

**Litchfield Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2026 ~ 7:00 p.m.  
Litchfield Firehouse and Remote**

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Sam Olmstead called the regular hybrid meeting of the Board of Finance to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present: Regular members, Sam Olmstead, Elliott Fuessenich, John Keilty and alternate Patrick Allers

Members Absent: Stephan Krucker, Matt Dyer, Jennine Lupo, alternate Kristopher Wright

Others Present: Finance Director Amaechi Obi, First Selectman Denise Raap, Selectmen John Bongiorno, Jeffrey Zullo and Dan Morosani, Town Treasurer Erich Marriott, Public Works Director Raz Alexe and Brett Seamans, Highway Department Supervisor. There were two people on remote access.

Chairman Olmstead seated alternate P. Allers for Matt Dyer as a regular voting member.

**2. Approval of April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, April 23, 2026 Budget Hearing Minutes, April 23, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes, April 28, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved and J. Keilty seconded a motion to approve all four sets of minutes. All voted aye and the motion passed.

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved and J. Keilty seconded a motion to add to the agenda as Item 2a, Public Comment. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**2a. Public Comment**

John Bongiorno asked that the Board of Finance get our money back from David Cappelletti's firm for the audit, as numbers do not line up, and invoices are still coming in. We need to end the craziness with Region 20 and regain the public's trust. It's not fair that we paid for this audit and are not getting our money back. At a minimum we should talk with the insurance company about Litchfield Public Schools discrepancies. S. Olmstead said we will need to consult with the Town Attorney, and will probably have an errors and omissions claim. He also thought it might be better to have the auditor come back and reconcile the last year with Julia rather than giving us our money back.

Matt Tobin said he and John Bongiorno met with Julia Cardillo, and after a payment by Region 20 on behalf of Litchfield BOE, it brings Litchfield's \$819,000 shortage to \$1.1 million. There are still a lot of other questions and a lot of reconciliation to be done.

D. Raap met with Dr. Villar today, and he's willing to send the Litchfield BOE invoices over. He will report to the Region 20 BOE next week on the audit that has not yet been completed for last year. S. Olmstead would like Reg. 20 to finish their audit of Litchfield bills paid and then explain what happened and any remedy recommended. J. Bongiorno said part of it will be missed because the problems happened in the last quarter when Litchfield Public Schools and Region 6 were still in existence. That's the part that D. Cappelletti dropped the ball on and has missing information.

Dan Morosani noted that the audit said it was complete and accurate. We need to pursue a remedy, and S. Olmstead confirmed that they would. [D. Raap ended the remote meeting here because of interference in the meeting. Stacey Dionne called in and was put on speakerphone. Shortly thereafter D. Raap restarted the remote meeting with S. Dionne in attendance.]

**3. DPW Staffing Structure – Raz Alexe:** S. Olmstead said there were some questions at the Budget Hearing regarding the vacancy in Public Works and how it was being filled. Raz Alexe explained that he would like to be at more meetings so there is transparency in the strategy behind the actions. The trend in the progress of the Public Works road program is slower over the last two years, although they have made great progress overall. Roadwork costs have risen sharply and Capital funds are tight. He passed out the operating budget of \$2.5 million, which is only \$1.7 million without salaries. He has had to reinvent procedures to keep things moving. The crew does more projects to save on labor, and money from TAR and Locip is used exclusively for capital projects. This requires a lot of supervision in the field, and he cannot draw on crew members to do extra tasks because of the union contract. They have six grants to help, but now he and Brett Seamans have to apply for the grants themselves. He would like to transform the Assistant Supervisor position into a Superintendent of Streets, a step up from a Foreman. We really need the link after Naomi Boccio left. That position should be in the supervisors' union, but because it would require overtime, it would open a can of worms with other union members. B. Seamans is the Supervisor of the Highway Department, and as head of the Supervisors' Union, he will try to convince them to allow only winter overtime as needed for this position. The Supervisor of Streets would need certain skills in the field. This position is funded in the proposed budget and is a valuable liaison between management and the union. Also, the Zoning Regulations need to be updated, requiring coordination from Public Works.

