

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Selectmen's Meeting

March 22, 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
M. Patricia Jewett
George A. Lambert
John R. Brunelle

Absent: Steven D. Perry, Vice Chairman

5:30 p.m. Review of Paperwork and Communications

6:00 p.m. Consultation with Town Counsel, RSA91-A:2,I,(b)

Also present for public session: Linda Langille, Office Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 7:07 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT ITEMS/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Consent: 1. Step Increase. 2. Salary increase for police officers. 3. Minutes. **Any Other Business:** 1. Re-appointment of police officers. 2. BAE gift. 3. GIS mapping purchase. 4. Wetlands permit.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

AVITAR

Loren Martin and Chad Roberge of Avitar, Town's assessors, came forward to talk about the Town's reassessment of all homes. Mr. Lambert: This would change the assessed values of homes which will change the way we calculate our tax rate but even though the assessment may go down, so will everyone else's. So, the adjusted tax rate would go up and so the tax bill is probably not going to go down.

Avitar will be sending out notices to residents which would include the above explanation. The new values will not be in effect on the first tax bill but on the December bill.

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Mrs. Martin stated that when they started the entire process, they looked at what properties were selling for and what they were assessed at. "Going back to April 2009 there were 85 good sales that indicated the median ratio at 124% of market value with a COD of 9.9...anything under 20 COD is good so less than 10 shows us the numbers were similar and indicates everyone was being treated equally. The base land value for an average neighborhood, 1 acre, was \$140,000 and now it is \$110,000. This is bringing the values in line with the current market". Mrs. Martin further stated that the review process went well; there were no large changes. This was discussed.

Mrs. Martin provided a packet to each member (preliminary) for review showing the properties before and after the assessments and an old to new ratio report. There are very little short sales and foreclosures on the market in Litchfield which means what is left is market transactions with very few distress sales. All in all, Avitar will be sending out notices to residents on April 2, 2010 and they will be taking calls from April 12th through April 16th. Hearings will be held at Town Hall the week of April 19, 2010.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Culvert Repair - John Pinciario, Road Agent, came before the Board to talk about the Albuquerque Avenue culvert replacement. He handed out the breakdown for Albuquerque culvert repair which has gone out to bid on 3/19/2010. The estimated cost exceeded the engineer's estimated cost for the project due to relocation of a water main (Pennichuck) requiring drilling under the brook. The plan is to have two shutoff valves - one at Cranberry Lane and one at Blackbird Lane and the reason for these valves is while the project is in process, or any other time, this would allow the water to be directed around the area and not affect the rate payers. The Town is paying for the line under the brook but not the two valves. Mr. Byron said that the Board had approved \$10,000 to go out to bid but the project is not approved as yet. The bid opening will be held at Town Hall on April 5, 2010.

Paving - The Selectmen reviewed the recommended paving cost of Albuquerque Avenue, north and south with the use of highway block grant money. There is \$661,181 in highway block grant money plus \$186,917 to be received this year. Mr. Byron indicated that the \$186,917 would not be available this year because the funds have not been appropriated; it is appropriated in the second year. There was \$87,984 utilized for Winter Circle repairs so the total block grant money available is \$573,197. Talk went on as to overlaying and reclamation of Albuquerque Avenue...6200 feet of reclamation and 5590 feet of overlay. Mr. Pinciario said the plan is to not stipulate overlay or reclamation but word the bid package that it would be determined by the owners and not to exceed 6200 feet.

Culvert - Selectmen Byron said that the culvert is a life safety concern because it stops buses, ambulances, fire safety vehicles, etc. from passing on the culvert due to the detour. Mr. Brunelle

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suggested doing the southern section from the high school down to Page Road and just doing that section for this year and then address the northern section later.

Mr. Pinciario talked about other roads that need repair: Oak Drive, Robert's Road drainage \$112,250, Acorn Way \$3,800 overlay, Nakomo \$45,000 overlay and Nesenkeag is in dire need of repair.

The Selectmen did not approve the culvert project because they are waiting to see what the bids will come in at and then possibly approve that bid amount. Mr. Pinciario: Are we going to get this done or are we going through the motions? Mr. Brunelle: I assume we are going to get this done. Mr. Lambert: We did not spend \$10,000 to not do the work...if the Town can afford it and we take the money from highway block grant and the bids are reasonable, I am going to vote in favor.

Mr. Pinciario will get back to the Board with the bid results on April 5, 2010.

Wetlands Permit - Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen authorizes myself, as Chair, to sign the owner's signature certifying that I have fully read this permit and I agree to abide by all permit conditions. Mr. Brunelle seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. The permit is good for five years (2015).

PSNH ENERGY AUDIT

Mr. Lambert said that the report has not been provided to the Town as yet.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** that the Board accepts with consent the **step increase for the police Administrative Assistant's salary, the officers' salary adjustments** as approved by the voters under the Union contract and the **minutes of March 8, 2010**. Mr. Brunelle seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

COMMITTEE/DISTRICT REPORTS

Police - Mr. Lambert: There was a question from the police department about the overage on hours of overtime for master patrolmen and sergeants. The Police Chief has sent us a report that we are half way through the budgets for the year but we are a quarter of the way through the year. He went over the numbers with me today and basically the Budget Committee dropped the numbers in half...so he is a quarter of the way through the year. He is a quarter of the way through the regular budget but the Budget Committee suggested there was other money in the budgets that would offset that traditionally the end of the year, but those numbers are not completely spent. So, he thinks it is an issue but not as much of an issue as it immediately

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appears. He thinks the money would have to come out of the budget from somewhere else. He will come back and ask for enough money to cover properly because of the coverage they have to do for people shifting around.

Community Council - Mrs. Jewett attended the meeting last week in Nashua, the Nashua Area Group for Mental Health.

Recreation Commission - Mrs. Jewett announced the Recreation Commission is in need of volunteers.

Pepsi - Mrs. Jewett reported that she is waiting to hear from Pepsi as to whether Litchfield will be one of the recipients of a grant for community service.

Thank You - Mrs. Jewett thanked all those people who helped pick up trash on Albuquerque Avenue. She brought 12 bags to the incinerator the other day.

Incinerator - Mr. Brunelle reported the work has started on the conversion: excavation, stairs tore down, etc.

COMMUNITY BULLETINS

Ham/Bean Supper - The Fire Department's Ham and Bean Supper is Saturday, March 27, 2010, at GMS from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Officers: Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** that we reappoint Officer Michael Houle as a part-time officer for the Town of Litchfield. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** that we reappoint Dennis Tessier as a part-time officer for the Town of Litchfield. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** that we reappoint Officer Michael Corl as a part-time police officer for the Town of Litchfield. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** that we reappoint Officer Robert Bennett as a part-time officer for the Town of Litchfield. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** that we reappoint Officer Steve Harris as a part-time officer for the Town of Litchfield. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

2. GIS Mapping - This is a budgeted item for \$4,842.00 for 6 inch resolution offered by the State. Mr. Lambert **MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen approves the purchase of the GIS

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mapping. Mr. Brunelle seconded. Mr. Byron **AMENDED MOTION** to authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Town. Mr. Brunelle seconded. Vote on amendment: Motion carried 4-0-0. Vote on main motion: Motion carried 4-0-0.

3. Donation - The Town is in receipt of a donation from BAE employees to the Welfare Department in the amount of \$161.44. This will be placed on the agenda for March 29, 2010 for acceptance.

4. Town Administrator - Selectmen were asked to contact towns to inquire about town administrators. Chairman Byron reminded members this needs to be completed for the work session on March 29, 2010.

NONPUBIC SESSION

At 8:33 p.m. Mr. Byron **MOTIONED** to go into nonpublic session per RSA91-A:3II(a) dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee. Mrs. Jewett seconded. Roll call: F. Byron, yes; M. P. Jewett, yes; G. Lambert, yes; J. Brunelle, yes. Motion carried 4-0-0.

A **MOTION** was made to come out of nonpublic session. It was seconded. Roll call: F. Byron, yes; M.P. Jewett, yes; G. Lambert, yes; J. Brunelle, yes. Motion carried 4-0-0.

A **MOTION** was made to keep the minutes nonpublic. It was seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

There being no further business, a **MOTION** was made to come out of nonpublic session. It was seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Frank A. Byron, Chairman

M. Patricia Jewett

George A. Lambert

John R. Brunelle

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Selectmen’s Secretary