

**AGENDA**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023 ~ 5:30 P.M.**  
**IN-PERSON AT TOWN HALL ANNEX, 80 DOYLE RD., BANTAM, AND**  
**REMOTE MEETING BY LIVE INTERNET VIDEO STREAM AND TELEPHONE**

**Call to Order:** First selectman Denise Raap called the hybrid meeting to order at 5:30 with Selectman Jon Torrant, Jeff Zullo, Jodiann Tenney and Christine Harding attending in person.

**Approval of Minutes:** **Motion:** Jon Torrant moved to approve the August 1, 2023 regular meeting minutes, and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Public Requests/Comments:** Gerry Peruse, 91 Litchfield Ponds Drive, is present representing the Litchfield Ponds Homeowners Association regarding the tipping fee. Gerry stated that he had discussed this with Denise already and they were very shocked to get a letter from their trash hauler because they are residents, with 40 units and that they also pay taxes. He stated that the First Selectman's office was helpful in sending the ordinance that passed. What he was really present for is that Denise had explained that because it was a commercial dumpster, Mr. Peruse stated that a commercial dumpster was not mentioned in the Ordinance.

Denise Raap explained that Eric Frederickson, from USA Hauling would consider it commercial, because they use a dumpster. She explained that in order not to have to pay the tipping fees, they would have to use the blue recycling bin and the trash receptacles. Mr. Peruse reiterated that they are residents that live in a community and that implementing the recycling bin and trash receptacle for each unit would be difficult and attract bears. They are not a commercial business. Denise asked if Mr. Peruse discussed this with USA Hauling at all, he had not. Jeff Zullo reiterated what is being discussed and asked if just the determination of USA Hauling on their own as to who is commercial and who is residential. Denise Raap explained that dumpsters are not picked up with a residential truck. Further discussion resulted in Jeff Zullo stating that the Town needs to have a discussion about how they are being perceived by the residents. Discussion with Christine Harding and Jeff Zullo regarding the inability for residential truck to pick up dumpsters and USA Hauling determination as to who is commercial. Denise asked if they could replace the dumpster with a few of the residential bins. Jon Torrant asked what should be done with Wesley Condominium or Tapping Reeve. Jon Torrant suggested that the residents get together and see if they can share a trash bin to avoid the commercial fees. Further discussion regarding the determination of who is residential and who commercial is being determined by what type of truck picked up the trash. Mr. Peruse said that he had a simple suggestion, which is that the Town should reimburse them for the excess charges that Litchfield Pond's has incurred. More discussion about the viability of having containers shared by the residents to avoid the commercial rates for the residents. Denise Raap committed to contacting USA Hauling to discuss this issue with them including a suggestion that they can pick up all residential dumpsters on the same day. Jeff Zullo stated that this was an unintended consequence of the ordinance

**Selectmen's Requests:** Christine Harding asked about Aquarian, and Denise said that she has discussed this issue with George Logan who was going to look into and get back to her. John Torrant asked what this was regarding and Christine Harding explained that people who live on Torrington Rd. have had water trouble and that she had heard from people in Gregorian Place that they have also been having trouble with water and she has seen Poland Springs delivering there. Denise Raap had reached out to George Logan on June 22, 2023, she referred it to Ingrid. Denise had not heard back.

Jeff Zullo asked Jodiann Tenney to update the BOS on the Traffic Safety Committee meeting earlier in the day. Jodiann explained that at the meeting they reviewed the document as to that changes citing a change

in lighting, speed humps being put on West St. Jodiann explained that the Commissioner from the State Department of Transportation came and is committed to doing a traffic study. They will be back this fall during peak traffic time. The Traffic Committee had received a SherrToss grant and ARPA funds, now that the State is coming in, so we don't need the 100k for a Traffic Study, so we want to go back as there are still plenty improvements to be made. Jeff Zullo noted that working with the State DOT on this is a once in lifetime opportunity for the Town and discussed traffic, safety and was discussing the importance of a cohesive plan. Jodiann stated that when the states comes in, we have to have them look at the whole plan. Jodiann explained that whenever there is any discussion of the Town Green, she either meets with Gail Carr or communicates with her.

