

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING ~ 10:00 A.M.**

1. Call to Order: First Selectman Denise Raap called the special meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The Selectmen present were Jonathan Tarrant and Jeffrey Zullo. Also participating in this selected group were Amaechi Obi, Finance Director, Pat Donovan and Jim Stedronsky of the Board of Finance, Fran Carpentier, Town Treasurer, Dick Sheldon, Bantam Borough Warden, Dirk Patterson, Litchfield Borough Warden, John Morosani, Chairman of the Litchfield Broadband Commission and Board of Education representative to the Capital Improvements Committee, and Raz Alexe, Public Works Director.

2. American Rescue Plan Act Money: D. Raap said the purpose of the meeting is to discuss how the Town and the Boroughs may spend the ARPA money. She said the Town has received \$911,000, the first of two tranches. The Borough of Bantam received \$107,000, and the Borough of Litchfield received \$178,000. Working together we can have a greater impact on the community. Mr. Obi, who has read the large document, pointed out the summary document and recommended the group read that. J. Zullo asked Mr. Obi for hard copies. CCM has been assisting municipalities with questions they may have. He began explaining the rules for use of the money, and said CCM has given a template for the towns to follow. Capital projects are acceptable, but operational budget expenses are not. D. Sheldon will talk to his board about using his money for new air conditioning at the Borough Hall. He would also like to help fund the Sunshine Fund for community needs and possibly help the fire department as well. F. Carpentier explained further from the CCM document that infrastructure projects that may be COVID-related are acceptable as well as cybersecurity, health services, environmental remediation, school or educational or public safety services. He encourages everyone to read the full document, as that information came from only one page. A. Obi clarified that money reimbursed from loss of revenue can be spent on any capital project; but if the project doesn't relate to loss of revenue, it must be tied to a COVID-related reason. J. Zullo said he spoke with someone in Jahana Hayes's office who said they would preview municipalities' applications to see if they meet the terms and criteria of the document. F. Carpentier also asked if we could ask attorneys at CCM if a project would qualify. J. Morosani spoke about broadband and asked if the money could be used to connect people from their houses to the cable, if farther away than 300 ft. He also asked how we could help Optimum upgrade its broadband capabilities for Litchfield. J. Zullo proposed using a simple process sheet for each proposal, showing how it relates to COVID relief to use as a cross check.

This tranche has to be reported by 2024 and spent by December, 2026. Interim reports are due each year. R. Alexe was concerned about the timeline for getting his projects completed by 2024. J. Zullo asked if the Capital Committee should get involved to prioritize all the projects that were not appropriated for use this year for Capital in order to pull them into this funding source. Secondly, he asked how this money would be managed as far as governance. Would we be able to do it interim to the annual Town Budget Meeting where Capital is approved, or would we need separate Town Meetings for each appropriation? J. Stedronsky said the Town Meeting votes on the total appropriation, which is a grant and advised asking Town Counsel. J. Zullo agreed to ask Mike Rybak. They agreed to make a list of 8 or 10 projects that they can talk about at the next meeting. Ideas were suggested, and this group will meet again on August 11th at 10:00 a.m. to narrow down projects.

3. Adjournment: Motion: J. Tarrant moved to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Denise Raap, First Selectman