

**Litchfield Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2012**

Call to Order: Chairman David Geiger called the meeting to order in the Litchfield Intermediate School Art Room at 7:04pm with David Geiger, David W. Wilson, Ed Gadomski, Mitchell Fishman, Ed Weik, Anne Dranginis (Alt.), and David Pettinicchi (Alt.) present. Brenda Barnes was late, so Mr. Geiger appointed David Pettinicchi to full voting status until Brenda Barnes arrived at 7:08pm. Also present were John McKenna and Ricky Campbell from the media.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Ed Weik moved to accept the 1-9-12 minutes. David Wilson seconded the motion with two changes: the spelling of OPEB in two places and the fact that Mitchell Fishman was an abstention since he was absent from the January meeting. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Review Changes in the October 2011 Grand List:

Kathy Brown, Assessor, provided a written report on the net taxable grand list for October 1, 2011 as filed 1,108,939,959. This is a .76% increase over the 2010 Grand List and a summary shows the majority of increase is from personal property and motor vehicles, rather than real estate. She noted the town has a reassessment coming up in 2013 which will impact these numbers. She offered to attend the next BOF meeting to answer any questions and Mr. Geiger said he will invite her to do so.

Year-to-Date Financial Review:

Copies of the December FY12 Expenditure Report and December FY12 Revenue Report were distributed. Mr. Geiger noted the line item for BOF “Professional Services Auditing” listed a \$45,000 expenditure which will skew the BOF’s adherence to budget.

Pension Amounts and Percentages of Contributions:

Karl Fisher provided an Emailed report on amounts and percentages of contributions for the pension ARC (Annual Required Contribution). Using FY12 figures provided by Hooker and Holcombe, those amounts would be the following:

BOE Contribution	\$348,275
Town Contribution	\$424,840
Sewer Contribution	\$ 57,750
Town Merit Plan	\$187,729

When adding all of the ARC totals together, the grand total is 1,018,594 or 3.76% of the Total Budget of \$27,077,386.

Ed Gadomski noted there are 98 town employees who will be receiving a pension. Mitchell Fishman said he would like to have the actuary answer BOF questions in person. Mr. Geiger said he has not yet received a reply to that invitation.

Pension Board Alternate Vacancy:

Mr. Geiger’s query to Leo Paul about this vacancy received the reply that the BOS had the authority to make this selection. There are two alternate vacancies but Mr. Paul did not give a reason why the

BOF's suggested alternate was not accepted. Mr. Geiger noted that when Mr. Paul originally suggested the Pension Board be constituted of one member each from the BOS, BOE and BOF, plus ad hoc members, this was voted down at a town hall meeting.

Brenda Barnes agreed to serve on the Pension Board as an Alternate.

Motion: David Wilson moved that Ms. Barnes' name be given to Leo Paul as the BOF representative on the Pension Board. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Mr. Geiger will send a letter to the BOS with this recommendation.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

New Business:

- a. **Financial Transfers:** There were no financial transfers.
- b. **Payment of Bills:** There were no bills for payment.
- c. **Correspondence:** David Geiger received a letter from Frank Simone, Chairman of BOE, stating that Dr. Wheeler will not present the 2012-2013 Superintendent's Budget Proposal at the 2-21-12 BOF meeting. Instead, the BOF is invited to the BOE's February 15 meeting to gather information regarding their budget. There will be public comment at the beginning of the meeting, followed by their budget presentation, for which there will be no public comment.

Mr. Wilson said this represents "back-pedaling" on the part of the BOE Superintendent's agreement with BOF. A strategic planning report he received from BOE contained an action plan to conduct fiscal analysis of building maintenance and to promote opportunities for cooperation with external agencies, including BOF. Also, a Region 6 task force will be studying enrolment drop that would certainly impact the BOE budget so those two entities do not seem to be collaborating.

Mr. Geiger said one reason the BOE might be postponing their meeting with BOF is that they are attempting to make their budget more streamlined and realistic before presentation. Anne Dranginis noted this change of procedure results in uncertainty how the BOE will proceed now.

Committee Reports:

- a. Ed Weik said he and Ed Gadomski attended a Pension Plan Review Committee meeting and made it clear they did want the documents restructured, just a better clarity of language.
- b. David Wilson, a member of the Northfield Fire House Committee, said they are in the deposition phase of a lawsuit concerning a child injured during firehouse construction.

Future Agenda Items:

1. Mitchell Fishman said Leo Paul is forming a town hall building committee and Jeff Zullo is a member. Mr. Paul said it would cost \$5-6Mil to remodel the old Bantam school for this purpose. Region 6 (Warren-Morris-Goshen) has formed a task force to investigate utilization of school buildings due to declining enrolment. Mr. Geiger said a Region 6 representative offered to attend a BOF meeting to discuss this.
2. Mr. Gadomski's request for more details from the BOS on the new material used for road treatment as a cost benefit analysis is still a future agenda item.

Adjournment:

Motion: Ed Weik moved to adjourn at 8:45pm and Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. The next special meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at the Litchfield Intermediate School to review capital & debt service budgets and discuss salaries of elected officials.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Jaacks
Recording Secretary