

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026 ~ 5:30 P.M.**  
**IN-PERSON AT BANTAM ANNEX, 80 DOYLE RD, BANTAM, 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 5:31 p.m. Selectmen present were John Bongiorno, Jodiann Tenney, Jeff Zullo and First Selectman Denise Raap. Selectmen Dan Morosani arrived at 5:33 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- a) **Board of Selectmen, regular meeting minutes, 03/24/2026 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the 03/24/2026 regular meeting minutes. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

**Public Requests/Comments** none

**Selectmen's Requests Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to move agenda item, Bantam Lake "Take the Pledge" Initiative, to after the First Selectman's update. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

**First Selectman's Update Report** D. Raap noted that she will be going to the State Capitol tomorrow to participate in a press conference regarding Senate Bill 388, which pertains to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund. She will also be working with the Town's State Representative and Senator on Senate Bill 2, which proposes that 50% of the additional 1% sales tax collected from restaurants be returned to the towns where the revenue is generated. *D. Morosani arrived at the meeting at 5:33 p.m.* D. Raap expressed her appreciation for Planning & Zoning Chairman Carol Bramley for stepping in as Interim Zoning Enforcement Officer and Land Use Official, as well as for Administrative Assistant April Blasavage for her support in the Land Use Office. She also noted that Aquarion Water is selling rain barrels for pickup at Town Hall in May, with ordering available through Aquarion's website. Additionally, she mentioned that there is a Sustainable Litchfield post-survey available on the Town website and social media regarding communications and how residents receive information.

**Bantam Lake "Take the Pledge" Initiative** D. Raap introduced Connie Trolle and Emily Lupinacci from the Bantam Lake Protective Association to speak on this agenda item. C. Trolle noted that Coalition Funds were recently used to assess invasive weeds and conduct treatments. She further explained that E. Lupinacci and Dean Birdsall formed the Bantam Watershed Coalition, which includes the Litchfield Land Trust, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, Housatonic Valley Association, White Memorial Foundation, and Northwest Conservation District. E. Lupinacci stated the coalition is now addressing approximately 20 best management practices identified by DEEP to improve the watershed and reduce phosphorus loading. She also mentioned structural erosion projects and outreach to golf courses and landowners who use fertilizers. C. Trolle emphasized that properly treating the lake begins with treating the watershed. E. Lupinacci encouraged residents to take the pledge, an email-based initiative that provides helpful information on actions individuals can take; the pledge is available on Bantam Lake's website under "Get Involved." J. Zullo recommended that the Town take the pledge and ensure that its policies and departments align with it. He will bring the matter to the Sustainable Litchfield Commission and develop an analysis for the BOS. D. Morosani inquired about the current status of regulating high displacement boats. C. Trolle responded that due to significant opposition, the original plan was recommended for defeat, but it has since been rewritten and will be brought to a Town Meeting or Referendum in Morris before proceeding to Litchfield. D. Morosani also expressed concern about asking local farmers to reduce

fertilization, which could impact crop yields, while not pursuing more direct measures to reduce algae, such as banning high displacement boats as Lake Waramaug has done. E. Lupinacci clarified that the pledge primarily targets homeowners using fertilizer and suggested that a separate section for farms could be developed to avoid compromising planting capacity. C. Trolle also noted adding a Bantam Lake Overlay District within Planning & Zoning, which addresses specific considerations such as buffer zones.

**Resignations** none

**Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments** none

**Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes:** On TownofLitchfieldct.gov website

**Region 20 Update** The BOS invited Matt Tobin to join for this agenda item. J. Bongiorno noted that he and M. Tobin met with Region 20 Superintendent Dr. Jeffery Villar and Chief Financial Officer Julia Cardillo. At that meeting, Dr. Villar and J. Cardillo stated that their audit would be completed by the end of April and outlined new internal controls, including a requirement that all purchases be approved by either of them. J. Bongiorno reported that Region 20 agreed with the \$2.2 million deficit identified from the invoices but requested reimbursement of the \$400,000 previously returned to Litchfield, as well as funding for 15 teachers who were hired but not included in the budget. J. Bongiorno stated he does not support returning the \$400,000 to Region 20 and noted that the addition of the 15 teachers was not properly approved or funded, with John Morosani voting against it. He added that \$250,000 was used to fund those positions and only the difference between that amount and the total cost should be considered for reimbursement. J. Zullo expressed concerns about the accuracy of previously filed audits and supported waiting for the Region 20 audit results. J. Bongiorno also requested reimbursement for the Litchfield 2023–2024 audit, which contains discrepancies. M. Tobin noted that J. Cardillo explained most invoices are received via email and uploaded to their software, and they are not being shredded. J. Bongiorno stated that Dr. Villar is unaware of the location of 500 missing tablets, which predates his tenure. M. Tobin reported that Region 20 claimed to have paid \$272,000 on behalf of Litchfield BOE, though he and D. Raap recalls the amount being \$9,000, and he would like to request the copies of the invoices supporting the \$272,000 figure. D. Raap noted that the IRS sent a letter regarding unpaid payroll taxes from 2020 for Litchfield Public Schools totaling \$1,697. The BOS will be reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding related to the \$2.7 million deficit. J. Bongiorno commended Dr. Villar and J. Cardillo for their current financial management and efforts to resolve inherited issues. J. Zullo emphasized that going forward, no financial commitments should be made without supporting documentation.

