

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
January 13, 2020
Meeting Minutes

1.0 Convened at 6:30 PM; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman, Rayna Leibowitz, Mark Russell; **Staff:** Steve Ochmanski, CEO; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; Bryan Lamoreau, Transfer Station Manager; Tamas Szepsy, Road Advisory Committee Member; John Upham, FOAA Officer; Elton Wade, Budget Comm. Larry and Joline Bell, Broadband Comm. **and Guests Present** per the sign-in sheet.

2.0 Minutes of December 9, 2019 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence:

3.1 Town Manager: A. In the absence of the Town Manager, Steve Ochmanski advised Phil Roy, The Birches, is expected to present a citizens initiative petition to change the Land Use Ordinance to allow a licensed campground to sell campers and recreation vehicles at the next meeting.

3.2 Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector - A. The CEO advised no building permits were issued in December.

B. Seven new septic systems were given permits and the installations were completed.

C. The Planning Board January meeting had a subdivision amendment item on the agenda and received direction from the Chairman to review the Comprehensive Plan regarding needs of the Mass Gathering Ordinance being developed.

3.3 Road Commissioner - Weathermen did a terrible job of predicting the weather yesterday and today.

3.4 Fire & Rescue - A. No report.

3.5 Emergency Management - There was brief discussion regarding the availability of use of the Oak Hill Road Communications Building mast for broadband use. The CEO advised the FCC would need to approve it and he didn't have any information regarding its suitability without additional information.

3.6 Assessing Agent - No report.

3.7 Transfer Station - A. The Manager advised it was an interesting 2 weeks. The roll-off containers were not emptied as requested and the bulky goods, tin, paper and plastics containers were full when the gates opened on Friday. Several people with big furniture pieces had to be turned away. Bryan will contact who he needs to regarding this matter as it has not happened before. A possible solution may be to have an extra roll-off available for overflow, but more information is needed first.

3.8 Other Town Committees: A. The Broadband Committee advised they have continued to explore options and other vendors. One company requires the signing of a non-disclosure agreement before providing detailed information. A potential new Committee member, Josh O'Neil, may be seeking appointment. Joline advised she is seeking grant opportunities for various components of broadband requirements from assorted sources. She was asked to provide information via email regarding specific grant requests to the Town Manager or Board Chair to be shared with members as well as presented at the next Select Board meeting.

B. The Mass Gathering Committee met last Tuesday. The EMA Director expressed concerns regarding security and law enforcement issues both inside and outside the venue property after discussing them with members of the law enforcement community. The desirability of emergency response planning for a potential event including mass casualty elements was discussed and the EMA Director was invited to present some information..

4.0 Agenda Adjustments

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1 Mary Jo Mason Update - The residents have failed to meet the requirements of the Stipulated Judgement they signed. The provisions of the judgement were reviewed and the CEO was directed to contact the town's legal counsel regarding next steps.

5.2 Doug Caton Consent Agreement Update - Contact with the Court is expected later this month, postponed by a snowstorm

5.3 Discussion of Transfer Station roll-offs - Recommended to be included in budget development for the next fiscal year if it is felt they are needed.

5.4 Discussion of email - current systems were discussed. No action taken.

5.5 Approval of Notice of Sale of Tax Acquired Property - The Notice was amended by adding the deposit percentage of **10%** for bidders and requiring completion of the purchase within **30** days from the date of the bid acceptance. These changes were accepted on a motion by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Mark Russell and voted 3 - 0.

5.6 Update regarding new dispatching protocols - no FD representatives present. Next agenda.

5.7 Review of Liquor License Application submitted by Lindsay Costigan/Lintonia Bar & Grill LLC. A revised application was hand-delivered. It was reviewed and discussed. A public hearing is optional at the discretion of the Select Board. In the absence of compelling reason to require a public hearing, a motion was made to approve and sign the application (required before the State will review and process it) by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

5.8 Make public sand pile less accessible - many people consider it okay to back up and shovel as much sand as they want into their pick up trucks. The posted policy is to allow 2 five-gallon buckets per household per storm. Discussion of possible modifications to discourage abusing the policy was held. The decision was made to add jersey barriers to the side towards the yard to discourage this action. The Road Commissioner advised he would add them.

5.9 Estimate for turn around at Gustin Road - The Road Commissioner advised he expected the cost to be between \$3,500 and \$4,500. It can be created in a day and a half if the weather cooperates. The plowing and sanding of roads has priority.

6.0 Unscheduled Business

7.0 Legal

8.0 Appointments and Resignations - Cheryl Cooledge was appointed to the Broadband Committee but her paperwork was not ready at that time. It was prepared and signed at this meeting.

9.0 Warrants

9.1 Town Voucher #14 or \$366,949.07 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

9.2 Town Payroll #14 for \$19,383.29 A motion to approve was made by Mark Russell, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

10.0 Other Business

11.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication

11.1 Resident Eric Seaman discussed concerns about the condition of the west end of the Dennis Hill Road, and portions of the Pine Tree Road. He suggested it might be advantageous for the Board and Road Advisory Committee to consider some short term fixes to hold them until rebuilding efforts can be

done. He has noticed a lot of deterioration in the last couple of years. The Road Advisory Committee usually reviews the roads in the spring and makes recommendations regarding the proposed projects. His comments will be passed on to this Committee.

11.2 Resident Eric Seaman attended part of the Mass Gathering Committee meeting and asked about the background of the effort. He inquired if MMA had been asked about potential consequences or legal ramifications if we enacted a new Ordinance versus not having one. Is there a fine line between Freedom of Speech and commercialization of it as a mass gathering. How is the Land Use Ordinance applied?

11.3 Board member Russell advised the RSU#4 has decided to connect to the Sabattus Water District

12.0 Future Agenda Item

- 12.1 Feedback on Selectman's Handbook
- 12.2 Town Office Renovations Update
- 12.3 Cemetery signs
- 12.4 Update regarding new dispatching protocols

13.0 Adjournment at 8:45 PM.