

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 ~ 5:30 P.M.
IN-PERSON AT LITCHFIELD FIREHOUSE, 258 WEST ST, LITCHFIELD, CT AND
REMOTE MEETING BY LIVE INTERNET VIDEO STREAM AND TELEPHONE

Call to Order First Selectman Denise Raap called the hybrid meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Selectmen present were Dan Morosani, Jodiann Tenney, Jeff Zullo, and First Selectman Denise Raap. Selectman John Bongiorno arrived at 5:38 p.m. Also present was Public Works Director Raz Alexe.

Approval of Minutes:

- a) **Board of Selectmen, regular meeting, 08/05/2025 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the 08/05/2025 regular Board of Selectmen meeting minutes. D. Morosani seconded the motion. **Amendment:** J. Zullo motioned to amend the meeting minutes to state the budget for constables for the first year is \$200,000 per officer. D. Morosani seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Public Requests/Comments none

Selectmen's Requests **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to add under new business waiver of building permit fees for the Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance building. D. Morosani seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed. **Motion:** D. Morosani motioned to move Michael Walker's interview to the first interview. J. Zullo seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed. **Motion:** D. Morosani motioned to add an executive session to discuss Board of Ethics candidates. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed. J. Tenney requested that D. Raap contact the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to address the speed reduction sign ahead of Route 254 on westbound Route 118, noting that the sign is the wrong color and requesting that it be relocated to a position after the intersection. R. Alexe explained that the current placement is due to a vertical curve in the road. D. Morosani asked whether D. Raap had received any information from CTDOT regarding the Town's authority to add or remove stop signs, specifically referencing the intersection of Route 118 and Route 202. D. Raap responded that CTDOT would return to the Town with a plan within a month. *J. Bongiorno arrived at 5:38 p.m. J. Tenney requested that the canceled joint meeting between the Borough of Litchfield and the Board of Selectmen be rescheduled. J. Zullo asked for an update on when the municipal parking lot construction would be completed so the electric vehicle fast chargers could be brought back online; R. Alexe estimated completion in approximately two weeks.

First Selectman's Update Report D. Raap stated that she, R. Alexe, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners and EMS John Campbell, and Litchfield Fire Chief Dave Rogers met with residents on Prospect Street regarding a request to install speed bumps. She noted that the Town's Fire, EMS, and Public Works departments are not in favor of speed bumps but proposed alternative solutions, including lane narrowing and the addition of perpendicular lines, which will be implemented. D. Raap also mentioned that sewer bills will be sent out one week late. She reported that the bond sale has been completed at a rate of 3.7%. Additionally, windows are currently being installed at Town Hall. D. Raap shared that she and Erich Marriott, Chair of the Board of Finance, signed a Memorandum of Understanding clarifying that Litchfield is only responsible for the Litchfield Board of Education pension, while Region 6 towns are responsible for the Region 6 Board of Education pension. She also noted that the Town has made its first budget deficit mitigation payment with the second assessment payment. Finally, D. Raap presented and read the Citizen of the Month proclamations, honoring Jane Bailey, Anna Heys, and Sue Kennedy.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

- a) **Interview Michael Walker for the Board of Ethics** M. Walker stated that he has been serving in government, for the country, and in the community since his sophomore year in high school.
- b) **Interview Victoria Butkus for the Economic Development, alternate member, term ending 6/2027** **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Victoria Butkus to the Economic Development Commission as an alternate member with a term ending 06/2027. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- c) **Interview Barry Winnick, DDS for the Board of Ethics** B. Winnick stated he has served on other boards that deal with handling conflicts.
- d) **Interview Walter Mack for the Board of Ethics** W. Mack has, throughout his career, embraced leadership principles grounded in integrity and has held positions that required evaluations of both integrity and ethics.
- e) **Appoint Matt Dyer to the Interlocal Emergency Medical Services Committee, alternate member, term ending 08/2027** **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Matt Dyer to the Interlocal Emergency Medical Services Committee as an alternate member with a term ending 08/2027. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- f) **Appoint Justin Downes as Animal Control Officer** **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Justin Downes as an Animal Control Officer. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: On TownofLitchfield.org website

Public Works Bid(s)

- a) **BOS approval to proceed with Design Build for Old South Road** **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned that the Board of Selectmen approve the Public Works project Old South Road with the design build from the 200 block down and proceed with the recommendation. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- b) **BOS recommendation to award line striping contract using the CRCOG bid** **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned that the Board of Selectmen approve the line striping contract for 25/26 budget year to Safety Marking LLC per CRCOG bid. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- c) **BOS recommendation to award RRFB procurement and installation to Ferguson Contractors** R. Alexe stated no motion is needed; he was updating the BOS on the latest procurement situation based on CTDOT's RRFB construction project.