**Advanced Tech Update** J. Bongiorno reported that the WiFi-on-the-Green project is complete. He plans to approach the Fire Departments to designate Fire/EMS as one of the secondary SSIDs. D. Raap asked whether users could be prompted to enter their zip code to access the network for data gathering purposes; J. Bongiorno responded that the splash page does not support that functionality, but it does allow for polls, surveys, and questions. D. Morosani noted that such data could be helpful in understanding whether users are in town for business or pleasure, and how frequently they visit. He added that the network will be beneficial for the Fire/EMS group, as many of the platforms they use are web-based applications.

**WPCA Liaison Update** J. Bongiorno reported that the WPCA plans to pursue a grant similar to the approach taken by the Bantam Lake Protective Association. The goal is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the sewer system to determine sources of inflow and identify any improper discharges.

**Sustainable Litchfield Update** none

**Interlocal EMS Committee Meeting** D. Morosani reported that the meeting provided a holistic update focused on Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance and Bantam Fire Company. He noted that the Town is currently short on EMTs and that there are limited viable options for staffing agencies to fill the gaps. He added that LVA is primarily operated by paid staff rather than volunteers, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to retain EMTs, as few pursue it as a long-term career. One disadvantage is that the Town does not staff paramedics, which could help retain EMTs by offering a pathway for advancement within the organization. Based on discussions with EMTs, he shared that offering healthcare and competitive salaries would be key to retention. He expects a more concrete set of recommendations to emerge in the coming months. J. Zullo recommended that any proposals be incremental to avoid significant budget impacts and expressed concern about the Town becoming the direct employer, citing additional costs such as union obligations, paid time off, and payroll taxes. He suggested the Town could consider underwriting an insurance plan instead.

D. Morosani noted that a recently passed Connecticut state bill allows volunteer first responders in good standing to attend Connecticut State Colleges tuition-free. He also suggested regionalization as another model worth exploring, which would require paramedics, though he emphasized that Litchfield should not be expected to subsidize social services for other towns. D. Morosani stated that these are ongoing conversations and no decisions have been made.

**CTDOT Town Green Presentation Overview and Discussion** D. Raap noted that due to audio issues during the CTDOT presentation, she wanted to review the material for those unable to attend in person. The presentation has been uploaded to the Town website at [townoflitchfieldct.gov](http://townoflitchfieldct.gov). It was noted that the traffic pattern analysis shows a predominance of east-west traffic, with priority areas identified at the intersections of East Street and Route 118, and East Street and Route 202. Over a three-year period, 95 crashes were recorded in the area. The project's goals include reducing driver confusion, increasing multimodal safety, improving roadway network continuity and operations, and retaining the historic character of the Town. Several alternatives were investigated: a bypass originally proposed in the 1970s was dismissed due to lack of support, neighborhood disruption, and the need for eminent domain, and it did not address east-west traffic flow. A circulator motion using Route 202 westbound and West Street eastbound was also deemed unviable. A proposed cut-through on the East Green was opposed by the Borough of Litchfield. Roundabouts were considered but would require eminent domain and are challenged by the area's topography. A feasible alternative involves relocating the traffic signal from South Street Extension and Route 202 to the intersection of Route 202 and Route 118. This would eliminate the East Street stop sign for eastbound traffic and realign pavement at the Route 118 and West Street intersection. South Street Extension would become a right-turn only for both entering and exiting traffic. Drivers traveling from Route 63 South to Route 63 North or Route 202 West would turn left onto West Street and then right onto North Street Extension, where a left-turn signal will be installed. The island on North Street (Route 63) will be removed to improve southbound traffic flow and create space for a left-turn lane. Additional improvements include adding right-turn lanes on east/west approaches and left-turn lanes on north/south approaches. D. Raap noted that the plan results in parking loss on North Street Extension and Route 202, and while it allows for a larger Center Green, she expressed concern about removing parking spaces in front of businesses and suggested reducing the size of the Green to preserve those spaces. The estimated cost of the project is \$6.1 million, funded by state and federal sources. CTDOT is continuing to collect public feedback and will return to the Town after reviewing questions and concerns. J. Zullo noted that Ed Fabbri submitted a concept document for the Center Green that preserves more parking and includes proposed changes to the west side of the Green.

