

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024 ~ 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 5:32 with Selectmen Jodiann Tenney, John Bongiorno and Denise Raap in person and Dan Morosani and Jeffrey Zullo remote via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

a) 3/5/24 Regular Meeting: Motion: J. Tenney moved and J. Bongiorno seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 3/5/24. Upon voting all voted in favor and the motion carried.

Public Requests/Comments: Roland Greenwood, Northfield, asked for the details on the police budget for 2024/25. D. Raaps said the Selectmen presented a \$502,170 budget including three full time Resident State Troopers and \$40,000 in overtime.

Selectmen's Requests: J. Tenney reminded everyone that there would be a presentation at the next meeting on the speed camera guidelines with public input. It was suggested that they meet on April 2 at the Litchfield Firehouse to accommodate the public.

Motion: J. Tenney moved to add under Old Business c) Traffic Counts, and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Motion: J. Tenney moved to add "Asphalt Paving Agreement" to New Business b). J. Bongiorno seconded the motion, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion: J. Tenney moved to add after Correspondence, "Executive Session - Real Estate". J. Bongiorno seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

First Selectman's Update Report: D. Raap reminded the group of the bridge work that will be done on Bantam Road near Cathole Road in June, 2025, and Bantam Road will be closed for 11 weeks.

R. Alexe then spoke of all the areas that will be in the Region 20 transfer. The attorneys representing Region 20 are seeking to make this a commercial land transaction, which demands more information on the drawings and more clarification to the deeds. This all adds time and cost to the agreement. He is afraid we will have trouble meeting the deadline of June 30th. Town Counsel thinks this is ambitious but he can get it done in time. J. Zullo asked that if the scope of the agreement is being requested to change by the Region 20 attorney, shouldn't they cover the cost of implementing that request in terms of our additional legal hours and survey hours? R. Alexe said we have already exceeded our budget on the survey with the add-ons. D. Raap will explore with Mike Rybak if there might be an alternative to a commercial-structured transfer. She can also ask the Region 20 BOE Chair if the Board is satisfied with the changes.

D. Raap mentioned the April 1 public hearing for the P&Z application for the proposed development on Beach and Milton Roads. It will be at the Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m. The new LCD Litchfield Representative appointed by the Fire & EMS Commission will be Mark Cattey. Early voting starts March

26, 27, 28 and 30th, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Sample ballots will be posted. D. Raap is working with Titan Energy for a new electric rate of \$.095 for 36 months. She is still working with the landlord on the school bus dispatch building since it was abandoned and we have no use for it. The flashing beacons have been ordered for the new school zone near Wamogo, and we will apply to the DOT to have them installed.

Resignations

a) Shellane Dyer, from Economic Development Commission, alternate member, effective 3/15/24: received and noted

Interviews, Appointments & Reappointments

a) Reappoint James Koser to Fire & EMS Commission, Litchfield Fire, term 4/2025

b) Reappoint Michael Castelli to Fire & EMS Commission, LVA, term 4/2025

c) Reappoint John Campbell to Fire & EMS Commission, Bantam Fire, term 4/2025

d) Reappoint Jack Hodges to Fire & EMS Commission, Northfield Fire, term 4/2025

Motion: J. Tenney moved to reappoint a) through d) above as listed. J. Bongiorno seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

e) Appoint/Reappoint BOS Rep to Fire & EMS Commission, term 4/2025: Motion: J. Zullo moved to reappoint Jon Torrant as listed above, and J. Tenney seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

f) Reappoint Paul Gibb to Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, term 4/2026: Motion: J. Tenney moved and J. Bongiorno seconded a motion to reappoint Paul Gibb as above. All voted aye and the motion carried.

g) Appoint Shellane Dyer to Economic Development Commission, regular member, term 6/2026: Motion: J. Tenney moved to appoint Shellane Dyer as above, and J. Bongiorno seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Liaison Reports/Commission-Committee Minutes: 3/11/24 Board of Finance

Sustainable Litchfield Update: J. Zullo said they met last week and are still reviewing the process to see if they can make the gold certification deadline in August. They are reprising the Earth Day celebration this year on April 20th with trash pickup in the morning and fair at the Community Center in the afternoon.