Jeff Zullo stated that there was still an issue with the screening display at the solar array at the High School. What Planning and Zoning required has really not done anything to screen it. Jeff explained that he had a conversation with Carol Bramley, Chair of Planning and Zoning, and she suggested that the Town do an amended landscape plan, talk to NW Conservation again, look at native plants and develop a budget. Some discussion about native plants, hiring a Landscape Architect, etc. Jon Torrant mentioned that Steve Eisenhower has told him on several occasions exactly what native plants should go there and stated that he is nominating Steve for the plan and he would talk with him tomorrow morning on it.

**First Selectman's Update Report:** Denise thanked Raz Alexe for the heavy lifting and stated that they just submitted a STEAP grant for 500k for a street project from East Litchfield Rd to Nasar Rd. a total of 1.2 million for the project. We hope to find out in a month if the Town receives the grant.

Denise continued that the new AED's had been delivered and were being installed by the Building and Grounds Department in Buildings in the public view. An AED was installed in the Town Hall and will be installed in Public Works. Community Field, At the Corner, DiFrancos Restaurant, our three schools, the Library, St, Anthony's, the Plumb Hill Playing Fields and the Rowing Club, and the Community Center. Christine Harding asked if one could be installed at Toast and Co.

Denise continued reporting that she had been working with the St. Michael's Food Pantry and Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> will be their last Pop a Trunk and then they are going to be working with the Town, providing volunteers and some of their financial resources to build up the Town of Litchfield's Food Pantry. With this we will be able to provide Litchfield residents with food assistance twice a month.

Additionally, Denise Rapp mentioned that they need to work on how Region 20 will be taking on the BOE electric bill. Denise explained that In July 2024, The Town of Litchfield is not responsible for it anymore and questioned how the transition would work. Jeff Zullo mentioned that he had read through the minutes of Region 20 and mentioned that Chris Leone is working on it and reiterated that they need to understand how they are going to transfer the schools on the lease as well as the Plumb Hill Playing Fields. Denise Raap, Jon Torrant, and Jeff Zullo discussed whether or not Plumb Hills Playfield has already been subdivided from the property at the school. Jon Torrant was asked to look into this, he agreed.

Denise mentioned the email link that was posted on the Town of Litchfield page as well as social media letting people know how to get updated on the region 20 progress.

Jodiann Tenney brought up the Traffic group and explained that Chris Leone took them up on the offer to submit an encroachment permit for a flashing light. This is intended to make the area near Wamogo a school zone. Jeff stated that this is a flashing light on the side of the road, Denise explained that this area does not meet the 7 or 9 MUTC criteria for a traffic light there. Chris is hoping that this is put in place for 7/1/2024.

### **Resignations**

- a) Todd Johnson from Traffic Safety Community Action Group, effective 8/8/23
- b) Priscilla Jeffery from Litchfield Prevention Council, alternate member, effective 8/7/23

### **Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments**

Appoint Priscilla Jeffery to Litchfield Prevention Council, regular member, term 6/2024. **Motion:** J. Zullo motioned to appoint Priscilla Jeffery to the Prevention Council as a regular member, and Christine Harding seconded. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes:** Liaison reports are in the packet for the BOS to review.

**Sustainable Litchfield Update:** Jeff Zullo noted that they needed to get together to discuss the installation of the EV charging stations to make sure we get going on that and noted they have until November next year. Jeff Zullo explained that they had been approved for 6.

**WPCA Liaison Update:** Christine Harding had not attended the meeting, but read the meeting minutes and discussed with Raz. She stated that one thing she wanted to note is that many people are asking for help from WPCA. For example Bantam Lake is saying that they need help and noted the septic systems are old around Bantam Lake and that people expect WPCA to fix it. Christine Harding explained that we can expect WPCA to fix Woodridge Lake, Bantam Lake problems. They also have a huge amount of their own they are needing to address. Raz Alexe discussed the solar array at WPCA and noted that the Board has been helpful in the project including noting that improper conductors were installed and it was fixed and the problem was solved. There was also discussion of the Tax Collector taking over the WPCA billing and collections, where Denise Raap noted that she had requested that Dave Wilson put together a formal proposal for the BOS to consider, but the First Selectman had not received anything. Christine Harding said that she has emailed Dave Wilson with no response.

