

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
September 9, 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; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; Bryan Lamoreau, Transfer Station Manager; Pat Soboleski, Senior Director; Road Advisory Committee Members: Tamas Szepsy and Richard Lane; John Upham, FOAA Officer; Kelly Weissenfels, Chairman, Budget Comm.; Larry and Jolene Bell, Ad Hoc Broadband Comm. **and Guests Present** per the sign-in sheet.

2.0 Minutes of August 1, 2019 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0. **Minutes of August 26, 2019 Meeting submitted for final approval.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Town Manager: A. There has been a good response to the 30 day notices and many are being paid off.

B. The Town Office has received a lot of comments regarding the Oak Hill Road Speed Humps.

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector - Absent

3.3 Road Commissioner - A. Larry advised marking the pavement on Oak Hill Road to make the speed humps more obvious will be done commencing at 7:00 PM tonight and will be in accordance with marking requirements. Larry ordered yellow (caution) signs with 5 MPH but they came through with white backgrounds. They will be returned for replacement with yellow signs.

3.4 Fire & Rescue - A. The Town Manager reported the chief had advised her that Rescue continues to be very busy.

B. Wales FD covering last weekend while Litchfield FD was tied up with the Fair went very well. It was a good fair.

3.5 Emergency Management - A. The Town Manager reported no response yet from the FCC.

B. Bruce has talked with an electrician and carpenter.

C. There is an Emergency Management meeting in Augusta on Oct 15 at the Kennebec County EMA Office. Bruce and Trudy plan to attend.

3.6 Assessing Agent - The Town Office is getting quite a few inquiries about removing property from Tree Growth. She has been advised a written request for removal is required, then penalty amounts are developed using several factors.

3.7 Transfer Station - A. They have had a pretty good two weeks.

B. The Manager will suggest having the last Sunday in August as the last Sunday it is open, as there has been little summer visitor traffic on Labor Day weekend Sunday..

C. Televisions are being loaded today and tomorrow.

D. He will call BDS to remove the tires.

E. He will meet with DEP next week to explore the footprint authorized in the DEP permit before taking down trees identified as being in the way of loading electronics.

4.0 Agenda Adjustments

4.1 Special Town Meeting and Abatement Consideration schedules

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1 Kent Ackley - Legislative Update - Kent advised the Legislature considered the bond

package but only one passed for transportation. Those not passing at this time include Broadband Expansion, Land for Maine's Future, Wastewater Infrastructure and Education Facilities Improvement. These will be considered in January. Kent is concerned about the issues with Dispatching and asked to be kept informed. He discussed the CMP Corridor project and stated that work is still being done. Polls show opposition is running about 70% at this time. He also advised more work is needed to resolve the CMP metering investigations.

5.2 2019 Tax Commitment A workshop was held on Sept 5 to review the information from the Assessing Agent regarding the recent revaluation. The question now is to determine the tax rate allowing an adequate overlay to pay for abatements that might be requested within the allowable 180 day window from the tax commitment date (today) and granted. Experience shows the 2018 abatements totaled \$14,149.92 following the list and measure effort to improve property information. The 2019 abatements totaled \$8,052.72. A motion was made to approve the tax rate at 14.0 mil (\$14.00 per thousand of valuation) by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and votes 2 - 1 (Gary Parker opposed). Funds in the overlay account revert to the General Account (or Unassigned Fund Balance) if not used for abatements.

5.3 Mary Jo Mason Update - no new information

5.4 Doug Caton Consent Agreement Update - The Judge has asked Steve to meet with Doug and visit the site before returning to court. The Transfer Station Manager advised Doug has made many trips to the Transfer Station with materials.

5.5 Ambulance Agreement - City of Gardiner - A contract was provided for paramedic level ambulance service by the City of Gardiner Ambulance Service (Fire Dept.) for \$43,715 as approved at the Town Meeting in June. A motion to sign the agreement was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

6.0 Unscheduled Business

6.1 Special Town Meeting and Abatement Consideration schedules

6.2 Special Town Meeting - The Fire Truck Loan needs to be signed off by the Town's attorney. The warrant article for the Town Meeting in June was not worded correctly and the attorney will not sign off without a Special Town Meeting with the correct wording (which he will provide). After discussion it was determined there needs to be only two articles on the warrant: Election of a moderator and vote on affirmation of the fire truck purchase and loan. A motion to hold a Special Town Meeting on Monday, September 16 at 6:00 PM was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

6.1.2 Abatement Consideration - A special Select Board meeting was scheduled for Sept 19 at 1:00 PM by a motion by Mark Russell, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

8.0 Appointments and Resignations

8.1 Appointment - Woodbury Pond Dam Committee - Paul Pinette (Woodbury Pond property owner) A motion to appoint Paul Pinette to the Woodbury Pond Dam Committee was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

8.2 Appointment - Conservation Commission - Kelly Eaton - A motion to appoint Kelly Eaton to the Conservation Commission was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

9.0 Warrants

9.1 Town Voucher # 6 for \$398,880.74 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0

9.2 Town Payroll # 5 for \$19,788.90 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0

10.0 Other Business

10.1 Sodalite printing - Discussion resulted in authorizing the Town Manager to change the printer to Quality Copy to avoid the delays and problems being experienced with the present printer.

10.2 Regarding the letter received from the Chouinards regarding their failure to receive the abatement approved in February, 2019. The Town Manager reported the matter was checked out and an off-warrant check will be issued Sept 10.

12.0 Future Agenda Item

- 12.1 Feedback on Selectman's Handbook
- 12.2 Gustin Road & Old Mill Road Bridges reports
- 12.3 Town Office Renovations (9/23/19)
- 12.4 Doug Caton Consent Agreement Update
- 12.5 Mary Jo Mason Update
- 12.6 Stevenstown Road Pole Permit for CMP
- 12.7 Used Oil Issue at the Transfer station
- 12.8 Accounting of road work costs (materials, town costs, contractor costs)

13.0 Adjournment at 7:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Rayna Leibowitz