**4. Update on State Budget and Potential Mill Rate Impact:** S. Olmstead noted the Town has received additional funds from the State, which should help with the mill rate. A. Obi said we got \$533,122. It consists of an ECS increase from 1.5% to 1.9%, plus receipt of \$35,000 from Pequot funds, and \$123,000 for educational supplementary aid. These monies give us an additional .4 mill decrease. So we are going from a .9 mill increase to a .5 mill increase. S. Olmstead said the ECS money is used to offset the cost of the schools. The \$123,000 is in next year's budget, along with the Pequot money, but is not guaranteed every year.

**5. LVA Grant Agreement:** J. Zullo said the agreement between LVA and the Town of Litchfield grants \$1.5 million from the Town to pay down the construction loan LVA has at the end of the project. If LVA defaults, the building ownership reverts to the Town. The budget should be adequate to pay the loan. The BOF needs to approve the grant agreement and up to \$1.5 million appropriation for bonding. This method is most cost advantageous for the Town. It provides tax free debt to reduce the cost, with \$500,000 from an LVA grant and a \$1.5 million grant from the Town. Borghesi's construction contract is slightly under budget (\$1.81million) with late June or early July finish. The construction loan is open until the end of the year. The Town will be responsible for the debt service in next year's budget. LVA will need to negotiate with PSA holders, with Morris to carry the Morris share of the debt service. Morris now pays LVA for one crew (\$223,000). S. Olmstead said Morris should have to pay a portion of the rent on the new building, payable to the Town of Litchfield. J. Zullo said this is a shift in the cost structure, and the original interlocal agreement should be opened up. There is now debt service born by the Town of Litchfield, and Morris should have a share of that. A conversation is needed with Chief Pudlinski. S. Olmstead said that going forward when we partner, all this should be sorted out ahead of time, and this is not a good way of doing business. Costs must be known in advance and managed. All agreed this should not be a rent-free building. S. Olmstead said they would work together to do something fair. P. Allers would like to have more information on the three-party agreement. J. Zullo asked that the BOF direct the BOS to work with Morris on a new agreement with Town of Litchfield, Town of Morris, Bantam Fire and LVA.

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved to approve the LVA grant agreement, with amount of up to \$1.5 million. J. Keilty seconded. Upon voting all voted aye and the motion carried.

**6. Region 20 Update:** S. Olmstead relayed that we received some updates on their audit, and their budget did pass last week. D. Raap said she spoke with the Superintendent today, and the BOS will form a committee to do a forensic audit. He suggested they do it in conjunction with the Region 6 towns and has a meeting scheduled to discuss it.

**7. Monthly Financial Reports for April:** A. Obi began with revenue, saying we have collected 98.2% of our revenue so far. We have also collected 99.5% of taxes due. We have just received the rest of the ECS money, to be reflected in next month's report. We still have three months left to collect the investment income. In expenses, we have spent 85% of our budget, compared to 88% last year. R. Alexe said he has put out a moratorium on spending until the end of the fiscal year in his department. S. Olmstead said the Town should end up spending 100% of the total collected with a good size surplus overall.

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved and P. Allers seconded a motion to approve the monthly financial reports for April. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**8. Continuation of Online Meeting Option:** As there has been little attendance for the past few months online, S. Olmstead opened the floor for discussion on continuing it. J. Keilty was in favor of keeping it to give people the availability of an open and accessible option. Everyone agreed so S. Olmstead said no action was needed.

## **9. New Business**

**a. Financial Transfers:** None

**b. Correspondence:** None

**c. Payment of Bills:** None

**d. Future Agenda Items:** None

**10. Adjourn: Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved and J. Keilty seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. All voted aye and the motion passed.

Ann D. Combs  
Recording Secretary