

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Selectmen's Meeting

December 28, 2009

The Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Members present: Frank A. Byron, Chairman
M. Patricia Jewett
George A. Lambert
Steven D. Perry

Absent: Andrew M. Santom, Vice Chairman

5:30 p.m. Correspondence Review

7:00 p.m. Also present for public session: Linda Langille, Office Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 7:06 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Keys

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

CURRENT USE CHANGE TAX

Conservation Commission Members present: Joan McKibben (Chairman), Thomas Levesque, Sr., (Vice Chairman), Marion Godzik, Michael Croteau and Richard Husband.

Talk went on as to reversing the current use change tax money to go back into the General fund and not the Conservation Land Fund. Back in 1997 the townspeople voted to allow 100% of the moneys collected to go into the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund. The money is utilized to purchase land, conservation or trail easements or purchase of development rights. Mrs. McKibben read from the Annual Report. There are two accounts...one created in 1999 Farmland Capital Reserve Fund and the money is held by the Town Trustees. The total money in the Farmland Fund is \$119,184.

In 2009 there was \$48,500 coming into the Conservation Fund. In order to change the procedure, it would have to go before the voters. Mr. Levesque objected to changing the procedure because the Conservation Commission has been frugal in their purchases in conjunction with the

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Selectmen approval. Mrs. McKibben went over the properties purchased by the Conservation Commission. Some Conservation Commission members spoke against changing the procedure. Mr. Byron: The question is - is the money better spent on land or is it better spent on decreasing the taxes?

Mr. Husband went on to defend the purchase of land and protection of water, wetlands area, etc.

There are two differently worded warrant articles provided to the Selectmen. Mrs. Jewett **MOTIONED** to change the bottom warrant article saying that you would not have 100% of the money from current use that is turned into the Conservation Commission. It would now be 50% if it was voted on and approved by the townspeople. No second. Motion failed. Mr. Perry **MOTIONED** to leave things as they are. Mr. Lambert seconded. Mrs. Jewett abstained. Motion carried 3-0-1.

JOINT LOSS MANUAL/POLICIES

Town Counsel has reviewed the manual. Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** to adopt the Town wide Safety Manual as presented by the Safety Committee. Mr. Perry seconded. Mrs. Jewett asked if Tony Schaffer, Recreation Commission Chairman, could speak. Mr. Schaffer came forward to say that he had planned to send a letter and this was discussed at the recreation meeting and that the Commission had concerns. He said they did not have the final version of the document and what they had seen was the playground safety policy. It is felt it creates mandates that the Commission cannot keep up with as volunteers because there is no staff, only a part-time groundskeeper. This was discussed. Mr. Schaffer said that the Commission was not invited to the meetings. He expressed his concern with the liability being put on himself as he is listed as a department head in the manual. He does not consider himself a department head and as a volunteer he has concerned if someone gets hurt on the equipment. Also, the timing of the manual is a concern whereas the budget for 2010 has already been submitted.

He was told that the manual has been in the making for a year and there is a requirement from the State to have it in place and the Town's insurance company has urged it. Mr. Byron said he did not think it would require a lot of additional funding to be in compliance. It was said that the department head for the Commission is the Recreation Chairman. Mrs. Jewett went on to talk about the fact that they are volunteers, they receive no pay and they are already doing a lot of things; it is much more time consuming than other groups. It was suggested that if he has a concern with getting help to do the inspections to hire an inspector. Mostly the Board felt that it is not a big deal and it is only once a year for a report to be filed. All in all, the Recreation Commission should be assuring safety to the taxpayers on the grounds and in the building.

Vote: Mrs. Jewett abstained. Motion carried 3-0-1.

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DEFAULT BUDGET

Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** \$25,000 as default number for line 4312.20-575. Mr. Byron seconded. This was discussed. Mr. Perry **AMENDED MOTION** to bring \$25,000 to \$70,157. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Talk ensued. Vote on amendment: Mr. Perry voted yes. Mrs. Jewett & Mr. Byron voted no. Mr. Lambert abstained. Motion failed 1-2-1. Vote on main motion: Motion carried 4-0-0.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen approves the Default Budget \$4,389,478. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

2010 WARRANT

Mr. Byron said that the Selectmen need the articles from the Planning Board on zoning changes and the number for the 2010 budget from the Budget Committee. Also, the Board will need a revenue estimate for 2010. The MS7 was discussed. Mrs. Langille to set up the MS7 as a work sheet for the Board members to work with.

2009 ENCUMBRANCES

As of 12/28/09, there is \$353,582 remaining in the 2009 budget. Talk went on as to encumbrances. Encumbrances: Fire \$2,232.57, 2008; Audit balance \$7,393.27 and assessing \$27,103.27.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen encumbers the amount of \$2,232.57 from line 01-4220.90-740 for Firefighter Training for paramedic. Mr. Lambert seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen encumbers \$7,393.55 from 01-4150.10-812 as well as \$11,106.45 from line 4199.10-840 (contingency) which totals \$18,500 for financial audit for 2008. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board encumbers \$27,103.27 from line 4150.10-813 for payment of assessing. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Mr. Perry **MOTIONED** to encumber \$1,422.81 from line 4199.10-840 (keys). Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

RCONCILIATION POLICY

This will be reviewed at a later date.

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ZONING BOARD

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen hereby accepts with regret the resignation of Thomas J. Cooney as a full member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and appoints him to an alternate position with the term to expire March 2012. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen appoints John Brunelle to a full member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment with the term to expire March 2011. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

MINUTES

Mr. Perry **MOTIONED** to accept the December 14, 2009, minutes as written. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

COMMITTEE/DISTRICT REPORTS

Community Council - Mrs. Jewett attended a meeting last Tuesday in Nashua.

School Board - There will be no meeting this week.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Donation - Mrs. Jewett talked about a donation of sirloin roast to be distributed to families.

Mrs. Jewett said she received a letter from a soldier Jessica Ferraro of Litchfield stationed in Norfolk, Virginia.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

House Bill 1595 - Mr. Byron mentioned a bill being proposed by State Representative Ralph Boehm regarding issues with manufactured housing. Mr. Byron is researching and will have more details at a later date. There will be a hearing on January 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in Concord, NH.

Mrs. Jewett **MOTIONED** to adjourn. Mr. Byron seconded. Messrs. Perry and Lambert voted no. Motion failed 2-2-0. Mr. Perry wished everyone a Happy New Year!

Any Other business:

Town Hall Closing - Mr. Lambert suggested the offices close at noon. It was said that the Town

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Clerk is closing at noon. Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** to close the Town Offices at noon on New Year's Eve. Mr. Perry seconded. Mr. Perry **AMENED MOTION** to close the offices at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Vote on Amendment. Mr. Byron voted no. Motion carried 3-1-0. Main motion: Mr. Byron voted no. Motion carried 3-1-0.

There being no further business, Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** to adjourn. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Frank A. Byron, Chairman

M. Patricia Jewett

George A. Lambert

Steven D. Perry

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Selectmen's Secretary