**Town wide First Responder Recruiting/Retention Discussion:** Jeff Zullo noted that he had had some helpful information from Dan Morosani, but thought that they would need to get some information from the Pension Commission on what the subcommittee that they put together along with the financial elements of total cost. They had presented increasing the pension, tax abatements, we had discussed a pay for call as well. Jeff Zullo stated that the Board of Finance, Town Treasurer, and Pension Commission will have to work together with the Board of Selectman to evaluate the options and have a dialog. Jeff stated his support for something, but mentioned that the BOS should know the impacts of any changes. Jeff and John are heading up this process and discussion now.

**Vacancies:** 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: 2 members, 1 BOE rep, both 6/2023  
Capital Improvements Committee: 1 Citizen at Large 11/2023  
Conservation Commission: 1 alternate member 12/2024  
Economic Development Commission: 2 regulars 6/2025, 6/2026  
Inland Wetlands Commission: 2 alternate members 6/2024  
Litchfield Arts Council: 1 regular member 8/2024  
Litchfield Housing Authority: 2 members 8/2023, 8/2024  
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 & Recreation Commission: 1 alternate member 6/2025

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: 1 alternate 3/2024  
Town Facilities Review Committee: 1 BOF Member 3/2026; 1 BOE Member 3/2026; 2- 3/2026; 1 alternate 3/2026  
Traffic Safety Community Action Group: 1 regular member 1/2025  
Veterans' Advisory Committee: 2 regular members 8/2023, 8/2025  
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:** 4 Tax Refunds, Total of \$372.16. **Motion:** Jon Torrant made a motion to approve the tax refunds in the amount of \$372.16 that the Tax Collector submitted for approval, seconded by Jodiann Tenney. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Transfers:** NONE

### **Old Business**

a) 956 Bantam Road/Bantam Terrace Woodman Proposal: Raz found documentation from 1985, and commented that they were expecting a survey to be finalized in September. **Motion:** Jeff Zullo made a motion that the BOS approve the professional services agreement with Berkshire Surveying in the amount of \$2650.00 plus \$140.00 per pin as required and hourly fees as needed. Jodiann Tenney seconded the motion. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

### **New Business**

a) Adopt Small Cities Resolution for Bantam Falls Grant: **Motion:** Jeff Zullo made the motion to adopt this resolution. Jon Torrant seconded. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

b) Extension of Lease Agreement for Sandy Beach: Denise Raap explained that this is not a new lease, but an extension as they work out some details. **Motion:** Jeff Zullo made a motion to approve the lease extension with the Town of Morris and White Memorial. Christine Harding seconded. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

c) Letter of Support for Land Trust Acquisition: **Motion:** Jodi Tenney made a motion to have the First Selectman write a letter of support to support the Land Trust's Acquisition of property on Fern Ave. Jon Torrant seconded. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

d) Award Bid for Moosehorn/Turner Road Project: Raz requested to approve the bid of \$1,340,694. **Motion:** Jeff Zullo made the motion to approve the Moosehorn/Turner Road Project under the LOCIP Program to B and W Landscaping LLC in the amount of \$1,340,694, with the caveat that the State DOT doesn't come back and change it. Jon Torrant seconded. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

a) 7/31/23 Email from Anne Haas re Police Officers: Request to add another Trooper. Discussion that encouraged people to participate in meeting, call the First Selectman's Office. Jodiann Tenney noted that not many people came out to the Budget meetings requesting an additional police officer. Jeff Zullo thought decisions should be based on data rather than how we feel about adding another police officer or not.

b) USPS Notice of Exercise of Renewal Option for 80 Doyle Road: Denise explained that the Town was asked to extend the lease with the Bantam Post Office from March 2025-Feb 2030. Raz will change from

\$67200 then to \$70560 through the duration of the lease. **Motion:** Jeff Zullo made the motion to approve the USPS Notice of Exercise of Renewal Option for 80 Doyle Road, seconded by Jodiann Tenney. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Adjournment:** Motion: Denise Raap made a motion to adjourn a 6:49 p.m., seconded by Jon Tarrant. All voted aye, and the motion carried.

Denise Raap, First Selectman

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