

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
November 9, 2020
Meeting Minutes

1.0 Convened at 6:30 PM; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman, Rayna Leibowitz, Mark Russell; **Staff:** Kelly Weissenfels, Deputy Town Manager; Steve Ochmanski, CEO/LPI via Zoom; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm. via Zoom; Bryan Lamoreau, Transfer Station Manager; Pat Soboleski, Senior Director; Road Advisory Committee Members: Toby Jutras, Chm. via Zoom, Lindsay Nelsen, via Zoom, Richard Lane.

2.0 Minutes of October 26, 2020 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes with a minor typo correction was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Deputy Town Manager: A. Kelly reported elections went well. There were 977 mail in and in-person ballots and 2,192 residents voted in person. A lot of new registrations were received.

B. The annual audit will be held remotely next Tuesday and Wednesday.

C. New carpet will be installed on December 4 and 5 in the front office and cubicles.

D. The Poverty Abatement application has been withdrawn at this time.

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector –Steve participated via Zoom. A. The Permit Logs for September and October were distributed by Kelly. \$800 was received in permit fees for owner identified work valued at \$213,350.00. 1 new single family home is included in the two months.

B. Permit applications have slowed only a little. Several are waiting for additional information.

C. The Planning Board is doing two reviews: A Small Engine Repair Shop in Purgatory and an expansion of the parking lot at G & E Auto Repair on Route 126. Approval is likely when full information is provided. Planning Board meetings can be in person or via Zoom.

D. Three rebuilds in the Shoreland Zone have been approved this year.

E. The Planning Board will begin reviewing Ordinances in January to determine if changes are needed.

F. One enforcement is under way on the Ferrin road for a defective septic system. An inspection is scheduled for next week.

G. No movement on 2787 Hallowell Road. Still waiting for court action.

H. Steve has had a discussion with Chris Monroe about his property.

3.3 Road Commissioner – Larry participated via Zoom. A. Got a trace of snow last week which did not require any action.

B. Academy Road and West Road were paved. Needed more pavement than estimated. Chairman Parker advised there have been good comments on Facebook about the paving.

C. Easy Street scheduled to be paved next week.

D. One person is leaving the Public Works crew. Larry believes he has adequate plowing coverage with staff and spares.

E. Larry inquired about maps of the cemetery locations so the signs can be erected. A current

set of maps is on file at the Town Office and Kelly will make the information available to Larry.

3.4 Fire & Rescue – A. Chief Labbe is away and Reggie Poirier is in charge.

B. A new electric powered Jaws of Life has been received.

C. A report of responses for October included 4 calls for the Fire Dept (no fires but accidents, downed lines and mutual aid calls) and 2 First Responder calls.

3.5 Emergency Management – No report.

3.6 Assessing Agent – Ellery Bane was here Thursday and 2 agents expect to be here on Wednesday to do deed work. (The office will be closed due to Veterans Day.)

3.7 Transfer Station – A. Things went well over the past 2 weeks but they got slammed Saturday with bulky goods coming in.

B. A leak in the roof of the HazMat trailer was repaired.

C. Bryan has determined a 20 foot storage container for winter tire storage should be sufficient. If necessary, he can call for more frequent pick-ups.

3.8 Broadband Committee – Kelly reported for Larry Bell, Chairman, who was unavailable.

A. Casco Bay Advisors would like to present their survey results to the Select Board on Dec.

14.

B. Regarding the activity with the Grant received: four tablets (Android) have been purchased and provided to the Senior Center. A large screen TV has been installed in the Conference Room. A printer is expected to be purchased as well as equipment for the Hot Spot.

3.9 Other Town Committees – No reports.

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1 Dead River Road Grant Application- This application became more complex than expected and Larry called in Calderwood Engineering for assistance. This resulted in the identification of a second stream crossing on Dead River Road that needed to be addressed so two applications have been developed. Copies of the applications were provided to the Board. Following discussion, a motion to authorize the Deputy Town Manager to act on the two applications when he is satisfied they are complete was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 – 0.

5.2 Abatement Map U28, Lot 047, \$234.30 Robert Sinclair. An outside inspection was done previously and an inside inspection showed differences. A motion to approve an abatement of \$234.30 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 – 0.

5.3 Abatement Map U28, Lot 019, \$268.38 Constance Weston. An inspection identified ledges on the property that will likely limit building opportunity. A motion to approve an abatement of \$268.38 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 – 0.

5.4 Abatement Map R09, Lot 36-F, \$88.04 Jerry Welch regarding transfer of ownership. A motion to approve an abatement of \$88.04 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 – 0. Supplemental R09, Lot 36-F, \$88.04 A motion to approve a supplemental tax bill of \$88.04 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 – 0.

8.0 Appointments/Resignations

8.1 Conservation Commission, Christine Parker has requested appointment as an Associate member of the Conservation Commission. A motion to appoint Christine Parker as an Associate Member to the Conservation Commission was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 – 0. Discussion was held and candidates for appointment will be invited to attend a Board meeting for an introduction.

9.0 Warrants

9.1 Town Warrant #9 for \$413,809.97 of which \$313,680.33 is for RSU#4. A motion to approve the Town Warrant #9 for \$413,809.97 was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 – 0.

9.2 Town Payroll #9 for \$25,910.95. A motion to approve the Town Payroll #9 for \$25,910.95 was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 – 0.

10.0 Other Business

10.1 MDOT Letter - revisions to the original draft have been made including identification of the number of accidents reported in 2018 (the latest data available), identification of the current speed limit by 491 Richmond Road is 45 MPH and statement that the Day Care facility at 491 Richmond Road has opened for business. A motion to approve the letter to MDOT requesting lowering the speed limit near the intersection of Route 197 and Huntington Hill/Center Road, installation of blinking caution and stop lights at this intersection and painting a crosswalk across Route 197 by 491 Richmond Road and authorizing it to be signed outside of the meeting after it is typed onto Town of Litchfield letterhead was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 – 0.

10.2 An announcement was made the RSU#4 schools have transitioned to virtual instruction following the identification of positive testing results. A decision to return students to classrooms will be made following the Thanksgiving break.

13.0 Adjournment at 7:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted By

Rayna Leibowitz