**Motion:** J. Tenney motioned that D. Raap write a letter on behalf of the Board of Selectmen thanking the State for the presentation, expressing excitement for the prospect of the project and giving general feedback from the group addressing two issues; one being the west end of the Green and the second being retaining more parking especially in the Center Green area. J. Zullo seconded the motion. **Discussion:** J. Zullo stated that he would like the letter to also be sent to the Commissioner of CTDOT. D. Morosani

added that he would like the letter to emphasize the need to accelerate the project timeline. **Vote:** all voted aye and the motion passed.

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

Advanced Technology Commission: 1 regular member 02/2028; 2 alternate members 2/2028  
Beautification Commission: 2 regular members 1-02/2029, 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 12/2028  
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 alternate members 3/2028  
Veterans' Advisory Committee: 1 regular member 8/2026; 1 alternate member 8/2027  
Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA): 1 alternate member 1/2031  
Western CT Coalition, CAC #22: 1 member 5/2027  
Zoning Board of Appeals: 3 alternate members 3/2027

**Tax Refunds** none

**Transfers**

- a) **Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Transfer #2 for \$17,255.00 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve fiscal year 2025/2026 budget transfer #2 in the amount of \$17,255.00. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- b) **Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Transfer #3 for \$8,600.00 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve fiscal year 2025/2026 budget transfer #3 in the amount of \$8,600.00. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- c) **Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Transfer #4 for \$38,500.00 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve fiscal year 2025/2026 budget transfer #4 in the amount of \$38,500.00 J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- d) **Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Transfer #5 for \$ 25,000.00 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve fiscal year 2025/2026 budget transfer #5 in the amount of \$25,000.00 J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

**Old Business**

- a) **Hawkers & Peddlers Discussion Tabled**
- b) **Discussion and Approval to Adopt a Resolution to Change Location of May 14, 2026 Special Town Meeting to the Lakeview High School, 98 Wamogo Rd, Litchfield, CT 06759 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to adopt a resolution to change location of May 14, 2026 special town meeting for the Litchfield budget from Litchfield Intermediate School to the Lakeview High School, 98 Wamogo Road, Litchfield, CT 06759. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

**New Business**

- a) **Discussion of the Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance Grant Agreement** D. Raap noted that the Town is awaiting a response from LVA's legal counsel. J. Zullo stated that the Town is bonding the funds and granting them to LVA to cover construction expenses. He explained that the building was originally quoted at \$1.8 million, and the LVA Chief secured a \$500,000 grant to

offset the cost, leaving a \$1.3 million loan for construction. However, the Borough of Litchfield requested aesthetic changes, and the bond amount has since increased to \$1.5 million. The current LVA building will revert to the Borough of Litchfield. J. Zullo also noted that if LVA ceases operations, the new building will revert to the Town.

- b) **Board of Education Election** D. Raap noted that the Board of Education election must be held by June 30. D. Morosani expressed concern about the current election process, which takes place at a Town Meeting. J. Bongiorno echoed this concern, stating that BOE members oversee a \$40 million budget yet are elected through a brief two-minute speech at a Town Meeting, with only attendees eligible to vote. J. Zullo explained that establishing a BOE election during the November municipal election would require a new ordinance, and elected members would begin their term on July 1. J. Tenney proposed holding the Town Meeting over a four-hour period to allow individuals to drop off ballots. D. Morosani asked whether the Town could host a Town Hall-style event for BOE candidates to debate prior to the election. J. Tenney supported the idea and suggested that the League of Women Voters might prefer to host a “meet the candidates” event rather than a formal debate. She also stated that candidates could submit a résumé and a three-minute video to be posted on the Town website. D. Morosani questioned whether the regionalization plan could be amended to allow BOE elections to be held during the municipal election. J. Zullo raised the issue of whether the current board structure is legally sound. D. Morosani recommended holding candidate introductions after the May 14 Town Meeting, followed by the BOE election in early June.
- c) **Public Hearing Call for Fiscal Year 2022 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program on 05/05/2026 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned that the Board of Selectmen issue a public hearing call for fiscal year 2022 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program on 05/05/2026. J. Tenney seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

**Correspondence** none

**Executive Session** none

**Adjournment Motion:** J. Bongiorno motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. J. Zullo seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.



Denise Raap, First Selectman