

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING - 5:30 P.M.

Call to Order: First Selectman Leo Paul, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All Selectmen were present: Jeffrey Zullo, Diane Knox, Paul Parsons and Jonathan Tarrant.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2015, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye except J. Tarrant, who abstained because of absence, and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: None

Selectmen's Requests: In response to D. Knox's inquiry about line painting, Mr. Paul said it has been approved, and the bid will be going out soon. Mr. Paul then announced he would be away for the next meeting on February 17th and suggested cancelling it unless something important comes up. He passed out the budget books and said the plan for the budget is for the Selectmen to study the budget books now and get back to him with questions and comments and plan to approve the capital budget in the beginning of March. He will see if there are any budget meetings that need to be scheduled when he returns the third week of February, and budget discussions will continue.

Regarding the Greenway Trail and parking in the South Lake Street area, UCONN has finished its study and recommends a parking area where the "ghost trail" begins. Jack Healy is still doing research in the area where the old train track crossed White Woods Road near Plumb Hill, as there is still a question of who owns that property. J. Zullo said a resident asked if there was any property on the Public Works site on Russell Street that could be considered. Mr. Paul said it had been considered and ruled out for safety reasons. The triangle area is not being considered for several reasons, and the area near the ghost trail is not preferred either. J. Healy estimated another month for him to complete his part of the survey.

Resignations

a) Gwendolyn Burgess from Beautification Commission, effective 1/1/15: received and noted

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) **Reappoint Thomas McClintock to Social Services Board, term 2/2018:** **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to reappoint Thomas McClintock to Social Services Board as above, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b) **Reappoint Francis Carpentier to Pension Commission, term 2/2018:** **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to reappoint Francis Carpentier to the Pension Commission as above, and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 12/2/14 Zoning Board of Appeals minutes; 12/4/14 Design Review Advisory Committee minutes; 12/11/14 Fire & EMS Commission minutes; 1/14/15 Inland Wetlands Commission minutes; 1/8/15 Special BOE minutes (draft); 12/17/14 BOE minutes (draft); 1/21/15 BOE minutes (draft); 1/22/15 special BOE minutes (draft); 11/19/14 Economic Development Commission minutes; 1/15/15 Sandy Beach Commission minutes; 1/5/15 Planning and Zoning Commission minutes

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

Beautification Commission: 5 regular members: one 2/2015, three 2/2016, one 2/2017; 2 alternates 2/2016

Conservation Commission: 1 regular member 12/2016; 2 alternate members 12/2015

Economic Development Commission: 2 alternate members 6/2016

Litchfield Prevention Council: 3 alternate members, two 6/2016, 6/2017
Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regular member 1/2020; 3 alternate members 1/2015, 1/2015, 1/2019
Park & Recreation: 2 alternate members: 6/2017, 6/2018
Recycling Committee: 4 members, 2/2015, two 2/2016, 2/2017
Town Hall Building Committee: 1 member, 3/2015
Veteran's Advisory Committee: 2 regular members 8/2016, 8/2015; 2 alternate members 8/2015
Water Pollution Control Authority: 1 alternate member 1/2015
Zoning Board of Appeals: 2 alternate member 3/2015

Tax Refunds: Motion: P. Parsons moved to approve the refunds of \$3,218.68 as presented by the Tax Collector. J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Transfers: None

Old Business: None

New Business

a) **Grand List for 10/1/14:** Tax Assessor Kathy Brown explained that again this year there was a decrease. Personal property decreased primarily because of businesses closing and a business that filed incorrectly and overstated its personal property by \$3 million. Motor vehicles was down a little, perhaps partly because other towns have not sent the amount of add-ons as in previous years. She said she would check on the number of accounts under real estate, as they have not lost that many (383). J. Zullo said that with a difference of \$3.6 million, it means taxes must be raised to cover the drop in the current budget. Since values have gone down, taxes will have to go up by .35%. Using the \$3,607,286 loss multiplied by the mil rate of .0252, the lost tax revenue will be \$90,000, or about 1/10 mil. The Brandywine addition and the new Stop & Shop will help.

b) **Road Race Park Agreement:** L. Paul explained that people wanted to build a park at the bottom of Plumb Hill on White Woods Road. Because they put up a "Road Race Park" sign, the Land Use Administrator said they would need to submit an 8-24 Application for Improvement of Property. If the Road Race Committee would be willing to take on the responsibility for maintaining that park and covering liability through insurance, the Town would be willing to go into an agreement with the Committee to maintain it as a park, as it is Town property. Town Counsel Michael Rybak said the Committee would have to hold the Town harmless for any injuries in the park arising from their maintenance or negligence or lack of care, and they have to back it up with insurance. Both parties would be served if there was an incident, and the Road Race Committee would assume the defense of the case. Mr. Paul said upon approval of the Agreement by the Board, it would then go to Town Meeting.

Motion: J. Tarrant moved to approve going into an agreement on the Road Race Park and carrying it forward to Town Meeting. D. Knox seconded. Upon P. Parson's question, Mr. Paul confirmed the Litchfield Hills Road Race, Inc. has already approved the Agreement. Upon voting, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Correspondence: a) **Letter to CBRE New England Re Bantam Post Office Lease:** Mr. Paul explained that CBRE is asking for 3% to negotiate the lease with the Post Office. He said we will negotiate directly with the Post Office as before.

Adjournment: Motion: J. Tarrant moved to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. and D. Knox seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman