

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 12, 2018

Selectmen's Meeting

Members Present: Brent T. Lemire, Chairman
Steven D. Perry, Vice Chairman
John R. Brunelle
Kevin C. Bourque
Kurt D. Schaefer

Also Present: Troy Brown, Town Administrator

5:00 p.m. Paperwork review
6:00 p.m. Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Review and Approval of Consent Items:

1. Approval of Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2018
2. Approval of Account Payable Manifest 3/6/18 \$54,312.44, 3/13/18 \$42,092.92 and 3/13/18 \$5,414.62
3. Approval of Payroll Manifest 3/8/18 \$52,363.52 & 3/15/18 \$50,439.18
4. February Reconciliation - Town Clerk & Tax Collector
5. Abatement Approval (1)
6. Abatement Denial (2)
7. Veterans' Credit (4)

Approval of Consent Items

Selectman B. Lemire reads aloud the Consent Items

Selectman S. Perry **motioned** for the Board of Selectmen to approve the Items of Consent

Selectman J. Brunelle **seconds** the motion. **Vote carries 5-0-0**

Request for Additional Items/Other Business - None

Business

Kate Stevens Interview for Planning Board Alternate Member

Selectman B. Lemire welcomes Kate Stevens and asks her why she is interested in serving as and alternate member on the Planning Board.

Kate mentions she first became interested when a friend (Matt Shoemaker) became a member on the Board, and they would have discussions. She tells the Board she and her husband have a few young children just starting in the Elementary and Pre-Schools. They are starting to put roots down in Litchfield and they would like to get more involved in the community. Kate states

she does not have any Town Government background. But does have an Engineering background and is familiar with blueprints. In attending a recent Planning Board meeting they were reviewing an application and looking at a lot of prints, which she had no problem reading so she hopes her background could be helpful. She wants to be more involved and get a better understanding of the Town and thinks this might be a good fit.

Selectman S. Perry states he was on the Planning Board for a long time. He tells Kate do not get discouraged even a year in because there is so much involved, and things are always changing. He mentions to lean on Jen a lot, she is a great source of knowledge and guidance. Steve thanks Kate for stepping up to serve.

Selectman J. Brunelle asks if she has any time concerns with serving on the Board where she has small children.

Kate states she is starting as an alternate member, because child care is always a challenge if someone does not show up. But with her husband and family she thinks it can work as an alternate for now.

Rest of the Board thanks Kate for stepping up and thinks it's great to have young people getting involved with the Town and serving on it's Boards.

Selectman S. Perry **motioned** for the Board of Selectmen to approve the appointment of Kate Stevens as an Alternate Member to the Planning Board with a term to expire 2021.

Selectman K. Bourque **seconds** the motion. **Vote carries 5-0-0.**

Selectman B. Lemire tells Kate she will have to see the Town Clerk Terri Briand to get sworn in before she can participate on the Planning Board.

Appointments

Dennis Page - Planning Board Member (term exp. 2021)

Laura Gandia - ZBA Member (term exp. 2021)

Thomas Cooney - ZBA Member (term exp. 2021)

Gregory Lepine - ZBA Member (term exp. 2021)

Town Administrator T. Brown states the rest of the appointments are not here to be interviewed this evening by the Board. He states they are all existing members and are just reappointments.

Selectman S. Perry asks when did Dennis Page become a member of the Planning Board.

Troy believes he is an alternate.

Selectman S. Perry states he has never seen him at a Planning Board meeting and he was never interviewed by the Board of Selectmen. Steve states the letter that was shared with the Board states he is to become a full-time member and is replacing David Samuel. He also mentions he has never seen a resignation from David Samuel from the Planning Board also. He asks Troy to check on this before they move forward with an appointment for him.

Troy states he will make arrangements for Dennis Page to come in front of the Board.

Selectman S. Perry **motioned** for the Board of Selectmen to appoint Laura Gandia as a full-time member to the Zoning Board of Adjustments (term expires 2021), Thomas Cooney as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Adjustments (term expires 2021) and Gregory Lepine as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Adjustments (terms to expires 2021).

Selectman J. Brunelle **seconds** the motion. **Vote carries 5-0-0.**

Town Administrator Contract Ratification

Selectman B. Lemire states the Board of Selectmen have all reviewed the changes made to the contract for the Town Administrator T. Brown. He asks is anyone has any questions.

Selectman S. Perry **motioned** for the Board of Selectmen to approve the contract ratifications as written for Town Administrator T. Brown. This will be effective March 12, 2018, he will receive a gross salary of \$1,802.40 a week which equates to \$93,730 annually. It will be a three year contract which will expire on June 30, 2021.

Selectman J. Brunelle **seconds** the motion. **Vote carries 5-0-0.**

Public Input

Marsha Finnegan, 147 Talent Road. Marsh mentions she sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen, advising them of her complaint. But is here this evening to discuss her complaint regarding the Fire Station/FireFighters who ran a guantlet line this Saturday at the Town Dump/Recycling Center. She would like to know what differentiates the Firemen from being able to go into the fenced in area, as opposed to any other Selectmen or Politician running for an office in Town who cannot. She mentions they are both soliciting votes, they were not there for any type of fundraising, so why is one able to be behind the fence while others are not allowed. She would like an answer.

Selectman B. Lemire states when this was first brought to his attention, was the situation not rectified.

Selectman S. Perry states yes it was.

Marsha states she believes it was, she did not stay there at the Recycling Center.

Selectman B. Lemire states it was a misunderstanding and once brought to his and other Board members the situation was rectified immediately. There was no malfeasance nothing nefarious was done.

