

**Litchfield Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2013**

Call to Order: Vice Chairman David Wilson called the meeting to order in the First Selectman's office in Town Hall at 7:10pm with Brenda Barnes, Anne Dranginis (Alt.), Ed Gadomski, and Ed Weik present. Mitchell Fishman, David Geiger and David Pettinicchi (Alt.) were absent. Mr. Wilson appointed Anne Dranginis to full voting status.

Also present was Rosalie Bouchard.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Ed Weik moved to accept the 1-14-13 meeting minutes and Brenda Barnes seconded the motion. All voted aye with Anne Dranginis abstaining, and the motion carried.

BlumShapiro Contract:

The Town Auditor, BlumShapiro, offered to extend their existing four-year contract for one year at the same rate. Rosalie Bouchard explained this was due to the upheaval of Karl Fisher leaving, an interim Director of Finance and now herself as the permanent Director of Finance.

Motion: Anne Dranginis moved to extend the current audit contract with BlumShapiro for one additional year at a maximum rate of \$54,050 for F/Y 2013. Ed Weik seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Year-to-Date Financial Review:

The financial overview as of January 31, 2013 shows the Town has collected 84.9% of all revenue and has spent 51.1% of its budget approximately 58% through the year. Through February 1, 2013, the Tax Collector has collected 95.42% of current property taxes, which is \$160,000 ahead of last year at this time. Ms. Bouchard noted this is excellent news.

Pertaining to Expenditures, the BOS budget currently shows the Town being 64.7% committed and 53.9% spent through the fiscal year.

In response to David Wilson's request at the January 14th BOF meeting, Ms. Bouchard included the Unassigned Fund Balance of the General Fund: \$4,300,000 as of June 30, 2012. In response to Mr. Wilson's query about FEMA income that would be added to this balance, Ms. Bouchard promised to bring an answer to the next BOF meeting.

After reviewing the Net Taxable Grand List for October 1, 2012 from Assessor Kathy Brown, Ed Gadomski suggested the BOF invite her to a future meeting to discuss how much time she devotes to motor vehicle taxes.

Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present but BOF members offered their own comments: Ed Weik commended the Public Works Department on their excellent job of snow removal for the recent blizzard; David Wilson expressed his concern about swim team opportunities being cut for 5th and 6th graders and suggested the pay-for-play cost, if implemented, should apply to all sports

rather than just swimming; Mr. Wilson suggested a discussion about decreasing school enrolment and its impact on classes, number of teachers, shared-town education, etc.

New Business:

- a. **Transfers:** Fire Marshall Thomas O’Hare requested a budget transfer of \$13,000 from the Contingency Fund into the Paramedic Intercept Fund. He noted the current balance of \$1,220 is inadequate to cover costs for the balance of the year.

Motion: Ed Weik moved to approve the budget transfer of \$13,000 and Brenda Barnes seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

BOF members agreed they would like to invite Thomas O’Hare, John Campbell, Fire & EMS Commission Chairman, or a volunteer ambulance driver to a future meeting to explain the Paramedic Intercept Fund in more detail.

- b. **Correspondence:** There was no correspondence.
- c. **Payment of Bills:** There were no bills for payment.

Committee Reports:

Brenda Barnes said her committee was planning to meet tomorrow but the meeting was cancelled.

Future Agenda Items:

Mitchell Fishman had Emailed a suggested future agenda item to discuss the Governor’s change in town grants and how this will impact Litchfield’s budget. Mr. Wilson recommended that any future agenda items be Emailed to Chairman Geiger.

Adjournment:

Motion: Ed Weik moved to adjourn at 8:10pm and Anne Dranginis seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Jaacks
Recording Secretary