WPCA Liaison Update: J. Bongiorno said they are meeting with Torrington on the municipal agreement. They are well into Phase 2 of the study and they are doing pieces of Phase 3 and 4 concurrently. Efficiencies are working well. Noel Lafayette, SHR, tells him there are some backordered interconnects, but they plan to have it completed by July. J. Zullo said the delays are costly because we are losing ZREC rebates of \$480/month. Mr. Lafayette will put together an outline for approval by the Boards of Selectmen and possibly Finance. We may have the rate by next week.

Vacancies: J. Bongiorno said there are a few people interested in the Advanced Technology Commission, and he will have this ready for the next meeting. The list of current appointed vacancies with term expirations is as follows:

Beautification Commission: 2 regular member 2/2025, 2/2026; 2 alternate members 2/2025

Broadband Commission: 1 alternate member 1/2025

Cable TV Advisory Council: 2 members, 1 BOE rep, both 6/2025

Conservation Commission: 1 alternate member 12/2024
Economic Development Commission: 1 alternate 6/2026
Inland Wetlands Commission: 2 alternate members 6/2024
Litchfield Prevention Council: 1 regular member; 6/2024, 2 alt. members 6/2026
Milton Historic District Commission: 2 regulars 1/2024, 1/2028; 3 alternates; 2-1/2024, 1-1/2025
Pension Commission: 1 alternate members 3/2025
Sandy Beach Commission: 1 regular member 12/2025
Social Services Board: 2 regular members 2/2024, 2/2025
Sustainable Litchfield Committee: 1 regular member 3/2026; 1 alternate member 3/2026
Town Facilities Review Committee: 1 BOF Member 3/2026; 1 BOE Member 3/2026; 2 alternates 3/2026
Veterans' Advisory Committee: 2 regular members 8/2023, 8/2025
Western CT Coalition, CAC #22 (formerly NW Regional Mental Health Board): 1 member 5/2025
Zoning Board of Appeals: 3 alternate members 3/2025

Tax Refunds: None

Transfers

a) Transfer #7 - \$7,782.00 for Firefighting Foam Disposal: Motion: J. Zullo moved approval of Transfer #7 in the amount of \$7,782.00 for firefighting foam disposal, from Contingency to 01-2202-52111 Other Professional Services. J. Tenney seconded. D. Raap said the earlier we get this done, the more chance there will be for a greater reimbursement. Upon voting, all voted aye and the motion carried.

First Responders Recruitment and Retention - John Campbell: J. Campbell reported he went to the Board of Finance meeting resulting in no budgeted money until a formal proposal is submitted. He had a long discussion with the Fire & EMS Commission, and they all agreed to wait until next year. A committee was established a while ago, and without that and Dan Morosani, they would not be as far as they are today. The new committee will now stay on top of this, and perhaps they will have a plan in six months. J. Zullo asked if we have examples from other towns to use as a template. Mr. Campbell said he has something from New Hartford so far, but it is not what they would use. He hopes to get four or five for comparison. D. Morosani agreed with him but didn't think the tax abatement/1099 should be a major sticking point. J. Campbell said there are many financial considerations tax-wise, and the committee should be composed of business-minded members. J. Zullo suggested a total budget number (\$160,000 suggested) and calls are paid pro rata so we can stay within budget. Upon D. Morosani's question, J. Zullo clarified that the Board of Finance can act on individual line items on the Board of Selectmen's budget, but it can only act on the total of the Board of Ed budget. Further, the Board of Selectmen's budget is what is effective up to the Annual Budget Hearing. After the hearing is complete, the Board of Finance receives the budget, and it can act directly line by line on the Selectmen's budget and historically on the total number of the Board of Ed budget. J. Campbell thanked the Boards of Finance and Selectmen for giving the Fire and EMS Commission a good chance, even though they could not be ready.

Old Business

a) Tri-Town Lease: D. Raap summarized that they kept the \$1,000/year lease flat. They proposed eliminating the Northfield field usage, but Selectmen questioned that, and D. Raap will check into it. They will identify which items Tri-Town is responsible for, such as the scoreboards and batting cages. J. Bongiorno thought we should not charge Tri-Town \$1,000 for use of the fields. He was concerned if they run the Snack Shack there should be a plan and thought that should be a separate agreement where we would realize some revenue. If eliminating the \$1,000, D. Raap did not see why the Litchfield residents would have to subsidize the extra use of electric, garbage, recycling, and water when they don't subsidize other nonprofits. The Rowing Club pays \$1,500/year and buys beach passes. J. Zullo said we need to be consistent on how we treat these nonprofits. The contract expired in 2016 and Tri-Town has not paid last

year or this year. D. Morosani felt we need a more consistent rubric for spending the Town's money, but did not lean toward charging Tri-Town. J. Zullo said the Town needs to be more rigorous in developing its policies and procedures to apply consistently.

