

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
October 25, 2021
Draft Meeting Minutes

1.0 Convened at 6:30 PM; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman, Rayna Leibowitz, absent is Clarence Gowell III; **Staff:** Kelly Weissenfels, Town Manager; Michael Sherman Fire Chief; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; Road Advisory Committee Member Richard Lane; Larry Bell, Chm., Broadband Comm. via Zoom; Conservation Comm. Members via Zoom.

2.0 Minutes of October 12, 2021 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes with typo corrections and correction of the School Payment vote was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2- 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Kelly Weissenfels, Town Manager: A. Election is scheduled for next Tuesday at the Sportsmens Club from 8 AM to 8 PM. There are 3 referendum questions. Turnout is expected to be light.

B. The situation around the vacant house on Whippoorwill Rd. is still being investigated.

C. The Town Manager plans to change some tasks of the office personnel to allow extra time for the elections and bookkeeping. Another 20 hour part time position will be filled. Applications are being accepted.

D. Kelly talked with the Town Manager of Monmouth regarding the Woodbury Pond Dam repairs. He has been invited to attend their next Select Board meeting on Nov 3 and to provide some read-ahead materials for their Board. He will also determine the costs of the work done so far.

E. A solicitation has been received from LifeFlight of Maine. A copy was provided to each Selectperson.

F. The dangerous building at 2787 Hallowell Road has been demolished and removed.

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector – Steve is absent tonight.

3.3 Road Commissioner – A. Some ditching remains to be done on the Whippoorwill Road.

B. The Public Works crew will start hanging plows on the town trucks within the next two weeks.

C. Larry advised the paving of the Wentzell Road, scheduled for this week has been postponed because of the predicted rain.

3.4 Fire & Rescue – A. Mike Sherman, Chief, advised the First Responder class has been postponed to allow additional students to enroll, allowing Mike to attend this meeting.

B. If Mike adheres to the Covid Vaccine mandate, 5 people will have to be put on leaves of absence. This will negatively impact the department's emergency response capability.

C. Shutters have been ordered to replace the damaged ones at the Central Station.

D. Pressure washing the exterior has been scheduled.

3.5 Emergency Management – No Report

3.6 Assessing Agent – Ellery was here last week and will be here next week, Nov. 4.

3.7 Transfer Station – A. Kelly reported for the Transfer Station Manager that they were very busy last weekend..

B. Kelly is waiting for information required to prepare bid documents for work desired at the

Transfer Station.

3.8 Broadband Committee – A. Larry Bell, Chairman, reported he received a draft of a contract from Redzone. It was reviewed via Zoom today and a revised contract is being drafted to be reviewed and forwarded to Redzone.

B. The Kennebec Journal newspaper carried a guest editorial regarding Broadband. Selectperson Leibowitz will provide a copy to the Town Office for Larry to pick up.

3.9 Other Town Committees – Road Advisory Committee – All States Paving Co. representatives met with the Committee last week and provided information regarding some alternative processes for road improvements. It was useful information and the Committee will consider it as the work plan for next year is developed.

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1 Woodbury Pond Dam - Larry Nadeau, Road Comm. advised the sandbags have been installed at the Woodbury Pond Dam in accordance with the instructions provided by the engineers. The water level had been lowered to the winter level and that facilitated placement of the sandbags. Kelly is expecting further information from Wright Pierce by 11/25/21. The Tacoma Lakes Association advised about 20% of their members are property owners in Monmouth. That has been the closest estimate of Monmouth properties we have been able to obtain.

5.2 Hunting Policy at Community Park – discussion with members of the Conservation Commission including Lindsay Nelsen, Christine Parker and Kelly Eaton, all via Zoom. The parcel that contains Community Park is 108 acres and includes the Public Works garage, various materials areas and a permitted mining operation for sand/gravel removal. While there are some maps with Community Park areas loosely defined, more definition is needed to identify the areas generally used by families with children, so those areas can be clearly identified as “no hunting areas”. Smithfield Plantation is clearly marked a no hunting area because of its use by families and schoolchildren. While most town owned property remains open to hunters and hikers, restricting a small area of the Community Park seemed to be reasonable. Some updated maps will be prepared for consideration at the next meeting. In the meantime, the kiosk at the entrance to the Community Park indicated no hunting is allowed in the Park. Discussion included (1) consider developing a children’s play area at Woodbury Pond Park; (2) Engaging hunters with the Park as a means of encouraging contributions; (3) Promoting town owned properties that are open for hunting. The Commission was thanked for their input.

5.3 Gardiner ambulance workshop - Kelly advised the Workshop was rescheduled to Nov. 8 and is still in conflict with this Select Board’s stated meeting. Tina Gowell will be participating in the Workshop and will provide a summary to this Board.

5.4 Fund demolition with contingency funds – funding for the demolition of 2787 Hallowell Road was not specifically identified in the budget for FY 2022. Sources that could be used for the total cost of \$20,724.65 were discussed. A motion to use \$20,000 from the Contingency Fund and the remainder from the Overlay Account was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

5.5 Abatement, Dillingham, R12-001A, \$3,269.68 This property had been sold but the deed did not get to the Assessing Agent for the change to be made. A motion to approve this abatement for map R12, Lot 001A for \$3,269.68 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

5.6 Abatement, Knight, R01-033B, \$2,317.32, Another ownership correction. A motion to approve this abatement for map R01-033B, for \$2,317.32 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

5.7 Abatement, Cummings, R12-013, \$1,858.10 Property was divided and a building was located on the other property but not removed from this parcel. A motion to approve this abatement for map R12-013, for \$1,858.10 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

5.8 Abatement, Sara Lee Coffee & Food, PP171, \$16.38 This tax was for personal property. The business moved out of Litchfield and no personal property remained. A motion to approve this abatement for \$16.35 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

5.9 Supplemental, John & Samantha Sturtevant, R12-001A, \$3,622.93 A motion to approve this Supplemental for \$3,622.93 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

5.10 Supplemental, Richard & Mary Knight, R01-033B, \$2,670.57 A motion to approve this Supplemental for \$2,670.57 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

5.11 Supplemental, Michael Cummings, R12-013D, \$1,575.50 A motion to approve this Supplemental for \$1,575.50 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

5.12 Supplemental, Flaherty, R03-105F, \$210.54 This property includes a camp under construction that has reached a taxable level of completion. A motion to approve this Supplemental for \$210.54 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

5.13 Supplement, David and Amanda Smith, R09-033B, \$1125.75. This was new construction missed with spring updates. A motion to approve this Supplemental for \$1,125.75 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

7.0 Appointments/Resignations

7.1 Constable -Additional applications are being invited.

8.0 Warrants

8.1 Town Warrant #8 for \$58,457.38 A motion to approve Town Warrant #8 for \$58,457.38 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

8.2 Town Payroll #8 \$31,874.27 A motion to approve Town Payroll #8 for \$31,874.27 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0.

9.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/ Communication

9.1 Chairman Parker raised some discussion regarding Referendum Question #3 that has not received much media notice.

9.2 There are junkyard concerns regarding several properties at or near Litchfield Corner that the CEO is requested to address, i.e. 2793 Hallowell Rd, Frank Lane, Dan Fields

10.0 Future Agenda Items

10.1 Feedback on Selectman's Handbook

10.2 R02-015, 2793 Hallowell Road

10.3 R02-017, 2783 Hallowell Road

10.4 Budget Committee Suggestion
10.5 Woodbury Pond Dam

11.0 Adjournment at 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted By

Rayna Leibowitz