

Town of Litchfield
Selectboard Meeting Agenda
June 12, 2023
Final Meeting Minutes

1.0 Convenes 6:30 P.M.; Pledge to Flag; Selectmen and Guests present

Selectmen: Gary Parker, Chairman, Clarence Gowell III (identified as Rick Gowell in these minutes), Scott Weeks.

Staff: Kelly Weissenfels, Town Manager; Michael Sherman, Fire Chief; Larry Nadeau, Road Comm.; John Upham, Transfer Station Manager; Tom Wood, Chm., Elton Wade, Budget Comm.; Steve Ochmanski , Code Enforcement Officer; and others per the sign in sheet.

2.0 Minutes of May 22, 2023 and minutes of June 1, 2023

Scott Weeks motioned to approve minutes as presented for May 22, 2023, motion seconded by Gary Parker, voted 2-0 (Rick Gowell abstained due to absence at May 22nd meeting).

Scott Weeks motioned to approve minutes as presented for June 1, 2023, motion seconded by Rick Gowell, voted 3-0.

3.0 Reports and Correspondence

3.1 Town Manager – Kelly Weissenfels

A. Voting taking place tomorrow at Litchfield Sportsman’s Club from 8a-8p. Then the Town Meeting will be held in the Carrie Ricker gymnasium on Saturday starting promptly at 10am.

B. Everyone with a mailbox should have received the Town Report. If you are missing one or need extras, they are available at the Town Office and will also be available at the Town Meeting.

C. Kelly will be attending the meeting on July 3rd at Gardiner Town Office to participate in updating the plan moving addressing “large rain events”.

D. A topic of a lot of discussion recently is speeding, especially noted on the Whippoorwill Rd. The town will be placing speed limit sign(s) once the road has been finished (repairing shoulders is all that’s left).

E. Town office will be closing early at 3pm, June 29th for end of year processing.

3.2 Code Officer/Plumbing Inspector - Steve Ochmanski

A. The number of permit applications has doubled in the last 2 weeks, Steve will be taking the time to review them all.

B. The resident that has received notice to pick up his property of litter/trash, stated there is progress being made. Steve will be checking in soon in person, if not sufficient progress the matter will come before the Select Board.

C. The property previously known as the “Caton Property” is still in limbo. Steve is awaiting a letter from the executor of the estate giving Steve a timeframe of when the demolition (barn and L off the back of the kitchen) will take place. Steve will be in touch via letter with executor of the estate and lawyer with a letter stating he will need a time frame on demo within the next 30 days.

E. Steve reports that the conference he attended at Sugarloaf 3 weeks ago provided excellent information. Steve has come back with new information on LD2003. This is an act to implement the recommendations of the Commission to increase housing opportunities in Maine by studying zoning and land use restrictions. The planning board has looked at the law. Originally it was stated that towns had

until July of this year to comply, the amendment states that towns now have 1 year to comply. This is still in the legislature, so more to come.

3.3 Road Commissioner – Larry Nadeau

A. Grinding is taking longer on the Huntington Hill Road than expected as the depth of hot top was not included in the report about the road. There is (so far) anywhere from 14” to 18” of black top that must be removed before injecting can begin. Larry does report the ditching on Huntington Hill is almost done.

B. Next the Road Crew will be headed to Ferrin Rd to take care of the short strip that has been on the list.

C. Ditching will commence on Pine Tree Rd, if fill is needed by anyone close, Larry should be informed soon. Rayna has suggested that the Fair Grounds might be interested in receiving some.

3.4 Fire & Rescue – Chief M. Sherman

A. There has been in the last week an increase in Fire and Rescue calls.

B. The department’s training is coming to an end for this fiscal year, Chief Sherman is happy to report that the department has kept up with training.

C. Chief Sherman is awaiting the town meeting as he is in hopes the funds are approved for the frame repair as well as the new truck(s).

***Chief Sherman also wanted to address the issue of people only pulling over and not slowing down when seeing/hearing lights and sirens. This is a serious issue, and he would like people to know they should not only be pulling over but also come to a complete stop once having done so. This gives the rescue vehicle the time/space it needs to proceed safely. ***

3.5 Emergency Mgmt. – Chief M. Sherman

There was a meeting held on May 18th where 4 attendees discussed the options and requirements for opening a shelter/warming area in Litchfield (cooling shelter also a topic of discussion). The next meeting to continue this discussion will be held on June 15th, 6pm at the Fire Station. Chief Sherman plans to have all discussion settled and a firm plan in place long before cold weather sets back in.

