

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING ~ 7:30 P.M.**

Call to Order: First Selectman Leo Paul, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Selectmen William Dranginis, Diane Knox, Paul Parsons, and R. Christopher Blake.

Approval of Minutes

a) Special 4/29/11: Motion: W. Dranginis moved and C. Blake seconded the motion to approve the special meeting minutes of 4/29/11. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Regular 5/3/11: Motion: W. Dranginis moved and C. Blake seconded the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 5/3/11. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: None

Selectmen's Requests: Motion: W. Dranginis moved and C. Blake seconded the motion to add under New Business f) "Bantam Fire Company Bid for Air System." All voted aye and the motion carried. Mr. Paul then mentioned that the new Town website is up and active and invited the Board to peruse it. D. Knox said she has received very positive feedback on it. Mr. Paul then announced that there is STEAP money available for grants to the small towns.

Resignations: None

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) Reappoint Robert Blazek to Inland Wetlands Commission, term expiration 6/2014

b) Reappoint Frederick Minck to Inland Wetlands Commission, term expiration 6/2014

c) Reappoint Jeffrey Zullo to Inland Wetlands Commission, alternate, term expiration 6/2012

d) Reappoint Diane Knox to Cable Television Advisory Council, term expiration 6/2013

e) Reappoint Stephen Simonin to Cable Television Advisory Council, term expiration 6/2013

f) Reappoint Ann McCarthy to Park and Recreation Commission, term expiration 6/2015

g) Reappoint Lois V. Pike to Board of Ethics, term expiration 6/2014

h) Reappoint Judy Elliott to Economic Development Commission, term expiration 6/2014

Motion: W. Dranginis moved to reappoint Items a) through c) above, and C. Blake seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion: C. Blake moved to reappoint Item d) above and W. Dranginis seconded. All voted aye except D. Knox, who abstained, and the motion passed.

Motion: W. Dranginis moved to reappoint Items e) through h) and C. Blake seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 4/14/11 WPCA minutes; 3/17/11 WPCA minutes; 4/29/11 Board of Education special minutes (draft); 5/4/11 BOE minutes (draft)

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

Beautification Commission: One regular member 2/2014; one alternate 2/2013

Board of Ethics: Two regular members 6/2012, & 6/2013; two alternate members 6/2011, 6/2013

Inland Wetlands Commission: One alternate member 6/2011

Milton Historic District Commission: Two alternate members 1/2012

Park & Recreation: 2 alternate members: 6/2013, 6/2014

Pension Commission: 1 alternate member 3/2013

Recycling Committee: Two members, 2/2012, 2/2013

Veteran's Advisory Committee: One regular member 8/2012; two alternate members 8/2012

Zoning Board of Appeals: Two alternate members 3/2015

Tax Refunds: Motion: W. Dranginis moved to approve the 6 tax refunds, for a total of \$940.09. C. Blake seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Transfers: None

Old Business: None

New Business

a) EDC Update and Mission Statement Review: David Dean, Chairman of the EDC, was present and explained its revised, simplified mission statement. Mr. Paul read the statement aloud and said he liked it. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved and C. Blake seconded a motion to approve the EDC's new mission statement as presented. All voted aye and the motion carried. Mr. Dean then updated the Board on the Commission's current and ongoing topics.

b) Waive Building Fees for Recycling Center Improvements: Motion: C. Blake moved to waive the building permit fee of \$125.00 for the Recycling Center improvements, and W. Dranginis seconded. The estimated value of the job is \$23,000 and has already been budgeted in capital for this job. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried.

c) Award Bid for Custodial Services: Motion: C. Blake moved to award the two-year custodial bid to low bidder Gateway Building Services in accordance with Public Works Director Jack Healy's memo of 5/17/11. D. Knox seconded the motion. L. Paul asked for totals in the future for each bidder. There was discussion about the differences in the Community Field bids, and Mr. Healy explained. He also said they asked Preferred Building Maintenance if they would be willing to bid only the Highway Garage and they said no, preventing him from bidding each location separately. There was no information of Gateway's performance, and discussion continued on bidder reputation and price, resulting in C. Blake withdrawing his motion and D. Knox withdrawing her second. They agreed they needed more information on the net cost, comparing the other costs, and on Gateway's references and performance. **Motion:** C. Blake moved to table this item until the first meeting in June to gain more cost data and information about Gateway. W. Dranginis seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

