

**Litchfield Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2016**

Call to Order: Chairman David Geiger called the meeting to order in the LIS Art Room at 7:05pm with David Wilson, Ed Gadomski, Anne Dranginis Mitchell Fishman, Sky Post and Helen Bunnell present.

Absent: Rose Blondin (Alt.)

Also present: Leo Paul, Stacey Dionne, and Nancy Southard

Approve Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Helen Bunnell moved to accept the 3-14-16 regular meeting minutes. Anne Dranginis seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion: Anne Dranginis moved to accept the 3-21-16 special meeting minutes. Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye with Helen Bunnell abstaining and the motion carried.

Motion: Anne Dranginis moved to accept the 3-28-16 special meeting minutes. Helen Bunnell seconded the motion. All voted aye with Ed Gadomski and David Wilson abstaining and the motion carried.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Motion: David Wilson moved to add agenda item 3a granting approval to publish the Town of Litchfield Proposed 2016-2017 Town Budget. Anne Dranginis seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Stacey Dionne reviewed the town budget that will be published in the newspaper, answering questions about the Grand List and mil rate. Mitchell Fishman distributed a list of comparative mil rates for 16 Northwest Connecticut town and that was discussed. The proposed town budget will result in a .5 mil increase for property taxes, creating an estimated 2016-2017 mil rate of 26.7.

Assistant Director of Finance Report of Revenues & Expenditures:

Stacey Dionne, Assistant Director of Finance, distributed the financial overview as of March 29, 2016. The Town has collected 96.5% of revenue compared to 91.4% same time last year and has spent 71.8% of the BOS Budget (compared to 74.75% last year.) The estimated fund balance is \$4,476,000 (15.15%). Current year property taxes collected are 99.7%. vs.97.5% same time last year and all tax revenue collected was 99.4% of original budget.

Tax Collector Nancy Southard said the State has a new statute limiting towns to 29mils on motor vehicle taxes. Leo Paul noted that ECS (Education Costs per Student) has been cut by \$15,252. Once the budget is finalized and approved, the BOS will be making bonding decisions and determining what funds are available for pay-as-you-go. He will provide alternatives to the BOF to vote on.

Review RFP for Town Auditor:

Stacey Dionne will send a 31-page RFP document to the BOF members via Email. She will advertise in the newspaper and with the GFOA-CT to search for a replacement for BlumShapiro. She will work with Amaechi Obi and David T. Wilson on this and will provide the BOF two or three choices for Town Auditor.

Green Team Report:

Members of Litchfield's Green Team present were John Post, Ed Gadomski, David Fiorillo, Len Fasano and Jeff Zullo. Absent was member Lynn Fulkerson. The Green Team was formed by the BOS in May 2015 with an objective for the town to become more energy efficient and reduce operating costs. They are currently assembling a Municipal Action Plan (MAP) which will be regularly updated. Their goal is to reduce the town's energy consumption by 20% and the first priority is retrofitting the three Litchfield schools with new LED lighting – a project that is predicted to save \$100,000/annually.

Kevin Siebrecht, President of Greenleaf Energy Solutions, has been selected as the vendor for the LED lighting program. He gave an overview of the efficacy and longevity of LED lighting.

New Business:

- a. Financial Transfers: There were no financial transfers.
- b. Correspondence: There was no correspondence.
- c. Payment of Bills: There were no bills for payment.

Adjournment:

Motion: Helen Bunnell moved to adjourn at 8:47pm. Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be the annual budget hearing to be held in the LIS Auditorium on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Jaacks
Recording Secretary