3.6 Assessing Agent – Kelly Weissenfels

Work has been started to apply a factor to all property to bring the town closer to 100%. This will not affect individual taxes and will be brought to the Selectman’s Board for a vote before finalized.

3.7 Transfer Station – John Upham

A. Seven more stickers were issues bringing the total number to 2462 new stickers.

B. Only one bulky container emptied this week.

C. The electronic material in the TV trailer was taken this week.

D. The Swap Shop continues to be popular amongst the citizens.

E. The leaf and brush piles continue to be utilized.

F. The mowing of the mound has commenced this year and has been going well.

3.8 Other Town Committees

A. Brad Hilton (Senior Advisory Committee) would like to thank Larry Nadeau for the donation to help keep the Seniors in a large space like the Sportsman’s Club building. Upon asking for the Board to keep their eyes open for other locations he was reminded that there is money set aside in next year’s budget to keep up with the use of the Sportsmen’s Club.

B. Tom Wood brought to the board’s attention there was a meeting tonight, just before the Selectmen’s meeting to finalize the Budget Committee’s recommendations concerning certain articles on the warrant to be voted on at the Town Meeting. Kelly will be working on getting this ready for the Town Meeting.

4.0 Scheduled Business

4.1 Request for historical plaque for the WWII Honor Roll – Elton Wade

Elton has started the process of trying to get more information on the who/what/how of the memorial that is on the property of the Plains Road Cemetery. He has suggested it would be nice to have a plaque on the side of the memorial with this information on it. It was suggested by Tom that maybe a time capsule be placed into the memorial so that if anything happened and the memorial needed to be replaced, they wouldn't have to do so much leg work to find out who/what/how. Discussion was had and Elton is to come up with what he would like for the plaque and a plan moving forward.

4.2 Discuss recent / upcoming legislation that affects municipalities. One already discussed with Code Enforcement Officer (see above). Another involves franchise agreements, there are currently 2 competing levels (State LD1967 vs. Federal). The federal bill would remove the authority of the local government to enforce the cable franchise agreement. This could affect the local cable franchise agreement. Kelly will be looking into who sponsored the bills on both levels.

4.3 Personnel policy (set date for workshop, or review at next scheduled board meeting) – July 10th at 7:30am.

4.4 Personal property abatement - \$157.20, French's Real Estate LLC (from assessing agent)

Scott motioned to settle personal property abatement in the amount of \$157.20, French's Real Estate LLC, seconded by Rick, Voted 3-0.

4.5 Personal property abatements – 2021, \$141.30; 2020, \$142.00; French's Real Estate LLC

Scott motioned to settle personal property abatements from 2021 in the amount of \$141.30 as well as 2020 in the amount of \$142.00; French's Real Estate LLC, seconded by Rick, Voted 3-0.

5.0 Unscheduled Business

5.1

5.2

6.0 Appointments/Resignations

6.1 Appoint Vicki Russell to the Recreation Committee - Scott motioned to appoint Vicki Russell to the Recreation Committee, seconded by Rick, Voted 3-0.

6.2 Appoint Tina Gowell representative to the Gardiner Ambulance Advisory Committee- Scott motioned to Appoint Tina Gowell as representative to the Gardiner Ambulance Advisory Committee, seconded by Rick, Voted 3-0.

6.3 Appoint Jay Danforth 2nd representative to the Gardiner Ambulance Advisory Committee- Scott motioned to Appoint Jay Danforth 2nd as representative to the Gardiner Ambulance Advisory Committee, seconded by Rick, Voted 3-0.

7.0 Warrants

7.1 Town Warrant #34 \$380,877.11- Scott motioned to approve Town Warrant #34 \$380,877.11, seconded by Rick, Voted 3-0.

7.2 RSU4 Warrant #35 \$345,483.17- Scott motioned to approve RSU4 Warrant #35 \$345,483.17, seconded by Rick, Voted 3-0.

7.2 Town Payroll #24 \$36,144.32- Scott motioned to approve Town Payroll #24 \$36,144.32, seconded by Rick, Voted 3-0.

8.0 Selectmen/Public Discussion/ Communication

8.1

9.0 Future Agenda Item

9.1 R02-017, 2783 Hallowell Road

9.2 Update from RSU4 Withdrawal Committee

10.0 Adjournment 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Angela Parker