

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 ~ 5:30 P.M.  
REMOTE MEETING BY LIVE INTERNET VIDEO STREAM AND TELEPHONE**

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Denise Raap called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. with Selectmen Jonathan Torrant, Jeffrey Zullo, Jodianne Tenney and Thomas Waterhouse in attendance. WPCA Superintendent Ted Donohue, Land Use Administrator Dennis Tobin, P&Z Chair Carol Bramley, Finance Director Amaechi Obi, Stacey Dionne and Public Works Director Raz Alexe were also present.

**Approval of Minutes:** **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 2, 2021, and J. Torrant seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Motion:** J. Zullo moved to add to Interviews/Appointments d), “Reappoint Leon Losee to SMART Task Force, term 2/2024” and J. Torrant seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

**Motion:** J. Zullo moved and J. Torrant seconded the motion to add to New Business c) “WPCA 2020 Annual Report.” All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Public Requests/Comments:** None

**Selectmen's Requests:** None

**First Selectman's Update Report:** D. Raap mentioned that the EDC and LABA have joined forces to start a small business forum that meets once a month. The Traffic Safety Community Action Group is almost ready to submit its Road Safety application for help with a traffic study and signage. D. Raap reached out to the Superintendent of Schools, Chris Leone, to talk about use of the former Central Office suite at the Intermediate School, and he said he would be sending a formal letter soon. She will have the Selectmen tour the property and decide how they can use the space. She then noted a letter received today from Kenneth Baldwin of Robinson + Cole regarding the notice of intent for SR Litchfield, LLC to construct a 19.8 megawatt solar farm off Town Farm Road. **Motion:** J. Zullo asked to add this letter for discussion under Correspondence, as we should send a letter back by March 7th. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

**Resignations**

a) **Patty Dauten from Economic Development Commission, effective 2/3/21:** received and noted

**Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments**

a) **Interview Lauren DellaMonica for Traffic Safety Community Action Group, term 1/2023:** Ms DellaMonica said she lives near the center of town and is an avid walker. She has seen more congestion in the street and would like to help the group. J. Tenney, who is the Chair of the Group, added that Lauren has been unofficially working on a walkers audit with the group. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to appoint Lauren DellaMonica to the Traffic Safety Community Action Group for a term ending 1/2023. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

b) **Reappoint Lara Hillman to Zoning Board of Appeals, term 3/2026:** **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to reappoint Lara Hillman to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending 3/2026. T. Waterhouse seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**c) Reappoint Christian Bratina to WPCA, term 1/2026:** **Motion:** T. Waterhouse moved to reappoint Christian Bratina to the WPCA for a term ending 1/2026. J. Zullo seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**d) Reappoint Leon Losee to SMART Task Force, term 2/2024:** **Motion:** J. Torrant moved and J. Zullo seconded the motion to reappoint Leon Losee to the SMART Task Force with term ending 2/2024. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes:** 2/8/21 Board of Finance; 1/14/21 Board of Ed; 1/27/21 Economic Development Commission

**Sustainable Litchfield Update:** J. Zullo said there had been no meeting today and had no new report.

**WPCA Liaison Update - Tom Waterhouse:** T. Waterhouse noted that Ted Donoghue would update the Board during his presentation later in the meeting.

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

Beautification Commission: 1 regular member; 2 alternate members 2/2022

Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 BOE members 6/2021

Conservation Commission: 1 regular 12/22; 1 alternate member 12/2021

Economic Development Commission: 1 alt. member 6/2023

Inland Wetlands: 1 alternate member 6/2021

Litchfield Prevention Council: 2 reg. members 6/21, 6/23; 4 alt. members: 2-6/22, 2-6/23

Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regular 1/2023; 3 alternates; 2-1/2024, 1-1/2022

Northwestern CT Transit District: 1 member 5/2022

Pension Commission: 1 regular member 2/23; 1 alternate member 3/2022

Social Services Board: one regular member 2/2022

SMART Task Force: One alternate 2/2024

Traffic Safety Community Action Group: 2 alt. members 1/2023

Veteran's Advisory Committee: 1 alternate member 8/2021

Western CT Coalition, CAC #22 (formerly NW Regional Mental Health Board): 1 member 5/2021

