



**Litchfield Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2013**

Call to Order: Chairman David Geiger called the Special Meeting to order in the First Selectman's office at 7:30pm with BOF members Ed Gadowski, Mitchell Fishman, Ed Weik, David W. Wilson, Brenda Barnes, and Anne Dranginis (Alt.) present. David Pettinicchi (Alt.) was absent.

Also present were Leo Paul, Rosalie Bouchard, Nancy Southard and Ryan Flynn.

Set the Property Tax Mill Rate for 2013/2014:

Chairman Geiger said the proposed new mill rate was 22.6, but this could be changed during tonight's discussion. Rosalie Bouchard distributed a Mill Rate Worksheet that outlined post-appeal grand list incomes for personal property, motor vehicles and real estate less the "circuit breaker" allotment allowing senior citizens a lowered assessment. The worksheet also predisposes a collectible rate of 98.1%. According to these calculations, the net collectible Grand List would be \$1,086,560,251.

Nancy Southard noted the Grand List did not include supplemental motor vehicle fees of approximately \$170,000. She said the town has some large accounts of unpaid property taxes that will probably not be paid since the property is in foreclosure.

Chairman Geiger said the Board of Finance could also vote to use part of the Fund Balance so that the traditional method of a 98% collectible rate could be implemented rather than 98.1%. Ms. Bouchard said that using the 98% rate would leave the town budget approximately \$23,000 short and David Wilson noted the Fund Balance could be used as a contingency if it became necessary.

Motion: Mitchell Fishman moved that the Board of Finance set a 22.6 Mill Rate for 2013/2014. Ed Weik seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Elect Member to Serve on School Regionalization Discussion Group:

Consultant Jonathan Costa, who is representing the Education Connection, is facilitating this group. Mr. Costa has said the regionalization of Region 6 and Litchfield could save \$1Mil and greatly improve the school system for all four towns involved. The initial plan would be for Region 6 and Litchfield to each close one school but the majority of voters in the four towns would have to agree to this.

There would still be one Superintendent of Schools and a new position of Curriculum Coordinator would be filled. Leo Paul said the SRDG is the first step in a lengthy process that requires input from all four communities, and ending with two referendums. The next meeting is June 11 and the group will most likely meet every 3-4 weeks throughout the remainder of the year. The consultant will then bring back four options.

Motion: Brenda Barnes moved that David Geiger be elected to serve as the Board of Finance representative on the School Regionalization Discussion Group. Ed Weik seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Adjournment:

Motion: Ed Weik moved to adjourn at 8:20pm and Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Jaacks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Jo Ann Jaacks
Recording Secretary