

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
September 24, 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; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; Richard Lane, Cyndi Redmond and Tamas Szepsy, Road Advisory Comm; John Upham, FOAA Officer; Pat Soboleski, Senior Center Director; Diana Larrabee and Selena Nadeau, Town Office Staff; Mike Seamans, Planning Board; Justin Mooers, PW **and Guests Present** per the sign in sheet. Of note: Kent Ackley and Randy Greenwood attended.

2.0 Minutes of September 10, 2018 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to accept the minutes as drafted was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence

3.1 Town Manager - A. A representative of the MMA Workers Comp. Program called to advise of an update to a claim from 6 years ago. An employee of the Town at that time had medical leave and received physical therapy. That employee wanted to reopen the case. MMA came to the decision to settle the case with the former employee, rather than incur the cost of fighting it. There will be no penalty to the Town because of the age of the case (moderation rate) and no deductible. The employee signed an agreement that there would be no further claims and no application for Town employment in the future.

B. Thirty day notices of overdue taxes have gone out. Several residents have come in and are making payments.

C. The Peace Pipe Shores Road Association has sent the Town a letter requesting road dues for a property the Town has foreclosed on. The prior owner, still in the property, has a repurchase agreement. The Town will take no action on this as a previously similar case received a legal opinion that the Town was not liable for the costs.

D. Tax bills should be ready to go out at the end of the week if the proposed tax rate is approved tonight.

3.2 Code Officer/Plumbing Inspector -A. Steve is ill. No report but Trudy advised he is busy with permits.

3.3 Road Commissioner - A. Oak Hill Rd ditching on paved section pretty well done. Still need to rock culverts.

B. Received some salt from a new vendor at a lower price (\$52.50/ton delivered) than last year.

C. Working on putting up winter sand. Got 700 - 800 yards in the shed.

D. Trucks all in working order. Will start dressing them for winter service soon.

E. Larry would like to get the Whippoorwill Road Culvert process started. A permit needs to be obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers. See 4.1 (6.1) for additional information.

3.4 Fire & Rescue - Trudy advised the Chief is out of Town for a family emergency. Kevin Buckmore is covering for him.

3.5 Emergency Mgmt. - no report.

3.6 Assessing Agent - A. The Tax Commitment Workshop last week resulted in the document to be signed as 5.6.

3.7 Transfer Station A. In the absence of the Manager Richard Lane reported the concrete wall was backfilled and more gravel is needed. A 6 X 6 placed perpendicular to the tires backing the can into the opening would prevent hitting the wall.

B. Bryan wrote an article for the Sodalite that we may have to stop single source recycling because of China's contamination thresholds being implemented. China is the largest buyer of recycled goods from the US. This is intended as a heads-up, just in case. Luckily, we still have the cans and containers we can put back into use if necessary.

3.8 Other Town Committees - The Road Advisory Comm. - A. Toby Jutras was elected the new Chairman, replacing Richard who will be going south for the cold season.

B. A letter from the Road Advisory Committee was read by Cyndi Redmond regarding the decision to not pave the gravel section of the Oak Hill Road at this time in opposition to the recommendation of the Committee and she asked to have a copy entered into the official record and attached to the final minutes for this meeting.

C. Cyndi made complimentary remarks about the performance of the Road Commissioner.

D. A copy of Richmond's Report from 1992 regarding the cost comparisons of paved and unpaved roads will be available for public review in the Town Office.

Recreation Committee - Compliments were given for the letter from the Recreation Committee to parents of registered participants. There may be up to 3 additional Rec. Committee applicants from the effort.

