

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
Dec. 10, 2018
Final Minutes

1.0 Convened 6:30; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen, Gary Parker, Chairman, Rayna Leibowitz and Mark Russell; **Staff:** Trudy Lamoreau, Town Manager; Steve Ochmanski, CEO/LPI; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; Bryan Lamoreau, Transfer Station Manager; Bruce Slattery, EMA Dir.; Mike Seaman, Planning Board; Cyndi Redmond and Tamas Szepsy, Road Advisory Comm; John Upham, FOAA Officer; Selena Nadeau, Town Office Staff; Renee LaChappelle, BAR; Rep. Kent Ackley , Chief Al Nelson GFD **and Guests Present** per the sign in sheet

2.0 Minutes of Nov. 26, 2018 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to accept the minutes as drafted was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence

3.1 Town Manager - A. The Auditors finished last week. The audit went well. Kelly worked with them and learned a lot.

B. An employee was injured 11/30 - 12/1 but is back to work.

C. Another employee is leaving 12/20/18 for more hours and money. The job opening will be posted in the Sodalite first, then MMA website (free).

D. The Office work load is lessened now.

E. As a result of the computer problems, it was discovered that 30 - 40 license plates were issued but not removed from the inventory in the computer. The staff is doing research of transactions to identify them and verify the information to the state. There are 5 left to complete the search.

F. A meeting for Wed. at 1:00 has been requested by a resident.

3.2 Code Officer/Plumbing Inspector -A. A building permit for a shelter for Smithfield Plantation has been requested. Would the Board entertain a request to waive the permit fee. A motion was made to waive the permit fee for the shelter at Smithfield Plantation by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 - 0.

B. There are 5 - 6 septic systems being finished up and Steve has 2 single family home permits on his desk.

C. Permit logs for October and November were provided. They reflect owner identified values at \$570,000 and \$281,000 respectively including 3 single family homes and 3 mobile homes.

3.3 Road Commissioner - A. Whippoorwill Road Culvert discussion included information from the engineering firm. Replacing the culvert with the same size will not require a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. The bid request has been prepared and will go out for bid opening on 1/14/19. The fiber optic question has not been resolved. Larry will again try to get information about it.

B. It's been a rough 3 weeks in November with storms, equipment breakdowns and long hours for the crew. The sand/salt shed has been refilled. Larry talked with the crew about having substitute driver(s) for exceptionally long storms but the drivers wanted to stay on their own routes. A one-ton driver will come in to plow those areas the bigger trucks can't access and intersections as needed.

C. Oak Hill Road - Paving stopped due to weather. Will resume in the spring at the same cost as now.

D. RFP for gravel and hot top for 2019 as was done for 2018 will be going out to be opened on 1/14/19

3.4 Fire & Rescue - A. Chief Labbe is out for the time being. Kevin Buckmore is our Point of Contact.

B. Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for 12/15/18.

3.5 Emergency Mgmt.

3.6 Assessing Agent - A. Rob and Ellery were in last week and will be here this week. Their work is right on track for their timeline.

3.7 Transfer Station A. An injury occurred last weekend.

- B. Still getting combined recyclables.
- C. A larger hole was cut into the tin rolloff.

D. We need to isolate hazardous materials more so a partition has been put into the hazmat room so it can be used for other things too. Will need to change some wiring as the whole building is on one breaker.

E. Bryan would like to have some trees cut down to facilitate plowing and navigating trucks for pick up and delivery. It was approved.

3.8 Other Town Committees - The Road Advisory Comm. will be meeting Wednesday night.

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1. Chief Nelson, Dispatch - The Regional Communications Center (RCC) advised Gardiner FD (GFD) that they (RCC) will not dispatch for them after 6/30/19. GFD has talked with many organizations but no decision has been made regarding how they will be dispatched. The computer system compatibility is driving the situation. If GFD switches to a system compatible with the RCC, it will take 12 - 18 months to be operational at a cost of \$300 - \$500 K. Waterville is getting a price developed for dispatching. Other proposals have been more than \$200K. GFD looked into opening their own dispatch operations again. If starting today it is unlikely to be operational by 6/30 and would cost \$280K a year to operate. The RCC told Chief Nelson the costs to continue to dispatch GFD will depend on what towns stay with them (RCC). Chief Nelson expects the cost may go up from \$72K to \$150K.

