

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 ~ 5:30 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 regular hybrid meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with Selectmen Jonathan Tarrant and Jeffrey Zullo also present in person and Christine Harding present via Zoom. Jodiann Tenney was absent.

Approval of Minutes

a) Special 1/3/23: Motion: J. Zullo moved to adopt the special meeting minutes of 1/3/23 and J. Tarrant seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: Kate Honan, Beach Street, noted an article in the Republican-American about the January 12th WPCA meeting to approve the Woodard and Curran contract. She read the sentence that said the WPCA would vote on the contract at its February 9th meeting and would include a discussion with representatives of Woodridge Lake Sewer District. Why would they be included when this is an independent analysis? They will discuss this further under the Goshen letter item below. Secondly, she took exception with C. Bratina of the WPCA who said that the UV screen could not be done until they know the flows from Woodridge Lake. J. Zullo was clear that this has been funded and replaces an existing system. Ms Honan feels this is not a stand alone study.

Selectmen's Requests: None

First Selectman's Update Report: D. Raap shared a notice of public information meeting for the DOT plans for bridge #02231, Route 202 over Stillbrook in Bantam. The meeting is January 24th at the Bantam Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m. With the detour, J. Tarrant cheerfully noted that people will now know where the Litchfield WPCA is located. Next, D. Raap said she attended the 28 Russell Street kickoff event. If the ARPA funds are approved, they will continue working on the south end of the property. News 12 TV will feature this project on Thursday.

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) Reappoint Todd Johnson to Traffic Safety Community Action Group, term 1/2025: Motion: J. Tarrant moved and J. Zullo seconded a motion to reappoint Todd Johnson as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Reappoint Jane Bailey to Beautification Commission, term 2/2026

c) Reappoint Danielle Muecke to Beautification Commission, term 2/2026: Motion: J. Tarrant moved and J. Zullo seconded a motion to reappoint both Jane Bailey and Danielle Muecke as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

d) Reappoint Nathaniel Worden to Pension Commission, term 2/2026

e) Reappoint Erich Marriott to Pension Commission, term 2/2026: Motion: J. Tarrant moved and J. Zullo seconded a motion to reappoint both Nathaniel Worden and Erich Marriott as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

f) Reappoint Jerry Geci to SMART Task Force, term 2/2026

g) Reappoint Kate Zullo to SMART Task Force, term 2/2026

h) Reappoint Helen Simko to SMART Task Force, term 2/2026: Motion: J. Torrant moved and J. Zullo seconded a motion to reappoint Jerry Geci, Kate Zullo and Helen Simko as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

i) Reappoint Elisa Bauer to Social Services Board, term 2/2026: Motion: J. Torrant moved and J. Zullo seconded a motion to reappoint Elisa Bauer as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

j) Reappoint Raz Alexe to Tree Warden, term 2/2024: Motion: J. Torrant moved and J. Zullo seconded a motion to reappoint Raz Alexe as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

k) Interview Keetu Winter for Sustainable Litchfield Committee, term 3/2024: This interview has been tabled until the next meeting on February 7th.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 1/9/23 Special Board of Finance; 12/27/22 Capital Improvements; 1/11/23 Inland Wetlands Commission

Sustainable Litchfield Update: J. Zullo said there are no new updates since the last meeting.

WPCA Liaison Update: C. Harding reiterated that they will invite Woodard and Curran to the next WPCA meeting to answer questions on the redline version of the contract for the stand alone study. They did not talk about having Woodridge Lake involved in that. Some folks from Goshen were there, and apparently Woodridge Lake is talking with Torrington, but there are no discussions about Woodridge Lake merging with Litchfield. No decisions have been made. It was a good, productive meeting. They are still working on getting the final numbers for the contract, but W. Buckley is moving it along. Commissioners should have a copy of the contract in time to study it before the meeting.

