

**Litchfield Board of Finance  
Special Meeting Minutes  
April 29, 2015**

**Call to Order:** Chairman David Geiger called the meeting to order in the LIS Auditorium at 9:30pm with Mitchell Fishman, David Wilson, Ed Gadomski, Brenda Barnes, Anne Dranginis and Ed Weik (Alt.) present.

Absent: Sky Post (Alt.)

**Discuss and Review Input from Taxpayers**

It was noted that there were fourteen audience members who spoke at the town budget hearing, some of them more than once, and the majority of opinion was critical of the budget and the increase of 1mil.

Ed Weik said the consensus seemed to be for the BOF to trim the budget and keep the mil rate down. Ed Gadomski said the Public Works increases in the BOS budget were probably not appropriate to cut but the BOE budget might be reduced. Mitchell Fishman said the majority of the BOE budget was for salaries which are rising for teachers under contract and that cannot be reduced. Anne Dranginis said the BOE budget was not padded and the point is about quality of life that is expected for residents. She said more long-range strategic planning needs to be done, but for this year we should accept their budget.

David Wilson said if the student rate is declining, we cannot afford to have the per-student cost continue to rise, and the BOE needs to seek better efficiencies. Chairman Geiger noted that it appears from Lynn McMullin's explanation that a common CFO for both BOS and BOE would not be feasible.

Brenda Barnes said the Superintendent and the BOE did a good job in cutting their budget as requested by the BOF, and in explaining their cuts. Ed Gadomski said the state of Connecticut is making their own budget cuts such as helping with local troopers and social services programs, etc. and the town might have to pick up those expenses. Also, when the Bantam Court moves to Torrington, the town will have to decide what to do with all the departments in that building.

**Adopt or Change the Budget for Submission to the Voters at a Town Meeting:**

**Motion:** Anne Dranginis moved to accept the budgets for BOS, BOE and Debt/Capital Outlay as proposed to take to a Town Meeting vote to be held on May 13, 2015. Brenda Barnes seconded the motion. All voted aye with David Wilson and Ed Gadomski voting nay and the motion passed.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** Anne Dranginis moved to adjourn at 9:57pm and Mitchell Fishman seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Jaacks  
Recording Secretary