

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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 Dan Morosani, John Bongiorno, Jeff Zullo, and First Selectman Denise Raap. Selectman Anne Dranginis joined the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- A) **Board of Selectman, regular meeting, 9/1/2026 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes of 9/1/2026. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- B) **Board of Selectman, joint special meeting with Bantam Planning & Zoning, 9/9/2026 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen joint special meeting minutes of 9/9/2026. D. Morosani seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed. J. Bongiorno abstained.

Public Requests/Comments none

Selectmen's Requests D. Morosani requested an update regarding Route 254. D. Raap stated an update is expected on September 28th. J. Zullo requested revisiting Blight Ordinances on a future agenda. D. Raap stated she has added it to the October 20th agenda to continue further discussion.

First Selectman's Update Report D. Raap has temporarily assumed the responsibilities of the vacant HR Executive Administrator position, with formal candidate interviews scheduled for the upcoming week. D. Raap acknowledged Town Treasurer Erich Marriott for his significant assistance with pension administration, including retirement processing and updates to pension system requirements.

Resignations

- A) Wendy Westcott from the Litchfield Design Review Committee, effective 9/1/2026, received and noted.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

- A) **Interview Karen Bartomioli for The Litchfield Arts Council as a regular member with a term ending 8/2027. Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Karen Bartomioli to The Litchfield Arts Council as a regular member with a term ending 8/2027. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- B) **Reappoint Steve Ardussi to The Veterans' Advisory Committee as a regular member with a term ending 8/2029. Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to reappoint Steve Ardussi as a regular member of the Veterans' Advisory Committee with a term ending 8/2029. D. Morosani seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

CTDOT Project D. Raap met with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to present the Town's position on the proposed improvements to The Green, emphasizing that any significant reduction in existing parking is unacceptable. D. Raap and D. Morosani met with David Pieffer regarding his interest in serving as the Town's project liaison and also plan to meet with Bill Buckley regarding the position.

The Board reviewed the DOT's initial conceptual plan, which would result in a net loss of 31 parking spaces in the Town Center. Alternative layouts were discussed to minimize the loss, including retaining existing diagonal parking near the courthouse, adding parallel spaces along the West Street and South Street extensions, and creating a diagonal parking loop in front of Town Hall. The Board noted that any property transfers or project agreements resulting from the final design would require approval by residents at Town Meeting or referendum. **Motion:** A. Dranginis motioned to send a formal letter to the DOT supporting advancement of the project to the design phase, contingent upon a minimal net reduction in existing parking, and requesting a definitive design-phase timeline. J. Zullo seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

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

Region 20 Update D. Raap suggested the creation of a Board of Education Financial Review Committee which will be further discussed as an agenda item under New Business. D. Raap addressed concerns regarding the unresolved audit, the reported \$400,000 Region 20 reimbursement, and approximately \$178,000 reportedly owed to Litchfield by Region 6. The Board noted that the 2023–2024 audited deficit was approximately \$800,000 and could increase to approximately \$1.2 million if the reimbursement is required to be repaid. The Board also discussed the need for the Board of Finance to address concerns regarding the auditor. D. Raap noted discrepancies involving Chromebooks and tablets transferred to Region 20, including approximately 500 Chromebooks sold to the Hamden Board of Education for \$40,000 that went to Region 6, approximately 600 reportedly recycled without supporting documentation, and additional assets that remain unaccounted for. Questions were raised regarding authorization, asset inventory records, the use of ESSER-funded equipment, and the disposition of proceeds from technology sales.

Advanced Tech Update J. Bongiorno noted that the Board of Finance approved the Frontier Contract at their 9/14 meeting. **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to add Frontier Contract as agenda item c under Old Business. A. Dranginis seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

J. Zullo announced that the Litchfield Volunteer Ambulance headquarters is preparing for its grand opening, with 500-meg fiber service now operational. J. Zullo addressed bringing the LVA account under the Town's primary coverage and wireless coverage gaps in the garage area.

WPCA Liaison Update none

Sustainable Litchfield Update J. Zullo updated the committee met last week and has endorsed the municipal rodenticide ban.