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

Beautification Commission: 1 regular member 2/2025; 2 alternate members 2/2025

Broadband Commission: 1 alternate member 1/2025

Cable TV Advisory Council: 1 BOE members 6/2023

Capital Improvements Committee: 1 Citizen at Large 11/2023

Conservation Commission: 1 regular member 12/2025; 1 alternate member 12/2024

Economic Development Commission: 1 regular 6/2025; 1 alternate 6/2023

Inland Wetlands Commission: 1 alternate member 6/2023

Litchfield Arts Council: 1 regular member 8/2024

Litchfield Housing Authority: 1 member 8/2023

Litchfield Prevention Council: 1 regular member 6/2024; 2 alternate members 6/2023

Milton Historic District Commission: 1 regular 1/2023; 3 alternates; 2-1/2024, 1-1/2025

Park and Recreation Commission: 1 regular member 6/2025; 1 alternate member 6/2026

Pension Commission: 1 alternate member 3/2025

Sandy Beach Commission: 1 regular member 12/2022

Social Services Board: 2 regular members 2/2024, 2/2025

Sustainable Litchfield Committee: one regular member 3/2024; 1 alternate 2024

Town Facilities Review Committee: 1 BOF Member 3/2023; 1 BOE Member 3/2023

Veterans' Advisory Committee: 1 regular member 8/2023; 1 alternate member 8/2024

Western CT Coalition, CAC #22 (formerly NW Regional Mental Health Board): 1 member 5/2023

Zoning Board of Appeals: 3 alternate members 3/2025

Tax Refunds: **Motion:** J. Torrant moved to approve the 26 tax refunds as submitted by the Tax Collector, in the total amount of \$7,253.84. J. Zullo seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business

a) Sign Annual Town Meeting Call for 1/31/23: D. Raap presented the warning and said the Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Intermediate School auditorium at 7:00 p.m., and Cleve Fuessenich has agreed to be nominated as Moderator. The three Board members present signed the call as a majority of the Board of Selectmen.

b) Award Bid for Rehabilitation of Richards Road Ext. Culvert over Humaston Brook: Motion: J. Zullo moved to approve the bid for the Rehabilitation of Richard Road Extension Culvert over Humaston Brook, and award the contract to the Dayton Construction Company in the amount of \$211,055.00. J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

c) Police Activity Comparison Report: D. Raap said the Police submitted a breakdown of the calls for 10/1/21 - 12/31/21: Cpl. Russo, LC16, did 199 calls, and Officer Kenney, LC12, did 60. Comparing to the period 10/1/22 - 12/31/22: Trooper Peterson, badge 481, did 373 calls, and Trooper Holm, badge 470, did 182 calls. J. Zullo asked for Trooper Holm's calls from the 2021 period, but that was not available and D. Raap said he did less calls. J. Zullo asked that the Troopers come to a future meeting to answer questions.

The added cost for one Town police officer would be roughly \$150,000 before salary as outlined in the handout. J. Zullo said the Town made the right decision last year to add another State Trooper instead of hiring constables. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to table this item until the troopers can attend a Selectmen's meeting. J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

d) 1/5/23 Goshen Letter to D. Raap Re Woodridge Lake Sewer District: J. Zullo wondered if this letter from First Selectman Todd Carusillo of Goshen was a premature initiative, as until Litchfield does its stand alone analysis, there is no basis to start an intermunicipal agreement, not knowing what our needs are. D. Raap said she did respond to the letter and told them exactly that.

Motion: J. Tarrant moved to reverse Items e) and f) on the agenda, as Mr. Murphy had not yet arrived for Item e). J. Zullo seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

f) Allocate Funds for Badge Maker for Fire Marshal: Fire & EMS Commission Chairman John Campbell said that \$3,000 would cover the costs associated with the badges and the badge maker. The machine broke about seven years ago, and they need badges to comply with OSHA and NFPA rules. They need to get the accountability tags on the board monitored by the Safety Officer during fires. The Fire Marshal has also offered to make badges for any Town employees in addition to the firefighters. D. Raap suggested taking the \$3,000 out of Contingency, as they have \$75,000 in the fund. **Motion:** J. Zullo moved to allocate \$3,000 from 01-1903-51703 Contingency to cover the cost of the tags and badge machine and transfer it to 01-2201-55104 Small Equipment. J. Tarrant seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

e) Real Estate Offer: D. Raap explained that this piece of land is on Pitch Road, is contiguous to the Town's landfill and is being offered to the Town free of charge. D. Raap did not think it was buildable. J. Zullo would like to know if there is a Phase I environmental study on the property. As Mr. Ted Murphy had not yet arrived, J. Tarrant suggested tabling it to the next meeting. **Motion:** J. Tarrant moved to table this item until the next Selectmen's meeting, and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: **Motion:** J. Torrant moved to adjourn at 6:06 p.m. and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Denise Raap, First Selectman