d) Award Bid for Hauling of Recyclables: Motion: C. Blake moved to award the bid to Winters Bros., with them supplying covered roll-off containers. W. Dranginis seconded. In discussion, it was suggested to wait until they could also consider Covanta. C. Blake withdrew his motion, and W. Dranginis withdrew his second. **Motion:** C. Blake moved to table this item and W. Dranginis seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

e) Adopt Resolution for Local African American Revolutionary War Soldiers: Motion: C. Blake moved to waive the reading of the resolution, and W. Dranginis seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. **Motion:** W. Dranginis moved to adopt the resolution and C. Blake seconded. Mr. Blake said he found the background historical information very interesting and he supports the resolution and the memorial. Mr. Paul found it to be very informative as well. Upon voting, W. Dranginis, C. Blake, D. Knox, P. Parsons and L. Paul voted aye, and the motion carried unanimously. The resolution reads as follows:

A Resolution Concerning African American Revolutionary War Patriots of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut and the Proposed National Liberty Memorial

WHEREAS, Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa will introduce legislation in the U.S. Senate in May 2011 to complete the unfinished business of two decades: the construction of an entirely citizen-funded National Liberty Memorial to African Americans of the Revolutionary War at a location in the monumental core of Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, from 1775 to 1783, an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 slaves and free persons served as soldiers, sailors and patriots in the Revolutionary War, including Cato Mead of Norwich, Connecticut, and later of Montrose, Iowa, while tens of thousands of

men, women and children provided civilian assistance, ran away from slavery and petitioned courts and the General Assembly for freedom; and

WHEREAS, more than 800 African Americans who resided in over 80 towns and cities, and all eight counties, in Connecticut served in the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, Four African American soldiers and patriots from Litchfield, including Cash Africa, George Negro, Jack Negro and Titus Minor participated in the struggle for independence; and

WHEREAS, Slave and freedom seeker Elizabeth Freeman was defended by Litchfield's Tapping Reeve in her suit at no cost and was the first black woman to be set free in the United States.

WHEREAS, although the original memorial was not constructed, and the authority to do so has lapsed, genealogical research and the publication of hundreds of books over more than two decades reaffirm the significant contributions made by African Americans of the post-colonial period and validates their influence on the patriotism of future generations and the movement for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, the momentum to construct a national memorial, and to finally compile a comprehensive list of African American patriots, arose in 1984 out of the quest of Lena Santos Ferguson, deceased, of our sister town of Plainville, Connecticut to honor her heritage and expand the nation's understanding of the role of African Americans in the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1984, Rep. Nancy Johnson, Senator Lowell Weicker, and Senator Chris Dodd were leaders in the enactment and advocacy of landmark legislation, including Public Law 98-245 commemorating African American patriotism and Public Laws 99-558 and 100-265 that authorize a national memorial and declare the history of "preeminent historical and lasting significance to the nation."

WHEREAS, these combined efforts, reported by the Hartford Courant over 24 years, brought about the publication in 2008 of *Forgotten Patriots, African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War*, which contains the longest list so far of African Americans in the Revolutionary War, **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF LITCHFIELD joins the National Mall Liberty Fund, D.C., (www.libertyfunddc.org) the congressional sponsors and original cosponsors of the National Liberty Memorial Act, including Rep. Donald Payne of New Jersey and Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia, and those who applaud the decision of Congress and President Reagan in 1988 to authorize the predecessor memorial at a site between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Litchfield Board of Selectmen encourages volunteers to discover the names of still-unknown African American Revolutionary War soldiers, sailors and patriots, enlarge the body of knowledge about their lives and forward the information to National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. for inclusion in a database that will celebrate the trail blazers of Litchfield together with those of hundreds of proud American communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Litchfield Board of Selectmen urges the Connecticut Delegation to the United States Congress to work for the enactment of the National Liberty Memorial Act and to spread knowledge of the history to institutions in Litchfield while promoting its potential for understanding and unity throughout the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town of Litchfield forward certified copies of this Resolution to the entire Connecticut Delegation to the United States Congress, the Governor of the State of Connecticut, the Speaker and President Pro Tem of the General Assembly and the local superintendent of schools, librarian and historical society.

f) Bantam Fire Company Bid for Air System: Motion: W. Dranginis moved to approve the low bid by O-Ring and Associates, Inc., for an air system in the amount of \$46,691.40. C. Blake seconded the motion. P. Parsons said this system compresses the air and can be transported to the emergency scene to refill the firemen's air bottles. Upon voting, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Correspondence

a) 5/11/11 Letter from BOS re 2011/12 Mil Rate: Received and noted that Board of Finance set the mil rate at 22.2.

Motion: W. Dranginis moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. and C. Blake seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Leo Paul, Jr., First Selectman