Interlocal EMS Update none

Vacancies:

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

Advanced Technology Commission: 2 alternate members 04/2028

Beautification Commission: 2 regular members 1-02/2029, 1-02/2027; 3 alternate members 02/2028

Board of Ethics: 1 regular member 06/2029; 1 alternate members 06/2029

Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 member 6/2027

Conservation Commission: 2 alternate members 12/2028

Economic Development Commission: 1 alternate member 06/2027

Inland Wetlands Commission: 2 alternate members 06/2027

Litchfield Arts Council: 2 regular members 08/2027

Litchfield Prevention Council: 2 regular members 06/2026, 3 alternate members 1-06/2026, 1-06/2027, 1-06/2028

Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regulars 01/2030; 3 alternate members 2-01/2027, 1-01/2028

Park & Recreation Commission: 1 regular member 06/2030, 1 alternate member 06/2030

Pension Commission: 1 regular member 02/2028, 2 alternate member 1-03/2028, 1-03/2030

Sandy Beach Commission: 1 regular member 12/2028

Sustainable Litchfield Committee: 2 alternate members 03/2028

Veterans' Advisory Committee: 1 regular member 08/2026; 1 alternate member 08/2027

Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA): 2 alternate members 01/2031

Western CT Coalition, CAC #22: 1 member 05/2027

Zoning Board of Appeals: 3 alternate members 03/2027

Tax Refunds

- A) **5 refunds, totaling \$507.86 Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the five tax refunds totaling \$507.86. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Transfers

- A) **Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Transfer #2 for up to \$9,500 - East Litchfield Fire Department Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve Transfer #2 (FY 26/27) of up to \$9,500 from ARPA interest accounts to fund critical drainage and flooding mitigation repairs at the East Litchfield Fire Department. A. Dranginis seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

Old Business

- A) **Forman School** J. Bongiorno discussed ongoing work with Steve Harding, John Piscopo, and Karen Reddington-Hughes on proposed legislation addressing property tax exemptions for private schools. The draft would provide full exemptions for schools with annual tuition below \$15,000 and establish a graduated tax over three years for schools with tuition between \$15,000 and \$50,000. The proposal would clarify that residential properties, dormitories, gymnasiums, and other non-educational facilities are not automatically exempt, while allowing municipalities a local option to maintain exemptions based on individual circumstances. The revised legislation is intended to establish a fair and clearly defined tax structure and will be reintroduced through the original drafters and Legislative Commissioner's Office. The Board will gather assessment information for the Forman School's off-campus residential properties to determine potential tax revenue based on the Town's current mill rate.
- B) **Bantam Annex Public Hearing Call** D. Raap announced a public hearing is scheduled for September 29, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Litchfield Intermediate School to discuss the future of the Bantam Annex..This is an informational hearing only, with no votes scheduled.TLBA will present a complete renovation plan for the Bantam Annex via a PowerPoint presentation. **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the formal notice of Public Hearing for September 29, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Litchfield Intermediate School. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.
- C) **Frontier Contract Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to approve the Frontier Contract for 60 months across three municipal locations and forward to Town Meeting for final approval. D. Morosani seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

New Business

- A) **Anticoagulant Rodenticide** Lisa Shirk with the Newtown Conservation Commission, Cassandra McKenna, and Carrie Szwed with Sustainable Litchfield discussed the environmental and public health concerns associated with second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) and municipal pest-control practices. The discussion included secondary poisoning of wildlife and

pets, environmental contamination, misuse of bait stations, and the development of rodent resistance. Integrated Pest Management alternatives, including sanitation, exclusion, structural sealing, monitoring systems, and traps, were also reviewed. It was noted that Newtown and Southbury have adopted municipal policies restricting rodenticide use on town property. The Sustainable Litchfield Committee unanimously supported a policy prohibiting SGARs on municipal property. Litchfield currently contracts with Rescue 1 Pest Control of Torrington for approximately \$1,380 annually to maintain bait boxes containing SGARs at various municipal locations, including Bantam Annex and Town Hall. There was discussion of the current use of these products and potential alternatives. **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to request Town counsel to review the policy on anticoagulant rodent pest traps and place it on a future agenda for further discussion. D. Morosani seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.

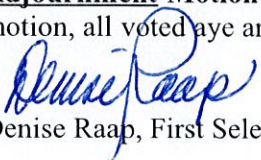
- B) Creation of Litchfield BOE Review Committee** D. Raap followed up on the suggestion of creating a Litchfield Board of Education Financial Review Committee based on Town Counsel's recommendation following Region 20's decision not to provide staff assistance with invoice review. This would be a five-member committee that will review original, unredacted financial records, property and capital transfers, and supporting documentation related to the 2023–2024 fiscal year deficit and will report findings and recommendations for improved financial controls to the Board of Selectmen. Potential members were discussed, and Board members will seek additional finance-focused candidates.

Correspondence

- A) Sarah Tornow regarding Anticoagulant Rodenticide, received and noted.
- B) Letter from Michael Peloquin, received and noted.
- C) Light up Litchfield County, received and noted.

Executive Session none

Adjournment **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion passed.


Denise Raap, First Selectman