Motion: J. Zullo moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the lease as presented and work with Tri-Town. There was no second. J. Tenney suggested making the lease term shorter and J. Bongiorno suggested separating the Snack Shack from the lease. He would like to see Tri-Town's profit on food sales to see if they are struggling. D. Raap quoted from Guide Star that they have \$49,000 left over per their 990 form. J. Zullo withdrew his motion in order to table this to a future agenda.

Motion: J. Zullo moved to table this item to a future agenda. J. Bongiorno seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Revisit Selectmen's Budget: D. Raap said the budget should be fine now that we do not have the recruitment and retention for consideration. She is hoping for a resolution to the school bus building lease, \$4,800/year, but if need be, we can take it out of Contingency for next year.

c) Traffic Counts: R. Alexe reported that we used these radar machines on seven locations on State roads between Feb. 2nd and March 6th. There were 10,000 to 11,000 cars in each direction on Rte. 202 counted and little less on Rte. 63 north and south. The average speed was 45 mph on a posted 40 mph. The violation percentage is very high, but 70% within the 10 miles per hour over pace rate. He also discussed Northfield Road and the need for a traffic diet on North Street to slow traffic. Out of 72,762 vehicles by direction, 61,900 were over the posted speed limit. He will put one of our machines on Northfield Road near Lipeika to monitor speed in that area.

New Business

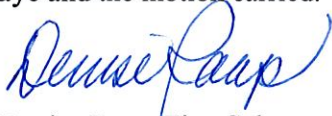
a) Approve North Shore Road Closure for 5/5/24 "Girls Just Wanna Run" Road Race: D. Raap noted that this race is now being taken over by the Park and Recreation department and co-hosted by the Bantam Sunshine Fund. **Motion:** J. Tenney moved to approve the road closure for the 5/5/24 "Girls Just Wanna Run" road race through Park and Rec, and J. Bongiorno seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b) Asphalt Paving Agreement: R. Alexe said Superintendent Chris Leone requested paving for two areas. First, from the inverters to the solar field at the high school due to heavy traffic and continued traffic for maintenance, with a (#1) quote of \$62,660. The second area is at LIS in the parking lot under the canopies and the sliver of sidewalk abutting that parking lot at a (#3) quote of \$107,000. If we do these things before the Region 20 agreement takes effect, it will cost \$169,800. It possibly could come from next year's Capital. The next quotes were requested by R. Alexe to finish the job. Quote #2 is to pave from the side of the high school into Constitution Way at \$45,000, and finally, to pave the loop at the high school and back out to Constitution Way. J. Zullo confirmed from R. Alexe that this request of the Superintendent was not part of the Region 20 regionalization vote in 2022, and he suggested this request may be beyond the general outline of the transfer. D. Raap said that there were many details that were not specified. J. Bongiorno thought these paving projects should not be done if they were not in the Town's timeline to do before July 1, and it opens the door for more requests. J. Zullo added that Region 20 has a \$1 million capital spending plan built into its budget, and this should be covered under their capital plan. J. Tenney said the paved areas proposed are still safe and usable and agreed with J. Zullo and J. Bongiorno. D. Morosani said he strongly agreed, as the new Region 20 means multiple responsibility across 4 towns, not just the Town of Litchfield. He is bewildered with the ambiguity, as these things should have been ironed out in explicit detail in the transfer agreement. R. Alexe pointed out we were asked to look into this, and it has been brought to the Selectmen as an FYI if this should come as a question in finalizing the process.

Correspondence: None

Executive Session - Real Estate: **Motion:** J. Zullo moved that all Board of Selectmen members go into executive session on the subject of real estate at 7:02 p.m., and J. Bongiorno seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Out of executive session at 7:06 p.m. with no action taken.

Adjournment: **Motion:** J. Bongiorno moved to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. and J. Zullo seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Denise Raap, First Selectman