

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 ~ 4:30 P.M.  
IN-PERSON AT LITCHFIELD FIREHOUSE, 258 WEST ST. AND  
REMOTE MEETING BY LIVE INTERNET VIDEO STREAM AND TELEPHONE**

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Denise Raap called the special meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. Selectmen present were Jodiann Tenney, Jeffrey Zullo and Jonathan Tarrant. Thomas Waterhouse was absent. Also present were David R. Wilson, WPCA Chairman, Ted Donoghue, Superintendent, Sewer Department. Via remote connection were Amaechi Obi, Finance Director (4:51 p.m.), Jim Mersfelder of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District, and Raz Alexe, Public Works Director. Public were Burke Gibney, Max McIntyre, and John McKenna, Reporter.

**Select American Rescue Plan Projects and Prioritize:** D. Raap summarized the following projects with Town Attorney Mike Rybak's comments noted.

**Sprinter Ambulance for LVA:** Probably a stretch - could emphasize use for acute COVID patients with rationale of tying to objectives and purpose stated in the interim rule, Section 2.

**Litchfield Social Services:** Yes, looks good

**Town Beach Electricity:** A stretch, but could promote that the beach is being used more since COVID

**EV Car Chargers:** Yes, looks good

**Litchfield Borough Sidewalks:** A stretch

**Municipal Parking Lot:** A stretch

**White Woods Parking:** A stretch - could note outside recreational use and tie to objectives and purpose stated in the interim rule, Section 2.

J. Zullo supported the ambulance as a public safety need. He asked if the short list had been taken to CCM for comment, and D. Raap said A. Obi had approached them, but they said they would not advise us as to which proposals best fit under the ARPA guidelines. J. Tenney noted there will be no approval process from the Federal Government before we spend the money. D. Raap added that these are projects that would be planned anyway under our Capital Improvement Program.

D. Raap said the private and non-profits have come up recently haphazardly, and she felt we need to have a formal, standard method of reaching out to them. J. Tenney said she had done a draft that can be reviewed. It is an application based 85% on the Brookline model and includes eligibility requirements and an application due date. She proposed we form a small committee composed of people not tied to the businesses which would make the decisions. If the interest becomes oversubscribed, they could gauge the amount set aside for the second round allocation. T. Donoghue suggested using the Survey Monkey to reach all the businesses with about 10 questions to poll for what were some of the biggest challenges among the business community. *[A. Obi arrived here.]* Mr. Obi said that CCM would not answer our questions about qualifying projects and referred him to our Town Counsel. He then reached out to the State, and they said the money they give us is not for infrastructure, although covered is water, sewer and broadband. They stated further that infrastructure money will be coming later. Money can be used for infrastructure if we have lost revenue, though, and it can be used for lost revenue for tourism-related businesses. Money can be used for loss of revenue for tourism-related businesses. He felt we can afford to pay for the EV car charger work from our budget. J. Zullo felt the municipal parking lot project is critical to our town's ability to accommodate the tourist industry, and D. Raap said it probably would be denied because it is a repair instead of a new parking lot. He also felt the EV car charger work can be substantiated under tourism and said we need criteria for tourism. Air handling systems were discussed

for the Town Hall and the Annex. Raz Alexe said a split system could be done in the Town Hall, but it was never proposed, anticipating a new building. The Annex is much more complicated for a split system.

In his research Mr. Obi said that lost revenue from the LVA would need to be proven with a detailed revenue comparison from the previous year. He did not feel a new Sprinter ambulance would qualify for funding. These are the projects he feels would qualify, with a total of \$316,300 allotted so far.

Litchfield Social Service	\$20,000
DPW MS4/Stormwater Study	60,000
DPW White Woods Parking	33,300
WPCA Mechanical Bar Screen	150,000
WPCA Polymer Mixing Station	18,000
WPCA Flood Resiliency Study	35,000

Plus \$150,000 for Non-Profits

J. Tenney stressed that we need to help people in the community who were victims of the pandemic. In order to make these funding selections fair and open, it was suggested by J. Zullo to form a committee of business members to review our selections for a more open and inclusive assessment. R. Alexe asked D. Wilson if the WPCA might need more money for some kind of plant study.

**Adjournment: Motion:** J. Zullo moved to adjourn at 5:26 p.m. and J. Tarrant seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Denise Raap, First Selectman