

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
October 24, 2022
Meeting Minutes

1.0 Convened at 6:30 PM; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman, Scott Weeks;
Staff: Kelly Weissenfels, Town Manager; Michael Sherman, Fire Chief; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; John Upham, Transfer Station Manager; Tom Wood, Budget Comm.; Percy Gowell, RSU#4 Withdrawal Investigation Comm. Clarence Gowell III was absent.

2.0 Minutes of October 11, 2022 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes as drafted was made by Scott Weeks, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2- 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Town Manager: A. The Personnel Policy Workshop needs to be rescheduled.

B. A request from the Town Manager that any email communication to the Select Board Group needs to include the Town Manager.

C. A meeting with representatives of the Maine Turnpike Authority regarding the scheduled completion of the Route 197 overpass is scheduled for Nov. 3 or Nov. 4. The Town Manager will notify members when a definite date and time is set.

D. The Rabies Vaccine Clinic was considered successful. \$150 was collected for the Fuel Fund.

E. The Town office has been very busy with Absentee Vote requests and early voters.

F. The Town Manager received a call from Rep. Randall Greenwood offering assistance to the RSU#4 Withdrawal Investigation Committee.

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector – A. The CEO was out this afternoon and absent tonight. He continues to monitor Mr. Fields’ efforts regarding clearing the illegal junkyard.

3.3 Road Commissioner – A. Larry Nadeau advised the paving base for Whippoorwill Road has been laid. There is no date yet for the second layer as it is weather dependent.

B. Central Fire Station paving base coat is being put down.

C. The Third concrete pad at the Transfer Station is in. Public Works will build up the ramp on the front and be done with the project.

D. Recent calls have been received regarding plugged culverts. Larry asked for the Town Office staff to try to determine the scope of the emergency before deeming it an emergency after normal work hours.

e. Shoulders will be worked on this week and next week that will be the end the construction season. They will then hang plows and install winter road equipment on the trucks.

3.4 Fire & Rescue – A. Chief Sherman advised the furnace had problems at the Central Fire station. Repairs have been made.

B. There are 12 new tires on order for Truck #66 and Rescue #64.

C. There were 11 Fire Department calls for September including 2 fire alarms, 1 propane odor investigation, 1 suspected illegal burn, 3 trees down/wires blocking roadway, 2 motor vehicle crashes and 2 mutual aid calls (structure fire in West Gardiner and a motor vehicle crash in Wales). There were 22 EMS calls with Litchfield First Responders responding to 11 of them.

D. A revision to the agreement with Central Maine Cost Recovery was requested reflecting

the recommended changes.

3.5 Emergency Management – A. The Town Manager advised the generators have been serviced.

B. A Shelter Operations training program was offered last week and attended by Bruce Slatery EMA Director, Chief Sherman and Rayna Leibowitz. A meeting will be scheduled with the Principal of the local schools to discuss using the school as a warming shelter, if necessary.

C. To address the potential kerosene shortages this winter, the state has authorized the use of fuel Oil plus additives for outside fuel tanks.

3.6 Assessing Agent – The Assessing Agent was here last week and prepared Abatement and Supplemental requests for the agenda tonight.

3.7 Transfer Station – A. John Upham advised 2295 Transfer Station stickers have been issued. Some stickers are not clinging as designed, so transparent tape is being recommended or a layer of plastic wrap between the sticker and windshield. This will be addressed with the next order of stickers.

B. Tire removal done last week included notification of an increase in tire disposal rates from \$2 each to \$3.

C. Freon has been removed from units containing it so additional clearing of items can be done.

D. The electronics recycler will be coming Oct. 28 to empty the storage trailer.

E. John expressed appreciation for the third concrete pad to be finished. The hauler has advised he will place the containers on the new pads as they are emptied.

F. John is checking prices for a new bush hog. The cost of having the mound mowed makes purchasing a new unit more cost-effective.

3.8 Other Town Committees – The Committee to Investigate Withdrawing from RSU#4 held its first meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 7. Two other residents have expressed interest in joining and the procedure to add them was identified.

