

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 ~ 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 5:34 p.m. Selectmen present were Jeff Zullo, Jodiann Tenney, John Bongiorno, Dan Morosani, and First Selectman Denise Raap. Also present were Public Works Director Raz Alexe, Public Works Supervisor Brett Seamans, Land Use Administrator Spencer Musselman and Park and Recreation Director Michael Lyn Cappello.

Approval of Minutes:

- a) **Board of Selectmen, regular meeting minutes, 12/16/2025 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned and J. Bongiorno seconded the motion to approve the Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes of 12/16/2025. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Public Requests/Comments Matt Tobin, a Litchfield resident, requested an update regarding participation by a Litchfield Board of Finance member in Region 20. D. Raap explained that a Regional Board of Finance would need to be created by the Region 20 Board of Education, and she has submitted this request to both the Superintendent and the Board of Education Chair, who indicated they are reviewing the matter. M. Cappello reported that the electronic gate at the Town Beach is now operating with fobs. The cost is \$20 per fob; residents over age 65 will only need to purchase a fob once, while residents under 65 will pay a \$15 annual renewal fee. Replacement fobs are \$50. She noted that instructions for access will be provided to the Firehouses. The gate is anticipated to be closed beginning Sunday, January 10, 2026.

Selectmen's Requests J. Zullo reported that construction on the Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance building is progressing well, with windows and doors expected to be installed next week. He noted that the siding is already on site and expressed hope that a Certificate of Occupancy could be issued by June 2026. He further stated that the Town Facilities Committee has received a revised design from the architectural firm for the Bantam Annex project to comply with Bantam Planning & Zoning's recent zone change. The redesign includes four two- to three-bedroom apartments located at the rear of the Bantam Annex building, an area that is currently unused. **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to add under old business, Connecticut Department of Transportation presentation dates. D. Morosani seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

First Selectman's Update Report D. Raap announced that the America 250 kickoff event will take place on Saturday, January 10, 2026, with activities beginning at 4:30 p.m., and noted that the North Street Extension will close at 12 p.m. in preparation for the event. She also reported that the Recycling Center is currently accepting Christmas trees. D. Raap further explained that the Town's new phone system can now be used for virtual meetings, allowing chairs of boards, committees, and commissions to be added as members so they can host their own virtual meetings, provided the meeting link is posted on the agenda. J. Zullo read the Citizen of the Month proclamation, honoring Brett Seamans.

Resignations

- a) Stephanie Weaver from the Waste Reduction Committee, effective 12/16/2025, received and noted.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

- a) Appoint Stephanie Weaver to the Waste Reduction Committee, regular member, term ending 02/2026 and reappoint with a term ending 02/2029 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Stephanie Weaver to the Waste Reduction Committee as a regular member with a term ending 02/2026 and reappoint with a term ending 02/2029. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- b) Appoint Helen Simko to the Waste Reduction Committee, alternate member, term ending 02/2026 and reappoint with a term ending 02/2029 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Helen Simko to the Waste Reduction Committee as an alternate member with a term ending 02/2026 and reappoint with a term ending 02/2029. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- c) Reappoint Chris Levesque to the WPCA, regular member, term ending 01/2031 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to reappoint Chris Levesque to the WPCA as a regular member with a term ending 01/2031. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- d) Reappoint Carol Bramley to the Milton Historic District, regular member, term ending 01/2031 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Carol Bramley to the Milton Historic District as a regular member with a term ending 01/2031. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

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

Region 20 Update J. Zullo asked whether there has been any resolution regarding the \$400,000 payment made to Litchfield Public Schools from Region 20. D. Raap stated that the funds must be returned to Region 20, which will absorb \$200,000, while the remaining \$200,000 will be paid by the region's towns in the third year, with Litchfield responsible for 56%. J. Zullo also asked whether there has been a revision to Litchfield's audit indicating that Region 6 owes Litchfield \$178,000, noting that Region 20's Julia Cardillo disputes that figure and asserts the amount is \$118,000. J. Bongiorno commented that he hopes the Board of Finance will take a firmer approach with the former auditor, as the Town paid for an audit that appears incomplete or incorrect. D. Raap stated that Finance Director Amaechi Obi reported the former auditor will have additional time in January to address the issue.

