

**PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD
JANUARY 24, 2026
IN-PERSON AT LITCHFIELD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

The in-person Public Hearing of the Litchfield Board of Selectmen was called to order at 2:31. There were roughly fifty people in attendance.

Selectman Jodiann Tenney presented an overview of the investigation into automated traffic enforcement devices, noting that this session was a public hearing and that any decision to move forward would require approval of an ordinance at a Town Meeting and subsequent State approval.

Barbara Janulis, 119 Milton Road, shared an incident involving a speeder on her road and spoke in favor of speed cameras, expressing interest in adding locations such as Milton Road. Angela Defiore, who frequently runs on White Woods Road, voiced concern about speeding and supported speed cameras, also requesting consideration of White Woods Road. Ken Tingley spoke in opposition, citing concerns about due process, privacy, and effectiveness.

Lauren Sage asked about staffing needs if cameras were implemented. J. Tenney stated that, based on discussions with Washington's First Selectman, hiring someone to handle phone calls was recommended. She added that citations would be reviewed by the Resident Trooper or, if the Town hires Constables, by those officers.

Cathy White, Osborn Road, supported speed cameras and encouraged consideration of additional locations. Nick Romano, Milton Road, expressed support for permanent "Your Speed" signs and for speed cameras, and asked about the implementation timeline. Selectman Jeff Zullo stated the matter would go to Town Meeting, and J. Tenney noted it could also proceed to referendum.

Curry Walker, Woodruff Court, spoke in support of speed cameras. Soni Clubb also supported them and asked whether cameras could adjust for reduced school-zone speeds; J. Tenney confirmed they could be configured for school hours. John Morris opposed speed cameras and expressed support for speed bumps instead.

Wolf Boehme supported speed cameras and suggested adding locations on North and South Street. Meredith Penfield, Camp Dutton Road, also supported cameras and requested consideration of Camp Dutton Road. Jeff Wacker, East Street, did not take a position for or against speed cameras. He questioned whether they are the most impactful and effective way to reduce speeding, but he did not state support or opposition.

David Pfeiffer read a letter opposing cameras. Erich Marriott asked whether violations would carry license points; J. Tenney stated that, as written, the enforcement mechanism is a citation and does not involve points. Margaret Hunt asked how evidence is collected, and J. Tenney explained that it is a photo of the back of the vehicle.

John Morosani expressed support for speed cameras. Susan Pearsall voiced concern that cameras would not remove dangerous drivers from the road. Ken Tingley III, Roland Greenwood, and Patricia Pfeiffer spoke in opposition, with Patricia Pfeiffer referencing data and State statutes.

J. Tenney noted that two emails were received expressing support for speed cameras.

Selectman Dan Morosani presented information on constables. He stated that the Town currently has three Resident Troopers budgeted; however, the State has not been able to fill the third position. He clarified that the Town's two constables retired in 2022, and due in part to factors such as the Police Accountability Bill, the Town chose not to hire new constables and instead added a second Resident

Trooper, followed by a third budgeted position as of July 2024, which remains unfilled by the State. He explained that with two Resident Troopers, the current schedule is a five-on, three-off rotation, with one trooper covering days and one covering evenings, and with both day and evening coverage on days 1 and 5. His presentation included anticipated costs and the level of coverage provided.

Ken Tingley commented that constables could allow for more creative scheduling to improve coverage.

Wendy Westcott asked whether any grant funding is available. D. Raap stated that because the Town is not considered a distressed community, its eligibility for grants is limited. J. Zullo added that grants cannot be used for operating costs.

Matt Tobin asked about the administrative burden associated with constables. D. Morosani stated that investigations would continue to be handled by the Resident Troopers or Troop L. D. Raap noted that there would be additional administrative burden on the Town Executive Administrator.

In response to Sam Olmstead's question, D. Morosani confirmed that the cost breakdown presented does include vacation and sick time.

Erich Marriott asked about the process for establishing constables. It was stated that the matter would go to Town Meeting during the budget process.

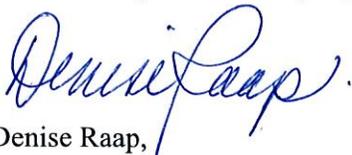
David Pfeiffer asked whether supplies from the former constables could be reused. D. Morosani stated that the equipment is outdated due to requirements under the Police Accountability Bill.

Ken Tingley III asked whether the Town had reviewed the Thomaston Police Department for comparison. Discussion followed regarding the size of Thomaston's force and the fact that a comparable force in Litchfield would require a local jail facility, which the Town does not have. D. Raap also noted that Thomaston's approximately \$2.5 million cost reflects salaries only, and that they have their own equipment and send recruits to the police academy, allowing them to pay lower starting wages than what would be required for experienced constables.

Susan Pearsall asked about the cost of a third Resident Trooper. J. Zullo responded that the position is already budgeted, so there would be no additional expense.

Patricia Pfeiffer commented that while education attracts families to the area, the school budget currently represents 67% of total spending, and she would like to see a realignment. S. Olmstead clarified that the Town does not control the Board of Education budget; residents may attend the BOE budget meeting to express their views and participate in the public hearing, where each person has one vote, but the Town itself cannot direct BOE spending.

The public hearing adjourned at 5:02 p.m.



Denise Raap,
First Selectman