

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
September 12, 2022
Meeting Minutes

1.0 Convened at 6:30 PM; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman, Clarence Gowell III (identified as Rick Gowell in these minutes), Scott Weeks; **Staff:** Kelly Weissenfels, Town Manager; Michael Sherman, Fire Chief; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; John Upham, Transfer Station Manager; Road Advisory Committee Member: Richard Lane; Tom Wood, Chm. Budget Comm.; Pat Soboleski, Senior Center Director

2.0 Minutes of August 22, 2022 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes with typos corrected was made by Rick Gowell, seconded by Scott Weeks and voted 2- 0 – 1 abstained (was absent).

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Town Manager: A. Kelly advised the Woodbury Pond Dam work was inspected on Wednesday along with the new bridge in Dead River Road.

B. Kelly attended a payroll Class provided by Maine Municipal Association which was very useful.

C. A request has been received from Maine Dept. of Transportation regarding overweight limit waivers for town owned roads while the Babcock Bridge is being replaced. Tabled to the next meeting to give Board Members time to review the request.

D. The Road Advisory Committee requested to be on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss their continued function(s).

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector – A. Kelly advised he sent Steve home because of a health issue. The Building Permit Log for August will be provided at the next meeting.

3.3 Road Commissioner – A. Larry advised the paving on Lunts Hill Road is being done today and Tuesday.

B. The Overlay will start Wednesday.

C. The Whippoorwill Road is past the half way mark.

D. One employee has left but another was hired and will start in 2 weeks. He already has a Class A license.

E. There have been some truck breakdowns but all have been repaired except a clutch job that was sent out and is expected to be done by next week.

3.4 Fire & Rescue – A. Chief Sherman advised a voluntary inspection is being done soon. They are 99% ready and the remaining 1% will be done Tuesday. By requesting an inspection, any deficiencies identified are not considered problems if they are corrected before the “official” inspection is done.

B. The Forestry Truck with the broken pump is still not fixed. They are looking for repair parts. Chief Sherman advised the other pumping capability within the Department that is working fine can meet any needs they may have, and mutual aid is always available.

C. The response report for August 2022 calls was provided. The Fire Dept. had 8 fire calls including 3 mutual aid, 1 structure fire, 3 motor vehicle crashes and 1 dumpster fire. The First Responders received 46 calls and responded to 14 of them. Gardiner Fire & Rescue responded to the

others.

3.5 Emergency Management – No Report

3.6 Assessing Agent – Ellery Bane will be here Sept. 22.

3.7 Transfer Station – A. A total of 2250 stickers have been issued. 6177 items have been removed from the Swap Shop. There have been less materials delivered reflecting the seasonal slow-down. The new door for the paper container has not yet arrived. The bottle rooms have been painted and thanks were extended to the American Legion and Tacoma Lakes Assn for their donations. Tires and Freon are waiting to be removed. When the Public Works crew finishes with their road work, the third concrete pad is waiting for their attention.

3.8 Other Town Committees – No reports

4.0 Scheduled Business

4.1 7:00 PM Open Winter Sand Bids – 3 bids were received:

St Laurent of Sabattus \$13.22 per cubic yard

CA Stevenson of Wayne \$18.75 per cubic yard

Country Fair of Bowdoinham \$14.90 per cubic yard

A motion to accept the bid from St Laurent, conditional on a satisfactory inspection by the Road Commissioner, was made by Rick Gowell, seconded by Scott Weeks and voted 3 – 0.