Region 20 Update J. Bongiorno stated that the issue of changing invoices to bill Litchfield Public Schools for Region 6 expenses may be more appropriately addressed through the statute of legalities rather than focusing solely on the overspending. J. Zullo noted that the subcommittee has been authorized to look into doing an investigation into the errors and omissions involved. D. Raap added that an amended audit must be presented to the Board of Finance, incorporating the changes identified by the Region 20 Finance Director. J. Zullo further explained that while the audit received indicated that Litchfield is owed \$178,000, Region 20 has stated the amount is actually \$118,000. J. Tenney expressed concern that the audit from two years ago failed to identify monies owed to Litchfield. D. Raap shared that she received an email from Christopher Zavagnin, Connecticut State Republicans, pointing out that Litchfield was not included in the original audit request. In response, she advocated for a more detailed audit covering Region 20's first year, including Region 6 and Litchfield, as well as an audit going back one additional year. J. Tenney also requested an update on Title I, Part D, regarding funds that were intended for the Connecticut Junior Republic. D. Raap responded that, until this year, no report was required to account for where the money was allocated. J. Tenney raised further concerns about Region 20's practice of digitizing invoices and shredding the originals, and also requested an expected delivery date for the invoices.

Advanced Tech Update J. Bongiorno stated that the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority is now enforcing an old statute requiring Eversource to prohibit any connections to utility poles unless they include meters, each costing \$11,500. He also noted that a meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2025, to discuss the use of power over fiber.

WPCA Liaison Update J. Zullo stated that Eversource installed the wrong meter and appears not to have honored the interconnect agreement they had previously approved. He added that, as a result, the solar system has been feeding power into the grid without the WPCA receiving any credit. However, J. Zullo noted that the WPCA will receive a back credit.

Sustainable Litchfield Update no update

Vacancies: The list of current appointed vacancies with term expirations is as follows:

Advanced Technology Commission: 2 alternate members 2/2026

Beautification Commission: 5 regular members 1-02/2026, 2-02/2027, 2-2/2028; 3 alternate members 2/2028

Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 member 6/2025

Conservation Commission: 1 alternate member 1-12/2025

Economic Development Commission: 1 alternate member 6/2027

Board of Ethics: 5 regular members 2-6/2026, 1-6/2027, 2-6/2028; 1 alternate member 6/2028

Inland Wetlands Commission: 1 regular member 6/2025; 2 alternate members 6/2027

Litchfield Arts Council: 2 regular members 8/2027

Litchfield Prevention Council: 4 alternate members 1-6/2026, 1-6/2027, 2-6/2028

Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regulars 1/2030; 3 alternate members 2-1/2027, 1-1/2028

Park & Recreation Commission: 1 alternate member 6/2029

Pension Commission: 1 alternate member 3/2030

Sustainable Litchfield Committee: 1 alternate members 3/2026

Torrington Area Health District: 1 regular member 12/2027

Town Facilities Review Committee: 3 regular members 3/2026; 2 alternates 3/2026

Veterans' Advisory Committee: 1 regular member 8/2026; 1 alternate member 8/2027

Waste Reduction Committee: 1 regular member 02/2026

Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA): 1 alternate member 1/2026

Western CT Coalition, CAC #22: 1 member 5/2027

Zoning Board of Appeals: 3 alternate members 3/2027

Tax Refunds Motion: J. Zullo motioned to approve four tax refunds totaling \$282.52. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

- a) **Follow Up on Resident Troopers Versus Constables Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to table the follow up on Resident Troopers versus Constables to a future meeting. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- b) **Bantam Lake Proposed Ordinance** Connie Trolle introduced the Limnologist, Larry Marsicano from Brawley Consulting Group, they are working with on creating an ordinance due to the environmental impact of wake boats.

New Business

- a) **Planning & Zoning Legal Bill Blanket - \$5,000 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve a Planning & Zoning legal bill blanket of \$5,000 to cover Planning & Zoning legal expenses for budget year 25/26. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

- b) **Request for Waiving Zoning Fees - American Legion Totaling \$400 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the waiving of zoning fees for the American Legion totaling \$400. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- c) **Capital Improvement Program Policy Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to table the Capital Improvement Program Policy to a future meeting. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- d) **Waiver of Building Permit Fees for Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to waive the building permit fees for the Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Executive Session Board of Ethics Candidates Discussion, the Board of Selectmen agreed to have a special meeting via Zoom to discuss Board of Ethics candidates.

Adjournment Motion: J. Zullo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.



Denise Raap, First Selectman