Bruce Slattery advised Cliff Wells, RCC, will send a letter to the Select Boards of towns they serve requesting confirmation they will stay with the RCC. Bruce has discussed dispatching with Chief Labbe, Kevin Buckmore and Jamie Dow, the FD Communications Officer. All would prefer to stay with the RCC in Augusta. Bruce was asked to keep the Select Board advised of meetings.

Rep. Kent Ackley was invited to join the discussion and information gathering process. He advised he reached out to Sen. Sheena Bellows and she is engaged in the issue.

When asked about digital systems versus analog systems, Chief Nelson advised the bigger cities have gone to digital - Portland, Augusta, Lewiston. Smaller cities and towns still function with analog systems. The two systems are not compatible so a switch to a system using digital would require all users to purchase new radio equipment, adding considerable cost. Selectman Russell commented that having a 911 call not answered is not acceptable. We need to be gathering information too. This will need to be a topic on our agenda until it is resolved.

5.2 Mary Jo Mason - Consent Agreement - 84 tires were removed from her property. 1 unregistered vehicle can be kept, but it can't be used for storage. The Town's attorney has not had contact with her or her attorney at Pine Tree Legal Assistance even after calling and emailing her attorney daily for a week. Mary has not had contact with her attorney since the last meeting (Nov. 26.). Mary was asked to have her attorney accompany her to the meeting on Jan 14 with the intent of signing the consent agreement. A copy of the proposed consent agreement was given to her.

5.3 Doug Caton - Consent Agreement - A copy of the proposed consent agreement was given to him. The CEO showed photos of the property taken when he visited it. In 2008 there was a consent agreement with Mr Caton for the same issues. He purchased the old fire station and has been living in it in violation of the restrictions. Mr Caton was asked to return on 1/14/19 to discuss and execute the consent agreement.

5.4 Carin Burnett - Food Sovereign Ordinance - Carin was not present. Steve Ochmanski and Mike Seaman were directed to prepare a proposed Ordinance for the 1/14/19 meeting.

9.0 Warrants

9.1 Town Voucher #11 for \$399,667.61 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

9.2 Town Payroll #12 for \$20,393.59 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

11.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication

11.1 Rep. Ackley advised the Legislative session begins 1/2/19. The last submission date is 12/31/18. Folks were invited to contact him with concerns. He met with Mark regarding the EPS model for school funding to use student count only. This issue will be addressed by the Education Committee. He

will attend our meetings once a month or every 6 weeks.

11.2 A resident asked about tax maps and was advised they are being updated at this time.

11.3 A resident advised the Sodalite seems to not be included on our website. The dates for meetings and minutes are not being posted either.

12.0 Future Agenda Item

12.1 Feedback on Selectman's Handbook

12.2 Whippoorwill Rd Culvert/Bridge (Bid Opening 1/14/19)

12.3 IT Management Project

12.4 Food Sovereignty Ordinance (1/14/19)(Public Hearing 1/28/18 - Schedule Special Town Mtg)

12.5 Gustin Road - Winter maintenance (After May 1)

12.6 Shoreland Zoning, Land Use Ordinance Consistency Efforts

12.7 Dispatching Issues

12.8 Town manager & Code Enforcement Officer Contracts

12.9 Mary Jo Mason - Consent Agreement (1/14/19)

12.10 Doug Caton - Consent Agreement (1/14/19)

12.11 Gravel & Paving Bids (1/14/19)

12.12 Steven Lane - CDBG Request (1/14/19)

13.0 Adjournment at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Rayna Leibowitz