0. The Board requested the addition of a map showing the location of the designated road in the future.

3.3 Road Commissioner - The Road Commissioner is absent due to medical problems. Chairman Parker and the Town Manager reported - A. Oak Hill is being worked on. The proposed locations for the speed tables will be marked so the Board members can look at them.

B. The potential candidate for the Public Works vacancy has failed to complete the application and there has been no further contact from him.

C. Potholes on the Whippoorwill Road have been circled with spray paint to draw attention to them, according to a resident present.

3.4 Fire & Rescue - A. Trudy reported that Rescue has been very busy, especially over the weekend.

B. There have been 4 or 5 requests for the Fire Truck specifications. This item was also advertised in the Portland newspaper to reach more potential vendors.

3.5 Emergency Management - No report.

3.6 Assessing Agent - Rob met with the Town Manager and would like a workshop with

the Select Board. Some dates were discussed and Trudy confirmed August 1 at 1:00 PM will work for Rob.

3.7 Transfer Station - A. Good weekend. Dana's last day was Saturday. Two new attendants were hired, George Noyce and John Madore. George worked all 3 days, John starts next week.

B. The Gator was repaired at a cost of \$1,200. Discussion included identification of the appropriate fuel to use in it to minimize future problems.

C. Bryan is having site work done soon for the expansion of concrete pads for the containers.

D. A tractor has not yet been found for the Transfer Station.

E. Discussion was held regarding the disposal of cardboard by businesses (not allowed) and residences (allowed).

4.0 Agenda Adjustments

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1 Craig Aronson - Entrance Permit Denial Map R06, Lot 14 - Mr Aronson is requesting the Board review the proposed location for a driveway entrance which does not meet sight line requirements. He will mark where he would like it for the Board to take a look at it.

5.2 Smithfield Plantation Concerns - No representatives present so no action was taken.

5.3 Jeffrey Phillips - Solid Waste Violation Update -The issue has been referred to Legal Counsel regarding the violation of his previous consent agreement. A court date is expected. He has made no effort to communicate with Steve, even though he has been in the Town Office at least twice.

5.4 Adam Brooks - Illegal Junkyard Update - He has started cleaning up and is on a two week inspection schedule.

5.5 Doug Caton Consent Agreement Update - The Judge gave him until August 31 to clean up his property. There will be no further action until after that date. He has been working on it.

5.6 Mary Jo Mason Update - Waiting for a court date. She has been sent a citation regarding the camper being used as a full time residence in her yard.

5.7 Spectrum Franchise Fees/Ad Hoc Committee Updates Note: The correct name is the "Ad Hoc Broadband Committee" and will be used in the future. A. This committee is meeting Tuesday, 7/23 to discuss the draft of the mission statement. A reminder that this is a town committee and meetings must be posted and open to the public, so meeting at members' homes may not be convenient.

B. It was noted Alan Acker of Bowdoinham just completed this process and his contact information was provided by Mark Russell to Larry Bell, a Committee member.

C. There are currently four on the Committee: Tom Wood, Larry Bell, Joline Bell and David Blocher.

5.8 Kent Ackley - Legislative Update A. Kent advised the tone of this Legislature was much more cooperative and some good work got done that will benefit some towns and cities. Some more needs to be finalized so they expect to be brought back to Augusta before fall.

B. Revenue Sharing - 3% the first year and 3.75% the second year of the biennial budget. For Litchfield, this represents \$63,000 and \$85,000 over the Governor's proposal for the respective years.

C. Homestead Exemption - The amount exempted the second year will be \$25,000 with the State absorbing the full amount.

D. Property Tax Fairness Credit - This will apply if income taxes are paid. It adds 13,000 more Mainers to benefit than previously.

E. School Funding - Consideration of further efforts to keep people from being taxed out of their homes is expected. For Litchfield in the RSU#4 budget, the increase is “only” \$30,000 while Litchfield has 25 fewer students.

F. Kent addressed the Broadband issues. The dust isn’t settled yet. Bonding for broadband will be in next year’s legislative discussion. Some \$2 - 3 Million was provided to towns in grants for broadband development. Bowdoinham may have gotten one of them. Broadband increases property values.

6.0 Unscheduled Business

7.0 Legal

8.0 Appointments and Resignations

8.1 Jennifer Newendyke - Registrar of Voters, Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer, Deputy Tax Collector - A motion to appoint Jennifer Newendyke Registrar of Voters was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

A motion to appoint Jennifer Newendyke Deputy Clerk, Deputy Tax Collector and Deputy Treasurer was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

9.0 Warrants

9.1 Town Voucher # 2 for \$80,465.25 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0

9.2 Town Payroll # 2 for \$19,570.70 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0

10.0 Other Business

10.1 The Town Manager advised she has received word that Cyndi Redmond has passed. Trudy was directed to make appropriate recognition of her contributions to her Community.

11.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication

12.0 Future Agenda Item

- 12.1 Feedback on Selectman’s Handbook
- 12.2 Gustin Rd and Old Mill Rd Bridges Reports
- 12.3 Town Office Renovations
- 12.4 Fire Truck Bid RFP
- 12.5 Jeffrey Phillips - Solid Waste Violation Update
- 12.6 Adam Brooks - Illegal Junkyard Update
- 12.7 Doug Caton Consent Agreement Update
- 12.8 Mary Jo Mason Update
- 12.9 Craig Aronson - Driveway Entrance Permit Denial

13.0 Adjournment at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rayna Leibowitz