4.2 2022 Property Tax Commitment – The RSU#4 Administration has notified the Town Manager of an error they made in determining the amount of the Local Share of education costs for FY 2023. An additional \$760,000 is needed. The tax commitment for taxes that would normally be approved at this meeting cannot be complete with an incorrect figure. Correction of the amount must be approved by the voters of the Town of Litchfield. The options are to hold a Special Town Meeting or include it on the voting for the general elections on November 8. If the tax commitment is done with the incorrect amount now to get bills out to property owners in the usual schedule, a supplemental tax bill will be necessary if the corrected amount is approved on Nov. 8. The potential problems that would create with banks and lending institutions handling escrow accounts for tax payments could not be determined for this meeting. The Town Manager was directed to obtain information from some identifiable lenders as well as some additional information to bring back for an emergency Select Board meeting set for 7:00 AM on Thursday morning, Sept 15, for the purpose of deciding the details of setting the tax commitment.

An explanation of the error by RSU#4 is found on their website.

4.3 Appoint Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Withdrawal from RSU#4 – Further discussion was held regarding the advisability of looking into this topic. Four people have identified a willingness to participate and all were present for this discussion. A motion was made to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Withdrawal from RSU#4 by Scott Weeks, seconded by Rick Gowell. Appointed to this Committee at this meeting were: Percy Gowell, Chadd Hill, Michael Sherman and Tom Wood on a motion by Rick Gowell, seconded by Scott Weeks. Percy Gowell has agreed to be the Chairman of this committee. He will work with the Town Manager regarding questions/discussion with the Town’s legal counsel and public information issues using the Town’s website and/or Facebook account.

4.4 Review Available Town-Owned property/Approve for Sale – A list of four tax acquired properties which the Town would like to offer for sale by bid was provided to the Conservation Commission to offer recommendations for retaining them based on a number of criteria that has been developed. The Town Manager received the report from the Commission with no recommendation to

retain any of them. Additionally, there are three very small lots within Peace Pipe Shores Development that are being considered. Research must be done to determine if the legislative body of the Town voted to require all property being disposed of must be offered for sale by public (advertised) bid before these lots can be addressed. A motion to put the four unquestioned lots out for bid was made by Rick Gowell, seconded by Scott Weeks and voted 3 – 0.

4.5 Quit Claim Deed – R11 Lot 015E (Caron Foren) A Repurchase Agreement has been successfully completed for this property. A motion to approve signing a Quit Claim Deed for R11, Lot 015E was made by Scott Weeks, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0.

5.0 Unscheduled Business

5.1 Add 7.4 to Agenda: 7.4 Town Payroll #4 for \$31,211.59. This is necessary because there was an extra pay period between August 22 and Sept. 12.

6.0 Appointments/Resignations

6.1 Re-appoint Lina Fontes to Senior Advisory Committee – A motion to reappoint Lina Fontes to the Senior Advisory Committee was made by Scott Weeks, seconded by Rick Gowell and voted 3 – 0. was

7.0 Warrants

7.1 Town Warrant # 7 for \$345,018.85 A motion to approve the Warrant #7 for \$345,018.85 was made by Rick Gowell, seconded by Scott Weeks and voted 3-0.

7.2 RSU#4 Warrant #8 for \$348,777.42. A motion to approve the RSU#4 Warrant #8 for \$348,777.42 was made by Rick Gowell, seconded by Scott Weeks and voted 2-1.

7.3 Town Payroll # 5 for \$26,098.55 A motion to approve the Town Payroll # 5 for \$26,098.55 was made by Rick Gowell, seconded by Scott Weeks and voted 3-0.

7.4 Town Payroll #4 for \$31,211.59 A motion to approve the Payroll #4 for \$31,211.59 was made by Rick Gowell, seconded by Scott Weeks and voted 3-0.

8.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication None

9.0 Future Agenda Items

- 9.1 Feedback on Selectman's Handbook
- 9.2 R02, Lot 017, 2783 Hallowell Rd.
- 9.3 Overweight Waiver for Rt 126, Babcock Bridge project
- 9.4 Road Advisory Committee
- 9.5 Building Permit Log
- 9.6 Tax Commitment Update
- 9.7 Disposing of Tax Acquired Lots Only by Public Bid
- 9.8 Reviewing Town Properties

13.0 Adjournment at 9:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted By

Rayna Leibowitz