

**Litchfield Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2026 ~ 7:30 p.m.
Litchfield Intermediate School Auditorium**

1. Call to Order: Chairman Sam Olmstead convened the meeting at 7:50 p.m., with members Sam Olmstead, Patrick Allers, Matt Dwyer, Stephan Krucker, Kristopher Wright, Elliott Fuessenich, and Jennine Lupo in attendance. John Keilty was absent, and S. Olmstead seated alternate Patrick Allers as a regular voting member.

2. STEAP Resolution for Wigwam Road Reconstruction: D. Raap explained this reimbursable grant. This resolution was not approved during the Capital process, and Raz Alexe has asked that it can be approved tonight so it can go to bonding. **Motion:** M. Dyer moved to approve the certified resolution for the STEAP grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the reconstruction of Wigwam Road. E. Fuessenich seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. The adopted resolution reads as follows:

“RESOLVED, that the Town of Litchfield hereby appropriates the 2025 Connecticut STEAP Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the Reconstruction of Wigwam Road, and authorizes said funds to be included in and expended through the Town’s Capital Improvement Program for this project; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that First Selectman Denise Raap is hereby authorized to execute any and all agreements, contracts, documents, and certifications necessary for the expenditure and administration of said STEAP funds in accordance with State requirements and the Town’s Capital Improvement Program.”

3. DEEP Resolution for Rain Gardens #1, 2, 3 & 4: D. Raap explained they are installing two rain gardens at Town Beach. This is also a reimbursable grant from DEEP for \$53,000 (#1 & 2) and \$138,000 (#3 & 4). **Motion:** J. Lupo moved to accept the grant and adopt the resolution in the amounts of \$53,000 and \$138,000 to mitigate runoff at the Town Beach. E. Fuessenich seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

“BE IT RESOLVED that it is in the best interests of the Town of Litchfield to enter into a grant contract with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source in the amount of \$53,000 for Litchfield Town Beach Stormwater Improvement Project Rain Gardens #1 & 2 and \$138,000 for Litchfield Town Beach Stormwater Improvement Project Rain Gardens #3 & 4.

IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS RESOLUTION, Denise Raap the First Selectman is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the Town of Litchfield. Denise Raap currently holds the First Selectman office and has held that position since November 19, 2019. The First Selectman is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto.”

4. Turnkey Program Management, Implementation and Consulting Agreement – Waste Zero: D. Raap explained this grant of \$99,556 was awarded for a voluntary pay-as-you-throw program at the Recycling Center. We have worked with Waste Zero, the company that helped us write the grant, and Waste Zero will be administering the grant. We need to have the Board of Finance approve the contract.

Motion: M. Dyer moved to approve the Turnkey Program Management, Implementation and Consulting Agreement. E. Fuessenich seconded the motion. **Amended Motion:** S. Krucker moved to table this to the next meeting since we just got this information three hours ago and would like time to review it. D. Raap said that waiting to the next meeting will prevent it from getting into the Town Meeting. Waste Zero has been vetted by Town Counsel and is the only company that DEEP uses for these types of programs. J. Lupo seconded the motion. S. Olmstead said a special remote meeting could be held before May 5. Upon voting to table, all voted aye and the motion carried.

5. DEEP Sustainable Materials Management Program: D. Raap said that this is a resolution for the same program above, and S. Olmstead felt it should be tabled for more time to review.

Motion: M. Dyer moved and E. Fuessenich seconded a motion to table Item 5. All voted aye and the motion carried. All members were available for a remote only meeting early next week.

6. Litchfield Town Budget for 2026/2027 – Discussion and Action:

Motion: M. Dyer moved to approve the proposed operating budget of \$35,726,248. E. Fuessenich seconded. In discussion, D. Raap said they should back out the BOE line, but S. Olmstead said they did not do that last time. S. Krucker mentioned hearing an outpouring from the public on affordability and significant increases over the last several years. Also, many people asked to have the constables back, and he suggested a re-allocation of funds without increasing the budget. It is not fiscally responsible to fund three Troopers when three are not being filled. We could create a line item for the \$144,000 (Police) plus \$90,000 (Public Works) for constables, taking from the third trooper and from Public Works operations, and can get \$70,000 for a new car. E. Fuessenich said we hired an engineer, but Cardinal's bills have not decreased. Now Raz wants to hire a highway supervisor.

Amendment: S. Krucker motioned to move \$234,000, consisting of \$144,000 from Police, and \$90,000 from Public Works Operations into a constable line item. E. Fuessenich seconded the motion.

Discussion: E. Fuessenich said that he is concerned with the continuing costs of constable employees and the hardship if they are out on workers comp. In discussion, it was agreed that the best option would be getting a Trooper from the State, but they do not want to continue to fund something that might not happen. However, Litchfield has high priority for a third trooper per D. Raap. S. Olmstead noted that the \$234,000 is still short for the estimated constable cost of \$250,000 - \$275,000. S. Krucker noted a liability issue with the roads in Town, and M. Dyer said the Town is only responsible for town roads and must take reasonable steps for safety, so our liability is extremely limited. J. Lupo said she is in favor of speed cameras as far more effective than adding a constable. C. Wright felt we should look into reallocating funds we're not using in this budget for police protection. We should insure that people feel safe. M. Dyer said we must fund to be safe. There is a massive gap between being safe and feeling safe.

Vote: Upon a roll call vote, all voted nay except S. Krucker, who voted aye. S. Olmstead declared the motion failed. P. Allers said he would appreciate further information to help investigate S. Krucker's motion.

Amendment: E. Fuessenich motioned to remove the \$144,000 for the third trooper from line item 2101, Police, to save the taxpayers money that we are probably not going to use. M. Dyer seconded the

motion. In discussion, J. Lupo said that if the State comes through with a trooper for us, we will not have the funds. She also said there is a State Trooper graduation tomorrow.

Vote: Upon a roll call vote, the ayes were E. Fuessenich and M. Dyer. Nays were S. Krucker, J. Lupo, P. Allers, and S. Olmstead. S. Olmstead declared the motion failed.

Vote on the Original Motion: Voting on the original motion full amount, further discussion ensued.

Discussion: S. Krucker again noted revenue is down and expenses are outpacing revenue which will not sustain spending. This causes affordability issues with people moving out of town. P. Allers felt spending is an investment in the community that benefits its citizens. J. Lupo said she was in favor of adding time for a municipal grant writer. They will be worth their weight in their salary many times over. S. Krucker argued that less grant writing is being done in Public Works, but if they continued, we would not need extra personnel and time for writing grants. D. Raap explained the benefits of this proposed method. E. Fuessenich asked why the LVA capital project is not in Capital. E. Marriott said it is not a true Capital project because it is an LVA capital project and LVA is funding for it. The Town is holding the note for them. LVA will fundraise and own the building. The percent of debt portion is listed in the debt service; i.e., the servicing is in the debt line. LVA will service the bond.

Vote: Upon voting, S. Krucker voted nay, and all other members voted aye; motion carried.

Capital Budget Vote

Motion: E. Fuessenich moved to approve the total Capital Improvement Plan budget for 2026/2027 in the amount of \$4,501,858, and M. Dyer seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

LVA Building Project Vote

Motion: M. Dyer moved to approve the \$1.5 million for the LVA building project. E. Fuessenich seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

7. Adjourn

Motion: M. Dyer moved and E. Fuessenich seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs
Recording Secretary