4.0 Scheduled Business

4.1 Request for waiver of right-of-way width requirement – Scott abbe, Labbe Lane – Scott Labbe advised his intent is to add another dwelling space on his property and was informed of the wider width requirement. There is not enough land between existing property lines to allow a wider right of way, so he is requesting a waiver. While he is retaining enough land to allow for another house lot, he advised he has no intention of building another house or subdividing the lot further which would require an even wider right of way. A motion to approve the waiver allowing the right of way to continue at 16 feet on this common drive was made by Scott Weeks, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

4.2 7 PM- Public Hearing – FY 23 General Assistance Ordinance Maximums Approval. A Public Hearing regarding the proposed General Assistance Ordinance provisions for FY 2022-2023 in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 22 § 4305-1 which replaces the former Appendices A – H was opened by the Chairman at 7:00 PM. Information regarding the proposals was provided and comments and questions were invited. There were no comments or questions. A motion to approve the proposed Amendment was made by Gary Parker, seconded by Scott Weeks and voted 2 – 0.

4.3 Approve Transfers from Road Maintenance Bond to pay road construction/maintenance expenses. The Town Manager had provided information to the Board in advance of this meeting. A motion to approve the transfer of \$768,208.14 from the Road Bond was made by Scott Weeks,

seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

4.4 Approve Town Lots for Sale – Additional information provided at this meeting indicated the deed for the abutting property on Richmond Road references the small parcel intended for sale as a town owned gravel pit. In researching the lots at Peace Pipe Shores, the subdivision plan from the 1980's describes these as lots retained by the owner so no deeds were developed for them and the Town acquired them for non-payment of taxes by the owner.

The Town Manager will have final documents ready for the next meeting to finalize authorization of requesting bids.

4.5 Abatement – R03-101, Maine Woods and Water, \$138.47 – When this property was split the shed was assessed to the wrong property owner. See 4.8 below for a supplemental tax for the person who is the correct shed owner. A motion to approve the tax abatement of \$138.47 was made by Gary Parker, seconded by Scott Weeks and voted 2 – 0.

4.6 Supplemental – R11- 015B, Chadd Hill, \$500 – A required filing for continued Tree Growth Exemption was not filed. The penalty is \$500. A motion to approve a Supplemental Tax of \$500 for Chadd Hill was made by Scott Weeks, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

4.7 Supplemental – R10- 022A, Marie MacInnis & John & Tammy Carpenter, \$500 - A required filing for continued Tree Growth Exemption was not filed. A motion to approve a Supplemental Tax of \$500 for Marie MacInnis & John & Tammy Carpenter was made by Scott Weeks, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

4.8 Supplemental – R03-101, Kimberly Hallowell, \$91.85 – See 4.5 above. A motion to approve a Supplemental Tax bill for Kimberly Hallowell in the amount of \$91.85 was made by Scott Weeks, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

7.0 Warrants

7.1 Town Warrant #12 for \$226,230.88. A motion to approve the Town Warrant # 12 for \$226,230.88 was made by Scott Weeks, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2-0.

7.2 Town Payroll #8 for \$27,755.30. A motion to approve the Town Payroll #8 for \$27,755.30 was made by Scott Weeks, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

8.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication

8.1 In response to an inquiry, the Town Manager advised several people had responded to the request to consider prepaying an estimated property tax and the threat of needing to request a tax anticipation note has been averted.

8.2 The owner and her representative of the property of 579 Richmond Road where Mr. Fields (a tenant) is operating an illegal junkyard, requested a copy of all correspondence to Mr. Fields regarding the situation to also be sent to the owner.

8.3 Ken Ackley, a candidate for the Maine House of Representatives advised if he is elected in November he will again introduce legislation to shorten the process for communities to withdraw from a School Administrative Unit. He also indicated the Public Utilities Commission has been too permissive and does not have accountability relating to granting every rate increase CMP has requested. Maine is last in the country for customer service and second to last for outage restoration. He feels the political system is at fault. The PUC should have higher expectations and requirements.

9.0 Future Agenda Items

9.1 Feedback on Selectman's Handbook

9.2 R02, Lot 017, 2783 Hallowell Rd.

9.3 Personnel Policy Workshop needs to be rescheduled.
9.4 Approve Sale of Lots

13.0 Adjournment at 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted By

Rayna Leibowitz