

Town Of Litchfield  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes

Approved 2/27/17

Date: January 23, 2017

- 1.0 Convened at 6:35 PM; Pledge to Flag: Selectmen Present:** Chairman, Mark Russell, George Thomson;  
**Staff Present:** Trudy Lamoreau, Town Manager; Steve Ochmanski, CEO/ LPI; Stan Labbe, Fire Chief; Tina Gowell, Rescue Director; Larry Nadeau, Road Commissioner; Paul Hempstead, Planning Board Chair; Brian Lamoreau, Transfer Station Manager; Richard Lane, RAC Chairman; **Guests Present:** See Attached.
- 2.0 Minutes of December 12, 2016 meeting** submitted for final approval. **Selectman Thomson made some typographical corrections and then made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Russell, to approve the minutes. Motion passed 2-0-0. Minutes of January 9, 2017 meeting** submitted for final approval. **Selectman Thomson made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Russell, to approve the minutes. Motion passed 2-0-0.**

**The Chairman notified the attendees that the planned Special Town Meeting that was scheduled for 6:45 was not properly noticed and the Chairman declared, without objection, that it would need to be canceled but that the Board would have a public hearing type discussion at 6:45.**

**3.0 Reports and Correspondence:**

- 3.1 Town Manager: A) The Town Manager announced that Deb Campbell has resigned her position as Website Administrator and Sodalite Editor. The website will be closed down on February 1 and the February issue of the Sodalite would be the last. Efforts will be made to recruit someone to continue the Website and the Sodalite. Those in attendance thanked Ms. Campbell for her dedication and excellence with a round of applause. B) The Town Manager has been in consultation with the Emergency Management Director concerning the upcoming storm.

**The Chairman, without objection, declared a recess of the Board meeting for a ½ hour and asked Earl Lamoreau to facilitate a discussion on the proposed marijuana moratorium. Planning Board Chairman Hempstead and State Representative Ackley led a discussion and answered questions about the recently passed Marijuana Initiative referendum.**

**The Chairman then proceeded, without objection, directly to item 4.0 Agenda adjustments and, without objection, added under 6.0 Unscheduled Business item 6.1 Special Town Meeting.**

**The Chairman then moved, without objection, directly to 6.1**

**6.0 Unscheduled Business**

- 6.1 Special Town Meeting – Motion by Selectman Russell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Thomson, to hold a Special Town Meeting on February 1, 2017 at 6:30 at the Central Fire Station to see if the Town will adopt the Moratorium on Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Social Clubs. After discussion and questions, the motion passed 2-0-0. Motion by Selectman Russell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Thomson, to authorize the Selectmen to sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant outside of an open public meeting. The motion passed 2-0-0.**

3.2 Code Enforcement officer/LPI:

A) Activity has dropped off – typical of this time of year.

3.3 Road Commissioner:

A) Announced the hiring of Anthony Karkos to the Public Works crew – formerly worked at DOT.

B) Upcoming storm could result in ice and freezing rain.

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- C) The residential sand pile is available to the townspeople – 2 five gallon buckets per storm.  
D) During the next Selectman’s meeting – February 13 – Calderwood Engineering will be available for an informational discussion concerning the proposed work on the Upper Pond Road.
- 3.4 Fire & Rescue: The Rescue Director reported 34 first responder calls in December, of which 21 were answered by Litchfield First Responders. There is a possibility of another First Responder class being offered. She expressed appreciation for the close working relationship among the Fire, Rescue and Public Works crews.
- 3.5 Emergency Management: No report.
- 3.6 Assessing Agent: No report.
- 3.7 Transfer Station: The recent storms have resulted in a larger than expected amount of brush being brought to the transfer station.
- 3.8 Other Town Committees:  
Budget Committee – would like the Board to attend the next Budget committee meeting on the third Monday of February to have a discussion concerning updates to the CIP.  
RAC – is working with a contractor who will offer his services to landowners who are interested in eradicating invasive plants from their property.
- 4.0 Agenda Adjustments:**
- 4.1 See above.
- 5.0 Scheduled Business:**
- 5.1 See above.
- 5.2 Pine Trees on Plains Road – The large pine trees east of the cemetery are deteriorating and during virtually every storm lose limbs and cause power outages. A discussion ensued concerning what could and/or should be done and who has the authority to take action. The road commissioner will make some phone calls.
- 5.3 General Assistance Appendix A – D – The yearly authorization of General Assistance maximums for Food, Housing, Utilities, and Household Supplies were presented by the Town Manager. With the exception of the Housing maximums, the figures presented were the DHHS recommendations for Kennebec County. The Town of Litchfield has consistently approved higher maximums for Housing and the figures presented were recommended by the Town Manager based on recent GA requests. The State reimburses the Town 50% of the actual expenditures. **Selectman Thomson made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Russell, to approve, with one typo correction the GA maximums as presented. The motion passed 2-0-0.**
- 6.0 Unscheduled Business:**
- 6.1 Special Town Meeting – See above
- 7.0 Legal: None**
- 8.0 Appointments/Resignations: None**
- 9.0 Warrants:**
- 9.1 Town Voucher Warrant #14 was presented for \$40,192.26. **It was moved by Selectman Thomson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Russell, to approve Warrant #14 except for one check to Mr. Thomson for an excise tax refund. After discussion, the motion passed 2-0-0.** Once the third Selectman position is filled, this check will be presented again.
- 9.2 Town Payroll Warrant #15 was presented for \$14,360.60. **It was moved by Selectman Thomson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Russell, to approve Payroll Warrant #15. After discussion, the motion passed 2-0-0.**

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**10.0 Other Business:** The Road Commissioner noted that the Huntington Hill Road project of approximately 1450 feet of road with a 42" culvert for about \$95,000. Another similar road project of approximately 700 feet was bid out to a private company for about \$89,000. He concluded that for these projects the Town received twice the benefit when the job was done by the Public Works crew. He further stated that he thought the Town is receiving a great deal from all the current employees

**11.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication:**

Representative Ackley made comments about his activities during the legislative session.

Clarification of the Sodalite editor position was requested.

Ms. Gowell pointed out that the Rescue is interested in updating the list of oxygen using residents for the purpose of checking on such residents during power outages

In response to a question concerning nomination papers the Acting Town Clerk responded that 2 residents have taken out papers and none have been returned. The deadline for returning the nomination papers is February 16, 2017

**12.0 Future Agenda Items:**

12.1 D. Blocher Property

12.2 Street Lights

12.3 Old Mill Road Bridge

12.4 Gustin Road Bridge/Culvert

12.5 Return of the 7/14/16 Executive Session working papers

**13.0 Adjournment:**

Adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Russell, Chairman