Marsha asks why was it done in the first place.

Selectmen B. Lemire states he does not know. Marsha states she heard he (Mr. Lemire) had ok'd the Firefighters being there. Selectman B. Lemire states he does not ok anything like this.

Selectman S. Perry states the Transfer Station is under the jurisdiction of Dave Mellen the Operations Manager. Once a complaint was issued and brought to his attention, he asked them to step outside the gates and they did.

Selectman B. Lemire states the Fire Chief brought the men out to the site. B. Lemire mentions once it was brought to his attention, because he was not aware and was traveling. He had the Fire Chiefs phone number and made a call to have the matter fixed.

Marsha states she would of liked and is still waiting for a phone call also. She mentions she feels Selectman B. Lemire is attacking her with his tone, when she is just asking a question.

Marsha again asks why these people should of been let into this area in the first place.

Selectman B. Lemire states again he has no idea.

Marsha asks if it would be a good idea to know why.

Selectman J. Brunelle states why it was rectified immediately. It was a Town Employee/Department Head who made the decision on behalf of the town. When brought to his attention and realized it was a mistake to took care of it immediately. He mentions now this will be an issue for everyone, the girl scouts who sell cookies inside the gate, other fundraisers etc.

Some of these decisions were made for safety reasons due to traffic coming in and out of the facility, but now it will become an issue for all. It was simply a mistake and misunderstanding that was fixed. Board and Marsha continued to discuss this matter and what she feels is the law. She has no issues with those not running for an office. She felt the firefighters were there for political purposes and looking for her vote, and their presence was an inconvenience for her disposing of her trash (she was surrounded by 6). She mentions the law states they are not to be there.

Selectman B. Lemire states it is not the law, and has nothing to do with the Transfer Station, it is a policy of the Town. He states the law governs the polling places and where individuals can stand with signs. He mentions again as soon as it was brought to his and Dave Mellens attention it was taken care of .

Marsha states she wishes he would of called her. She was very polite when she left a message with Selectman K. Schaefer. And would of appreciated a phone call stating it was taken care of. Lemire states he was traveling and was unable to do so, and is not going to defend this matter any longer, it was rectified.

Selectman K. Schaefer states it was 12:52 when Marsha made him aware of the matter and it was taken care of by 1:00.

Administrator Report

Town Administrator T. Brown tells the Board the Town Report is completed and anyone interested in receiving a copy can pick up an electronic or hard copy of the report at the Town Hall.

Troy also mentions the Payroll Clerk will be back to work next Monday.

Selectman Reports

No reports at this time

Selectman B. Lemire and the Board of Selectmen take a moment to recognize and present a granite plaque to Selectman S. Perry for his years of dedicated service to the citizens of Litchfield on the Board of Selectmen, because he is retiring. Everyone thanks Steve very much for all he has done.

Selectman S. Perry states he ran for Selectman the first time and lost, ran a second time and served a 3 year term. He stepped down for family and work issues, and Pat Jewett ran and took over for Steve. So when Pat could no longer serve and she stepped down, he felt it was right to step in and filled in for Pat with honor for her last year. He then ran for re-election and won and has served for another 3 year term. So now after 7 years it is time for a change, (he would never say he would not do this again). But he has taken on a new role at work with more commitments, and is unable to dedicate the time necessary to continue to serve. He thanks those on the Board who have picked up some slack for him, but feels it's not fair to continue asking. He feels it will be good to step away and try something new for awhile, and allow others to serve. But feels if time opens up again he will be back to serve in some capacity. He states the Board is in a good place, and with two new members running this election he states change is good.

Selectman B. Lemire states he would like to make a clarification regarding an article that was

published in the Hudson Litchfield News (HLN). He states the Board of Selectmen do not endorse any Candidate. He was asked, and it was an unfortunate situation that arose. But wants to make it clear the Board does not endorse any Candidates.

He would also like to remind everyone tomorrow is election day. And again like last year there is a major snowstorm heading our way. He mention the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk, Moderator and Town Administrator are extremely concerned because the weather will preclude some people from voting. But the Secretary of State feels it does not mean anything and has made it clear voting will not be postponed or cancelled. He was quoted as saying "there are no snow days in voting".

Selectman B. Lemire states for years the Moderators in each Town has had the authority to make the decision to postpone the election if the weather would prevent people to get out and vote. But after last years fiasco due to a nor'easter, the decision has been made the Secretary of State will make the rules now and not the individual towns. He attended a hearing and the Senate voted in favor passing a new law which will govern the Town Meetings and places the final decision of postponing an election with the Secretary of State. He continued to discuss this new law, and mentions the bill now goes to the House and the Municipal Association will be trying to have some amendments made, he will keep to keep everyone updated on this matter. So voting will be held as scheduled tomorrow from 7am to 7pm at Campbell High School.

Selectman B. Lemire and Town Administrator T. Brown attended a meeting last friday at the Department of Environmental Services with the Commissioner. They felt they would get a lot more information regarding the final consent agreement being reached with St. Gobain and NHDES. But he states they left not knowing anything more than when they went in.

Items moved from consent - None

Other Business - None

Selectman Selectman S. Perry **motioned** for the Board of Selectmen to adjourn.

Selectman J. Brunelle **seconds** the motion. **Vote carries 5-0-0.**

Election Day will be held Tuesday, March 13, 2018 from 7am to 7pm Campbell High School
The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be on March 26, 2018 at 6:00pm at Town Hall

Brent T. Lemire, Chairman

Steven D. Perry, Vice Chairman

John R. Brunelle

Kevin C. Bourque

Kurt D. Schaefer