

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Selectmen's Meeting

January 11, 2010

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

Members Present: Frank A. Byron, Chairman
Andrew M. Santom, Vice Chairman
M. Patricia Jewett (left and returned at 7:12 p.m.)
George A. Lambert
Steven D. Perry

Also present for public session: Linda Langille, Office Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7:00 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Moderator John Regan.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Stop signs on bike path. 2. Default Budget. 3. Public Hearing on a Bill.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

TOWN MODERATOR

John Regan, Town Moderator, was present to discuss the Town Warrant Speakers List with the Selectmen.

Ethics - Article 7 - Ethics Formation Committee members Jan Raccio and Lisa Garand came forward to discuss the Ethics article. The Budget Committee's opinion is that there should be two warrant articles: one to enact the Ethics Policy and the second for the money to be added to the budget if the article passes. They told the Board they prefer that there be only one article to go before the voters. Mrs. Jewett entered the meeting.

Mr. Santom **MOTIONED** with the Ethics Formation Committee recommendation the motion is to keep the warrant article as is. Mr. Perry seconded. Mrs. Jewett voted no. Motion carried 4-1-0. The Board continued discussions with Mr. Regan.

Petition Article - An article to see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State representatives, our State Senators, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President, resolve the citizens of N.H. should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the N.H. Constitution that defines marriage.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT MATTERS

Fire Chief Thomas Schofield could not attend the meeting this evening. He is asking to use impact fees for an addition to the fire station to store the rescue vehicle requested in Article #9. He is looking for a consensus from the Board.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen is of consensus that they will dedicate \$8,000 plus of impact fees in the Fire Department fund for use in construction of a bump out to the existing fire station for storage of a proposed fire vehicle in Article #9. Mr. Perry seconded. Mrs. Jewett voted no. Mr. Santom abstained. Motion carried 3-1-1.

2009 SPENDING

Chairman Byron said there is 4.8% remaining in the budget and it looks like there will be \$69,000 remaining at the close of the 2009 budget cycle. There are still bills coming in to be paid out of the 2009 budget such as phone, electric, etc.

STREET LIGHTING

The Board is in receipt of information on the lighting situation. Chairman Byron explained there are still items to be straightened out such as the depreciation issue that needs to be resolved where in 2006 there were a lot of street lights added and PSNH has been depreciating them as if they are brand new lights but they are not; they have been added over the years. As to the street light by Wilson's Farm, PSNH said it is a private street light so this has to be corrected because the Town is being charged for it. Mr. Lambert talked about having PSNH do an internal energy audit at the Town Hall and Darrah buildings. The audit is free. Mr. Byron pointed out regarding Darrah Pond building that this be checked with the Recreation Commission for their approval. It was suggested doing all of the Town buildings such as fire station, incinerator, cable, etc.

Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** that we pursue getting a Town-wide building energy audit to find out if we can work with PSNH to reduce our energy consumption and expenses. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Mr. Lambert to spearhead the audit. Mr. Santom abstained. Motion carried 4-0-1.

MINUTES

Mr. Santom **MOTIONED** to approve the January 4, 2010, minutes as written. Mr. Perry seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

COMMITTEE/DISTRICT REPORTS

School Board - There will be a meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday at Campbell High School.

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Thank You - Mrs. Jewett read a "thank you" letter from a resident who has two sons in the service.

Planning Board - There will be a meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, regarding Annandale site plan review.

Recreation Commission - There will be a meeting tomorrow night at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Community Council - Mrs. Jewett will be attending a meeting of the Board of Directors tomorrow night.

Budget Committee - There will be a special meeting on Thursday at Campbell High School regarding the school union contract voted on this evening by the School Board.

Budget Hearing - The Budget Hearing will be held Friday, January 15, 2010, at Campbell High School auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY BULLETINS

The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies at the Incinerator.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Stop signs - Mr. Lambert discussed the issue with Stop signs recently erected on the bike path that are causing confusion. This was discussed. Mr. Santom **MOTIONED** to get the Road Agent to move any Stop signs as appropriate. Mr. Lambert seconded. Talk ensued. Appropriate meaning leave it up to the Road Agent. Vote: Mrs. Jewett and Mr. Perry voted no. Motion carried 3-2-0. Mr. Byron will speak with the Road Agent.

Public Hearing - Chairman announced there will be a public hearing held on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at the State House "regarding a Bill changing the way the taxes would be collected if they are in arrears on trailers and/or manufactured housing (mobile homes). This would allow the property to go to deed if they are in arrears by six months to stop the buildout of funds over a period of time that would make it uneconomically feasible for the Board to take possession". Mr. Lambert will attend the hearing in Concord.

Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Litchfield supports the

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legislation by State Representative Ralph Boehm at the State House for collection of taxes at an accelerated rate for mobile home properties. Mr. Santom seconded. Chairman Byron explained that the problem is the value of these properties is so low that you end up once you take possession having to pay hauling, or moving, rental on the lot, etc. Mr. Byron is not certain that this is directly the answer that is being proposed but hopes that they will come up with something. "If there is a better way, we are open to discussion". Mrs. Jewett felt that it would be unfair to those homeowners because some cannot afford it. Talk ensued. Mr. Santom: Call the question. Vote: Mr. Santom and Mrs. Jewett voted no. Motion carried 3-2-0.

2010 DEFAULT BUDGET

There is an issue in the default budget regarding the police department lines 4210.30-210 and 211 in that originally insurance for two officers was put into the budget: one officer was requested in the budget and the other officer is in the warrant article so need to reduce the line items in the Default Budget.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen amends the Default Budget line item 4210.30-210 police department health insurance from \$62,722 to \$55,510. Mr. Santom seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen hereby amends Default Budget line item 4210.30-211 dental insurance from \$8,786 to \$8,103. Mr. Santom seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen hereby amends line 4210.80-331 from \$5,000 to \$1.00. Mr. Santom seconded. Mr. Lambert **AMENDED MOTION** to increase to \$2,501. Mr. Perry seconded. Mr. Lambert felt there needs to be some money to cover cost. Vote on amendment: Messrs. Byron and Santom voted no. Motion carried 3-2-0. Vote on Main motion of \$2,501: Messrs. Byron and Santom voted no. Motion carried 3-2-0.

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen hereby amends line item 4191.10-393 Planning Board special project from \$4,842 to \$0. Mr. Lambert seconded. It was pointed out that there is no firm contract with the State regarding the project. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Back to Police Grants: Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** to reconsider the Police Grant line that we just reduced to \$2,501. No second. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Welfare Default Budget - Mr. Perry reduced the following line items in the welfare:

Mr. Perry **MOTIONED** to reduce line 4445.20-350, prescriptions and medical services, reduce from \$1,000 to \$500. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Vote: Mrs. Jewett abstained. Motion carried 4-0-1.

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Mr. Perry **MOTIONED** to reduce 4445.20-411 heating oil and gas from \$3,000 to \$2,500. Mr. Byron seconded. Mrs. Jewett abstained. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Mr. Perry **MOTIONED** to reduce line 4445.20-692 groceries, household items from \$2,000 to \$1,500. Mr. Byron seconded. Mrs. Jewett abstained. Motion carried 4-0-1.

There being no further business, Mr. Santom **MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lambert seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Frank A. Byron, Chairman

Andrew M. Santom, V.Chairman

M. Patricia Jewett

George A. Lambert

Steven D. Perry

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Selectmen's Secretary