

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
April 25, 2022
Meeting Minutes

1.0 Convened at 6:30 PM; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman, Rayna Leibowitz, Clarence Gowell III (identified as Rick Gowell in these minutes); **Staff:** Kelly Weissenfels, Town Manager; John Upham, Acting Transfer Station Manager; Road Advisory Committee Member: Richard Lane; Tom Wood, Chm., and Elton Wade, Budget Comm.; Larry Bell, Chm., Broadband Comm. Joline Bell, Friends of Woodbury Pond Park, Cliff Daigle, ACO; Conservation Comm. Chairman via Zoom.

2.0 Minutes of April 11, 2022 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3- 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Town Manager: A The Town Manager, Road Commissioner and Budget Committee Chairman will meet with the Clerk of the Works candidate from Kleinfelder on Thursday.

B. A meeting has been set up with the First National Bank regarding payroll handling.

C. Redzone has extended the offer to 4/30 for resident contacts regarding service to result in a \$1,000 donation to the Food Bank if 250 is reached. They have been at the Transfer Station on Saturdays and even the President and his wife have gone door to door to make contacts.

D. Several residents have commented on the Kennebec Valley Humane Shelter topic in support of reestablishing the contract with them.

E. An estimate for engineering has been received for the Fire Station Parking Lot: A topo survey, determination of a solution to the water drainage issue, and a plan for the paving of the front driveway area, for an amount not to exceed \$16,250.

F There is an additional Quitclaim Deed to be added to Unscheduled Business

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector – Absent due to a painful leg injury. The Town Manager reported:

A. Building Permits for March – 7 issued, \$550 collected in fees for owner identified value of \$501, 250.

B. Junkyards – incremental progress while the ground continues to dry out.

C. 2783 and 2793 Hallowell Road properties - no activity

3.3 Road Commissioner – A. The Road Commissioner arrived back in Litchfield very early this morning and was excused from attending this meeting.

B. The rented Excavator arrived Thursday.

C. Public Works back dragged and cold patched the area damaged at the back of the Fire Station with 3 yards of cold patch.

D. Invitations for Public Works applicants continue.

3.4 Fire & Rescue – A. No report as the Department has been covering a mutual aid town while that town respond out of town.

3.5 Emergency Management – No report

3.6 Assessing Agent – Ellery Bane is expected to be here April 28.

3.7 Transfer Station – A. See the written report provided.

3.8 Broadband Committee – A. Redzone has been actively soliciting interest in their product. They expect to be testing in May and installing in June. An additional program is being offered with 200 down and 50 up for the same price.

B. A special event is scheduled for May 24 at Doolin’s.

C. They will be turning on the South Monmouth and WCBB towers first to provide the most coverage. They are looking for a few repeater locations and will be contacting private landowners as required.

3.9 Other Town Committees –The Volunteer Committee known as Friends of Woodbury Park, Joline Bell, Organizer, advised there will be 2 dates for clean-up and oak tree trimming on May 14 and 21. All volunteers are welcome. Bring your own tools. Funding for some things might be needed including gravel around the fire pits and maybe some ditching before June 15.

Conservation Comm: They held a Scavenger Hunt at Community Park for Earth Day that was well attended.

Budget Comm.: A Budget Workshop will be held with the Select Board on Tuesday at 3:00 PM. The RSU #4 passed a school budget. Litchfield’s additional cost will be \$509,000. A final meeting is scheduled for May 18 and additional costs may be proposed at that time resulting in even higher costs for Litchfield. The Budget Comm. is looking for a summary to be made available to Litchfield residents.

The Kennebec County budget is expected to be 2% higher than last year. The Town needs to get specific information from the County to put into our budget.

The final budget for Litchfield will be finalized in early May.

4.0 Scheduled Business

4.1 CEO Assessment of Pending Housing Legislation – In Steve’s absence, Gary Parker, Chairman, advised the legislation intends to increase housing by over-ruling local ordinances and eliminating local controls.

4.2 Presentation by Friends of Cobbossee Watershed – Tony Pied – A request was made for Litchfield to support increased courtesy boat inspections for Cobbossee Lake. Already three different non-native invasive plant species have been found. It is important to control those and prevent other introductions as well as prevent plants being taken from Cobbossee to other lakes. Water inspections will be done to survey vulnerable areas. The Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH boat), removed plants from Horseshoe and Pleasant Ponds. Property owners need education on proper removal. Bill Kelyka and Jim Adams advised an active fund-raising effort is being made to increase control efforts. They do about 1100 inspections and find variable leaf milfoil leaving the Thoroughfare boat landing frequently. Each speaker emphasized the importance of controlling the spread of these plants to maintain the value of the area lakes.

4.3 Capital Improvement Plan – new format preview – The Town Manager showed the format of the new and improved Capital Improvement Plan which allows for embedded information to be more readily available.

4.4 Quitclaim Deed, R03, Lot 105F (correction of missed discharge from 2016) Property of Willard Flaherty. A title search identified the lien discharge from 2016 was paid but was never recorded. A motion to approve the Quitclaim Deed was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

4.5 Quitclaim Deed, R06, Lot 030 (correction of missed discharge 1968) Property of Donald

K. Vannah, Sr. A title search identified the lien discharge from 1968 was paid but was never recorded. A motion to approve the Quitclaim Deed was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

5.0 Unscheduled Business

5.1 Quitclaim Deeds, R03, Lot 088A, Mark and Carmen Lemay Property, 3 years, same owners. A motion to approve the Quitclaim deeds for 3 years, 2015, 2016, 2018 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

5.2 A request for permission for Food Bank Building Fund Donation Solicitation in the Lobby was made by Rayna Leibowitz. A motion to approve it was made by Rick Gowell, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0 -1 (Leibowitz abstained).

7.0 Warrants

7.1 Town Warrant # 27 for \$64,094.10, A motion to approve the Warrant #27 for \$ 64,094.10 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2-0 – 1 (Gowell Abstained as he had not reviewed the documents.) \$49,700 of this total is for the prefabricated bridge for the Dead River Road stream crossing grant project.

7.2 Town Payroll # 21 for \$22,425.26 A motion to approve the Payroll #21 for \$22,425.26 was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 2 – 0 – 1 (Gowell abstained as he had not reviewed the documents.)

8.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communications

8.1 Additional comments were received regarding the position in favor of contracting with the Kennebec Valley Humane Shelter. Resident Ed Avis presented information he had researched to support this position. Resident John Healey requested information to be posted on the Town's website and the Town Manager agreed to do so if it is provided to him. Resident Ellen Wood requested the members of the Select Board visit the facility to assess its adequacy. The mechanism for citizens to place an article on the Warrant for Town Meeting (June 18) was discussed. A petition signed by 10% of the voters in the last election of the Governor and returned to the Town Office by May 19 would require such an article.

9.0 Future Agenda Items

- 9.1 Feedback on Selectman's Handbook
- 9.2 R02, Lot 015, 2793 Hallowell Rd
- 9.3 R02, Lot 017, 2783 Hallowell Rd.
- 9.4 Budget Committee Suggestions
- 9.5 Safety Flaggers
- 9.6 Purchase of Jersey Barriers from MTA or Other Barriers from Other Vendors
- 9.7 Pavement Repairs for Libby, Wentzell and Stevenstown Roads
- 9.8 Reserve Account for Various identified Fire Dept. Expenses
- 9.9 Woodbury Pond Dam Engineering Report and Proposed Bid Materials
- 9.10 Selling Town Property
- 9.11 Animal Control/animal Shelter Issue

13.0 Adjournment at 9:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted By Rayna Leibowitz