4.0 Agenda Adjustments

4.1 Quitclaim R09, Lot 036 (R. Childs) (moved to 5.4)

4.1 new - Whippoorwill Road RFP (see 6.1)

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1. S.W.Cole - Proposal to inspect the dirt section of Oak Hill Rd. - for \$5,900 for the Fall Assessment and \$2,500 for the Spring Assessment (total \$8,400) including test borings 8 - 10 feet deep. Discussion with Larry, RAC members and Larry Gowell, Head Bus Driver, participating - salt and sand are more effective on pavement, than gravel roads. The elevation of the road makes conditions happen quicker and become more hazardous than other locations in Town. Bus Drivers have experienced icy conditions that prompted them to stop until sanding ahead of them had been done. The assessments are intended to help identify the experience of the winter driving of Oak Hill Road with the improvements that have been made and determine if the road deteriorated with the winter conditions to an abnormal extent. There was discussion about having Calderwood Engineering involved in the process as well.

5.2 Kent Ackley - Legislative update - Kent advised the Legislature set records for the longest session ever. They did finish and some of their final days were spent on Income Tax Conformity - bringing state tax rates into conformity with federal rates; Changes in the Child Protective Services including updating their information system, increasing the number of supervisors and increasing the authority of caseworkers and judges to make better decisions; Free fire permits will be allowed; and Invasive plants in Monmouth involving a milfoil infestation from Annabassacook lake into Cobbossee Stream and milfoil found up Wilson Pond Stream.

Randy Greenwood was invited to speak (both are candidates for positions in the Legislature in the fall elections). If elected he would like to focus on citizens initiatives as an issue.

5.3 Schedule Facility Visitations - discussion and a start at 8:00 AM on Thursday, Oct 4 at Litchfield Academy was made. Visits around Town will be done as long as the members of the Select Board can continue.

5.4 Quitclaims - R11 lot 015A (Stacy Ricker), A motion to approve and sign the quitclaim deed for this property as the taxes were paid was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 - 0.

R02, Lot 055 (Tara. Goddard) A motion to approve and sign the quitclaim deed for this property as the taxes were paid was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 - 0.

R09, Lot 036 (Ron Childs) A motion to approve and sign the quitclaim deed for this property as the taxes were paid was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 - 0.

5.5 Abatement - R01, Lot 033F, This was identified as an error by the Assessing Agent. An abatement was approved for John Whitcomb for \$172.81 on a motion made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

5.6 2018/2019 Tax Commitment - A motion to approve and sign the tax rate of \$16.15 per Thousand of valuation was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0. This reflects a third year of consistent tax rates.

5.7 List of properties subject to foreclosure - A list was provided by the Town Manager and will be discussed at the next meeting after review.

5.8 Ambulance Contract - Signatures needed - A motion to approve and sign the contract for

Ambulance Services from Gardiner Fire and Rescue Dept. was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 - 0.

6.0 Unscheduled Business

6.1 Whippoorwill Road Culvert - A motion to approve the proposal to request a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and reissue the bid proposal was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 - 0.

9.0 Warrants

9.1 Town Voucher # 6 for \$90,873.18 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell , seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

9.2 Town Payroll #6 for \$ 22,979.44 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

11.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication

A. A resident referenced the Richmond Report regarding the compared costs of road maintenance determined in the 50 year period of the report.

B. A resident discussed further problems with the nuisance dog(s) at Purgatory which attacked a woman walking her dog on the side of the road and her dog last week. A motorist stopped and helped separate the dogs. Neither suffered physical injury but the experience was traumatizing. The dog owner told her not to walk her dog past his house. The Animal Control Officer was informed and visited the dog owner.

C. Pat Soboleski, Senior Center Director advised the Libby Tozier School had a lock down drill and the Senior Center participated. The Center has procedures regarding what to do. Pat advised she will have the appropriate keys made of the Academy building for the school staff to hand over to the law enforcement officers, if needed.

12.0 Future Agenda Item

12.1 Feedback on Selectman’s Handbook

12.2 Whippoorwill Rd Culvert/Bridge (Reissue bid request in Oct)

12.3 List of properties subject to foreclosure - (Discussion Oct. 8)

13.0 Adjournment at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Rayna Leibowitz