

Town of Litchfield  
Select Board  
January 11, 2021  
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; Stan Labbe, Fire Chief; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm. via Zoom; Pat Soboleski, Senior Director via Zoom; Larry Bell, Chm., Broadband Comm and Joline Bell, Broadband Comm. Via Zoom. Others participating in discussion via Zoom were Bill Monagle and Wendy Dennis, Cobbossee Watershed District.

The Chairman, Gary Parker, advised the meeting is being available to the community via interactive telecommunications rather than by attending the meetings in person in support of Covid-19 precautions.

**2.0 Minutes of December 14, 2020 Meeting submitted for final approval.** A motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

**3.0 Reports and Correspondence:**

3.1 Town Manager: A. Kelly Weissenfels, Deputy Town Manager, advised tax payments are coming in well.

B. The formal audit of financial records was done on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week. Final reconciliations will be done this week. All was done remotely with some telephone calls and email being used.

C. Information coming out of Governor Mills proposed budget includes projections for increased funding for schools, a continuation of the Homestead Exemption at current levels and an expected increase in Revenue Sharing to locals. Selectman Russell commented that (income) tax monies received through the federal Paycheck Protection Program may help cover some of the income shortfalls because of the lower economical picture unless the Legislature changes the current law.

D. Discussed a Personnel Policy Workshop. A draft of proposed changes was requested before a date is established. Kelly will prepare it. He was reminded the new Paid Leave Law will need to be included.

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector – A. Steve was absent. Kelly advised he is preparing his annual report of Building Permit activity for the next meeting.

B. Re: 2787 Hallowell Rd – Trash removal is scheduled for Wednesday. Once that is completed, potential bidders will be offered an opportunity to inspect the property for the purpose of developing a bid. A proposed RFP was distributed to the Board for review.

3.3 Road Commissioner – Larry Nadeau, Road Comm. Via Zoom – A. There have been snow and rain storms since the last Board meeting.

B. There have been some breakdowns with equipment. Nothing serious. Repairs are completed and the equipment is again ready for use.

C. There was another wash on Buker Road they worked on, but the frozen ground limits what

can be done.

D. The speed monitoring device is now operational.

E. When asked about the salt situation, he advised the price was locked in last year for this season and will be established later this year for next winter. Our supplies of salt and sand are holding up well.

3.4 Fire & Rescue – A. Chief Labbe advised the Fire Dept has been pretty quiet recently.

B. The First Responders who wanted Covid shots have received them at the Augusta Fire Dept.

C. December Response calls for the Fire Dept were 5, for First Responders 20

D. A summary of numbers of calls for the year (2020) was provided with 131 Fire Dept. calls and 89 First Responder calls. Covid symptom calls were not covered by our First Responders, Gardiner Rescue handled them.

E. Training programs that had been interrupted because of Covid-19 will resume with social distancing. Some classes are mandatory.

3.5 Emergency Management – No report

3.6 Assessing Agent – Ellery Bane, Assessing Agent, is expected to be in the office this week. There were no calls for his attention last week.

3.7 Transfer Station – A. Kelly reported for Bryan Lamoreau, Transfer Station Manager. Bryan has not found any containers yet but will continue looking.

B. Chairman Parker requested getting the word out early and repeatedly, that brush, refrigerators, freezers and tires would not be accepted after snow falls at the Transfer Station. Folks apparently don't know or don't remember each year and find it frustrating to load and transport the items and find they can't leave them.

3.8 Broadband Committee – A. Larry Bell, Chairman, provided a proposed contract to the Select Board before this meeting for Casco Bay Advisors to provide consultation work for the Committee. See 4.1 and 6.1.

B. Training – the Train the trainer efforts for the Senior Center recently included getting instruction to use Zoom and several residents were tuned into the meeting tonight with the new skill.

3.9 Other Town Committees – no reports

## **4.0 Agenda Adjustments**

4.1 Casco Bay Advisors Contract Approval

## **5.0 Scheduled Business**

5.1 Review and Discussion of 1/7/21 Cobbossee Stream Alewives Meeting – Selectman Mark Russell participated in this Zoom meeting and was joined in discussion here with Bill Monagle and Wendy Dennis of the Cobbossee Watershed District. The meeting was called by “Upstream” and hosted by the City of Gardiner.