Advanced Tech Update J. Bongiorno stated that the new phone system is in place and the next step is to set up the Fire Departments in town with the phones. He reported that Frontier has ordered the equipment needed to install power-over-fiber for the WiFi-on-the-Green project, with anticipated completion by the end of January. He expressed disappointment with Eversource regarding their role in the project. J. Bongiorno added that at the next ATC meeting, the committee will be setting up the conferencing system at the Litchfield Firehouse.

WPCA Liaison Update R. Alexe stated the tank's lid, that was involved in the explosion, has been partially lifted with the other side expected to be lifted by the end of the week. He noted that this incident is being covered by insurance.

Sustainable Litchfield Update none

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

Advanced Technology Commission: 2 alternate members 2/2026
Beautification Commission: 2 regular members 1-02/2026, 1-02/2027; 3 alternate members 2/2028
Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 member 6/2025
Conservation Commission: 1 regular member 12/2028, 1 alternate member 12/2025
Economic Development Commission: 1 alternate member 6/2027
Inland Wetlands Commission: 2 alternate members 6/2027

Litchfield Arts Council: 2 regular members 8/2027
Litchfield Prevention Council: 3 alternate members 1-6/2026, 1-6/2027, 1-6/2028
Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regulars 1/2030; 3 alternate members 2-1/2027, 1-1/2028
Pension Commission: 2 alternate member 1-3/2028, 1-3/2030
Sandy Beach Commission: 1 regular member 12/2028
Sustainable Litchfield Committee: 1 regular member 3/2026, 1 alternate members 3/2026
Town Facilities Review Committee: 4 regular members 3/2026; 2 alternates 3/2026
Veterans' Advisory Committee: 1 regular member 8/2026; 1 alternate member 8/2027
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 none

Transfers none

Old Business

- a) **Speed Camera Discussion** J. Tenney reviewed the public hearing feedback regarding residents' concerns and is incorporating that input into the presentation for the upcoming hearing. She noted that she has a meeting scheduled with Washington, CT's First Selectman, Jim Britton, on Monday, January 12, 2026, as Washington currently uses speed cameras. She also clarified that the public hearing on January 24, 2026, is solely a hearing and does not involve the passage of an ordinance related to speed cameras.
- b) **Connecticut Department of Transportation Presentation Dates** The BOS agreed to provide CTDOT with March 31, 2026, as the date for a public hearing, contingent upon the availability of space at Litchfield Intermediate School

New Business

- a) **U.S.A. Re: Extension Proposal for Town of Litchfield's MSW and Recyclables** D. Raap expressed concern that municipalities may not have leadership and expertise to understand and deal with the complexities of waste management. D. Morosani asked why recycling fees will increase so significantly **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to table this agenda item. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- b) **Authorization to Award Campville Road Road Improvements from Mason Hill Road to Hopkins Hill Road** R. Alexe stated that this was a competitive bid with the bid coming in 6% below estimate. **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned that the Board of Selectmen award the bid for the Roadway Reconstruction - Campville Road project to Stone Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$967,927. The project funding is secured by the STP-R grant from the CTDOT via NHCOG with an 80%/10%/10% funding allocation, I.E. Federal/State/local respective percentages. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Correspondence none

Executive Session

- a) **Personnel, Land Use Department and Park & Recreation**, all BOS members went into executive session at 6:35 p.m. also present were S. Musselman followed by M. Cappello. All members came out of executive session at 7:03 p.m. no motion no action.

Adjournment D. Raap adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Denise Raap, First Selectman