Zoning Board of Appeals: 2 alternate members 3/2025

**Tax Refunds: Motion:** J. Zullo moved to approve the seven tax refunds dated 2/9/21 in the amount of \$2,192.74, as submitted by the Tax Collector. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

### **Transfers**

**a) Transfer #4 - \$5,000 from 01-1903-51703 Contingency to 02-5301-54146 Sustainable Litchfield:** D Raap shared that the Selectmen had previously approved this transfer, but they designated the source of the funds to come from unexpended capital. Since the funds must come from Contingency, this transfer needs approval. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to approve Transfer #4 in the amount of \$5,000 to come from Contingency and go to the Sustainable Litchfield account. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business**

**a) Discussion of P&Z Commission Regulation Amendments:** Dennis Tobin and Carol Bramley summarized and explained the proposed P&Z regulation amendments. There will be a public hearing on March 1st. Regulations will be added in the area of food vending for food trucks, worship place accessory

commercial kitchens, special structures for solar harvesting, and for procedures for a zone change. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved that the Board of Selectmen provide a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission confirming and concurring with the revised amendments to the Planning and Zoning Regulations. T. Waterhouse seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

**b) Budget 2021/22 Discussion:** The Board reviewed the budget and some questions were raised. J. Zullo suggested savings could be realized on meeting line items as many meetings are being held online. S. Dionne said some meetings and conventions are costing about half, but any leftover monies for this year will be accumulated. Next year they should be back to normal. J. Zullo also pointed out that of the 2.1% budget increase, 14% is Public Works. Twenty percent of the increase in Public Works is in waste tipping fees; over \$100,000 from \$86/ton in 2020. Raz said the projection is \$145,000 in two years. They are budgeting \$96/ton for this budget based on a letter from MIRA. J. Zullo called for a strategy from the SMART Task Force that can be implemented quickly to reduce waste and the tonnage we pay. He felt they need to reduce the tonnage in line with the increasing costs to hold costs flat. R. Alexe said we need to drop the solid waste by 18-20% in order to break even. That is about 1,000 tons/year. D. Raap said Pay-as-You-Throw is not very popular, but we need to educate the people to throw less. The question of going out to bond or pay-as-you-go has been settled. A. Obi said they plan to bond the capital budget (\$2.1 million) as usual, taking some funds from fund balance and some from self-insurance. J. Zullo was looking for savings with notes, but A. Obi said they would only consider going for notes when the bonding amount is small. J. Zullo said they should be able to take some funds away from the Board of Ed electric and reduce it by \$30,000 due to the savings from solar. He then questioned postage going up, but it had been reduced last year. S. Dionne said a large credit from postage money was returned after the start of the fiscal year, and it wasn't put back into that account. Tree removal at \$160,000 is a large item. J. Zullo asked A. Obi to investigate before March 1st to see if there is any additional revenue from grants that would offset expenses, and he agreed. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to table further discussion on the budget until the next meeting and T. Waterhouse seconded. J. Torrant asked for the actual number of the proposed budget, including Board of Ed, and A. Obi said it is currently \$32,139,079, which includes the BOE electric cut. The percentage increase is .8. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion passed.

**c) WPCA 2020 Annual Report: Motion:** J. Zullo moved and J. Torrant seconded the motion to table until the 3/2/21 meeting the presentation by Ted Donoghue of the 2020 WPCA update, and list it under Old Business. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **Correspondence**

**a) 2/2/21 Robinson + Cole Letter Re SR Litchfield, LLC Solar Project:** J. Zullo suggested that the Town prepare a letter to the Siting Council and have Attorney Rybak look at it. D. Raap said she would like to listen to discussion on this at the Planning and Zoning meeting tonight to see how they feel about it. R. Alexe said there is an opinion from Mike Rybak that the Board should consider the appearance as a next step before sending the letter to the Siting Council. J. Zullo felt that the Board should go on record, as this is a significant project and they should consider all impacts to the community. J. Tenney said she needs to get more information in this project. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to table discussion on this letter until the next meeting. J. Torrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

**Adjournment: Motion:** J. Torrant moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m. and T. Waterhouse seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Denise Raap, First Selectman