

Town of Litchfield
Select Board
February 12, 2018
Minutes - Final

1.0 Convened 6:30; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen, Mark Russell, Chairman, Rayna Leibowitz and Gary Parker; **Staff:** Trudy Lamoreau, Town Manager; Steve Ochmanski, CEO/LPI; Bryan Lamoreau, Transfer Station Manager; RAC Members: Cyndi Redmond, Tamas Szepsy, Toby Jutras; Renee Lachappelle, BAR; John Upham, FOAAA, **and Guests Present** per the sign in sheet

2.0 Minutes of January 22, 2018 Meeting submitted for final approval. A motion to approve the minutes with the correction of the Rules name in 5.4 and the addition of a sentence (D.) in 6.1 after changing D. to E was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence

3.1 Town Manager - A. The Town Manager reported she met with Dave Blocher regarding the Gustin Road issue. He has had a survey done and is proposing a settlement. See 6.2 below.

B. An update on the AED for the Town Office - Trudy had contacted Tina Gowell and Tina admitted she had dropped the ball on it. She will get the information Trudy asked for.

C. Selectmen's Handbook - Trudy surveyed several area towns and all reported they depend on the Chapter 2 material that MMA provides.

D. The Fuel Fund has been busy responding to 12 requests and the General Assistance program is at its normal level of activity.

E. The MDOT will be addressing removal of the pine trees on the Plains Road when weather conditions permit. The frequency of storms has kept them busy.

F. Trudy reported that a representative of CMP called her in reference to the October storm complaints. She gave names and phone numbers of Chief Labbe, Road Commissioner Nadeau and EMA Director Slattery to the Rep. All three have talked with the CMP Rep and provided their comments.

3.2 Code Officer/Plumbing Inspector - A. Steve reported he is working with Ellery on inspections of 20 new homes for year end. There were 22 last year.

B. The number of applications for buildings and plumbing is picking up again.

C. He has done several site visits in the shoreland district regarding hazardous trees damaged by heavy winds over the fall and winter. If they need to come down, there is no requirement for replanting in either our Ordinance or DEP regs. Four places had trees come down on buildings.

D. Steve did an inspection at Doug Ames gravel pit. He received a report of a mobile home being there that might be inhabited. He found a man there working on a camper who claimed he owned one of the mobile homes. Steve advised he needed to obtain a permit to have the mobile home there even if it was vacant. He advised he would be in to apply. There was no evidence either mobile home was being lived in.

E. Three illegal junkyards were being cleared before the major snowstorms hit. It appears things have slowed down some, but he will monitor them as the weather improves.

F. Steve provided copies of e-mails received regarding FOAA activities that he felt the Board should be aware of.

Steve praised the work of the Planning Board which recently resolved a situation in which a 1996 subdivision lot was sold and the owner moved a line which should not have been moved without PB review and approval. The outcome was a modification of the subdivision with the PB approval and the situation was resolved.

3.3 Road Commissioner - No report as the Road Commissioner requested to be absent as they plowed and sanded many long hours over the weekend and the entire crew was exhausted.

3.4 Fire & Rescue - A. Chief Labbe reported the Department assisted Sabattus Fire with their Ice Fishing Derby by providing their off-road vehicle. The Derby was considered very successful.

B. The FD has submitted a request for funding through the Homeland Security Grant.

C. Dispatching had a problem with the recent call for an ambulance for the vehicle accident on Rt

197. It appears the dispatcher contacted the Winthrop Ambulance (of which he is an employee) rather than the Augusta FD as directed when they had a problem getting an ambulance there. The issue has been addressed.

3.5 Emergency Mgmt. - Trudy advised Bruce is working on the radios and Rayna advised she and Bruce are working on the Standard Operating Guidelines update.

3.6 Assessing Agent - Trudy reported Ellery Bane is expected to be here Feb. 22 and Jay will be here Feb. 15.

3.7 Transfer Station A. Atlantic Waste Inc should be here this week to finish the installation of the compactor.

B. The Public Works did a great job with their work, as usual, and it was appreciated.

C. Bryan also thanked the folks in the Town Office for counting out and dispensing the clear plastic bags that will be used.