Wendy advised an engineer was hired to do a preliminary design for 2 dams, Gardiner Paperboard and New Mills, to identify “how” it could be done, not “should” be done. The New Mills dDm would require more technical structure. The Denil ladder is less cost and less structure. The New Mills Dam controls the water levels for an extensive area. Changing water levels to accommodate alewives migration is an unresolved issue. Water level management conflict resolution needs to be worked out. The cost estimate to construct the two dams is \$1.5 to \$2.5 million dollars. The source

of the funding is not fully known.

Bill Monagle advised the water quality topic became debated and Zoom is not a great avenue to do this. Bill is gathering information from a wide variety of sources, especially focused on water quality.

Wendy advised a real question is what would be the benefit of unlimited access for alewives to the water bodies above the two dams mentioned above. The benefits identified so far appear to be very weak. Fish harvesting (to use as lobster bait) issues would be a local issue and only benefit the City of Gardiner. The Maine Dept. of Marine Resources would not control it.

Bill stated the only benefit he can see is for the City of Gardiner “selling” fish harvesting rights. The lakes/ponds that would be impacted immediately would be Pleasant Pond, Annabesacook, Cobbossee Lake, Upper and Lower Narrows Ponds. These have shorelands in 8 communities. Bill was asked if he thought there would be pressure on Litchfield to provide fish ladders for Woodbury Pond Dam. His response was that is not off the table, but probably wouldn’t be a priority any time soon.

There was discussion about the importance of raising public awareness of this effort to introduce an unlimited amount of alewives upstream. Bill has a one-page summary document that he will forward to Kelly to be put on our website and distributed to the Board.

5.2 Route 197 Diner – Review of Liquor License Renewal – The Application was reviewed, a call was made to the applicant to confirm a date on it and a motion to approve and sign the application was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

5.3 Lintonia Bar & Grill - Review of Liquor License Renewal - The Application was reviewed and a motion to approve and sign the application was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

## **6.0 Unscheduled Business**

6.1 Casco Bay Advisors Contract Approval – A motion to approve the contract for Casco Bay Advisors to provide services to the Broadband Committee at a cost not to exceed \$7,500 and authorize the Deputy Town Manager to sign it on behalf of the Board was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

## **8.0 Appointments/Resignations**

8.1 Conservation Commission – Appointment, Janis Boyer -This appointment would fill a vacant position as a regular member. A motion to appoint Janis Boyer as a regular member of the Conservation Commission was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

8.2 Budget Committee – Resignation, David Blocher – David submitted his resignation as he has now moved out of town. A motion to accept his resignation with regrets and appreciation for his many hours of time and work over many years was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes. A motion to award David a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Select Board was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

8.3 Conservation Committee - Correction of the Appointment of Christine Parker, originally appointed as an alternate member. A motion to appoint Christine Parker as a regular member of the

Conservation Commission was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

8.4 Budget Commission – Margaret Martin – A motion to reappoint Margaret Martin to the Budget Committee after accepting her earlier resignation was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

## **9.0 Warrants**

9.1 Town Warrant #13 for \$395,454.16 of which \$313,680.33 is for RSU#4 - A motion to approve Warrant #13 for \$395,454.16 was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

9.2 Town Payroll #13 for \$40,751.20 - A motion to approve Town Payroll for \$40,751.20 was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Gary Parker and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

Town Payroll #13A for **minus** \$7,315.56 to correct an error in quarterly payments to the Select Board. A motion to approve Town Payroll #13A for -\$7,315.56 was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted RL yes, MR yes, GP yes.

## **11.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication**

11.1 The Deputy Town manager was asked if there has been a request for a FMLA issue. He has not received one.

11.2 The status of timely posting of Select Board minutes and other committee/Commission meeting minutes was requested. Kelly responded that updates of several minutes have been done this last weekend and some committees have been invited to input their own minutes and postings to allow for faster postings.

## **12.0 Future Agenda Items**

12.1 Feedback on Selectman's Handbook

12.2 R02, Lot 016, 2787 Hallowell Rd – bid proposal Jan 25

12.3 R02, Lot 017, 2783 Hallowell Rd

## **13.0 Adjournment at 8:20 PM**

Respectfully Submitted By

Rayna Leibowitz