3.8 Other Town Committees - The Road Advisory Committee is having a meeting on Wed, Feb. 21 at 6:00 PM and would like the Board to attend to discuss matters. **Note: by subsequent e-mail, the Board was notified that date would not work and it was changed to Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 PM)**

4.0 Agenda Adjustments

4.1 Marge Lebeck, Mrs Leanne Desrosiers - Broken mail box post

4.2 Dave Blocher, Gustin Road

4.3 PUC Investigation of CMP, Intervener Status

4.4 FOAA Discussion

5.0 Scheduled Business

5.1 Quitclaim, R. Hamel, R03-088A on 1 - Taxes have been paid off. A motion was made by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker to approve the Quitclaim and voted 3 - 0.

5.2 Abatements: A Mace Road subdivision was reviewed and adjusted as follows:

Map U13, lot 1-1 Account 2904 for \$336.24, Approved on a motion by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

Map U12, lot 1-2 Account 2905 for \$733.86, Approved on a motion by Gary Parker, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

Map U13, lot 1-3 Account 2906 for \$561.37, Approved on a motion by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

Map U13, lot 1-4 Account 2907 for \$558.86 Approved on a motion by Gary Parker, seconded by Rayna Leibowitz and voted 3 - 0.

Map U13, lot 1-5 Account 2908 for \$417.64 Approved on a motion by Rayna Leibowitz, Seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

A Homestead Exemption got dropped in error and is corrected by the abatement of \$323.00 on Map R3, lot 63 Account 1218. Approved on a motion by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

5.3 Supplementals: Map R08 lot 009 Account 1104 for \$2,288.00 a voluntary removal of property from Tree Growth. Approved on a motion by Rayna Leibowitz, seconded by Gary Parker and voted 3 - 0.

5.4 Agreement with MDOT project #023324.00 - This is to apply a hot mix asphalt surface to Route 126/9 from the Huntington Hill Road east towards Gardiner for 4.0 miles in Litchfield and West Gardiner. Review of this proposal will be tabled to the next meeting

5.5 Chris Raymond - A. Mr Raymond requested consideration of steps necessary to improve the audio pick-up of verbal communication at the meetings. Some of the audio on the videos is not satisfactory. The Chairman asked the videographer to explore the options and report back.

B. Mr Raymond commented that he didn't appreciate being laughed at when he asked a question at the last meeting and it made him feel disrespected.. The Chairman acknowledged his comment.

5.6 Reval RFP - The Chairman requested an electronic copy of Madison's RFP as he would like to revise it to Litchfield's needs for further discussion. The Town Manager advised she would send it to each Board member.

5.7 Budget Review A. It was noted that Chief Labbe was among the first to get his budget

submitted.

B. The Chairman requested identification of which departments would be reviewed as part of the preliminary agenda information so the Board could review information in advance.

C. Gary requested adjustment to the font size so no words would be incomplete in the budget tables.

D. The Chairman requested submissions from Public Service Agencies to be included should come to the Board if they reflect increased amounts.

6.0 Unscheduled Business

6.1 Marge Lebeck, Mrs Leanne Desrosiers - Broken mail box post at 1367 West Road, The post was a 4X4 set solidly into the ground several years ago. It is well off the road so the Town plow doesn't need to go near it. The resident uses a snow blower to clear it. Mrs Desrosiers has borrowed a town saw horse to hold her mailbox up until a new post can be set. The Chairman advised there was a policy, that was ended several years ago which gave a resident \$25 to replace a mailbox struck by a town plow. The board will look into her situation.

6.2 Dave Blocher, Gustin Road - Dave will be invited to the next meeting for discussion of the Gustin Road issue and his proposal. Copies of the survey were provided to the Board for review for that discussion.

6.3 PUC Investigation of CMP, Intervener Status - Rayna will check on this matter and advise the Board of her findings. She suggested compiling a map showing the locations of the downed trees/wires from the October storm.

6.4 FOAA Discussion

7.0 Legal

8.0 Appointments and Resignations

9.0 Warrants

9.1 Town Voucher # for \$

9.2 Town Payroll # for \$

10.0 Other Business

11.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/Communication

12.0 Future Agenda Item

12.1 D. Blocher Property

12.2 Street Lights

12.3 Gustin Road and Old Mill Rd Bridges

12.4 Whippoorwill Road Culvert/Bridge

12.5 Return of the 7/14/16 Executive session Working Papers

12.6 Agreement with MDOT for Project #023324.00

12.7 Options for capturing better audio of meetings

12.8 Reval RFP

13.0 Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted by

Rayna Leibowitz