

**Litchfield Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 8, 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 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Regular members, Sam Olmstead, Stephan Krucker, Elliott Fuessenich, Jennine Lupo, John Keilty and alternates Patrick Allers and Kristopher Wright

Members Absent: Matt Dyer

Others Present: Finance Director Amaechi Obi, First Selectman Denise Raap, Tax Collector Helen Bunnell, Town Treasurer Erich Marriott

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

**2. Approval of May 11, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and May 14, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved and J. Keilty seconded a motion to approve both the 5/11/26 regular and the 5/14/26 special meeting minutes. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved and P. Allers seconded a motion to add to the agenda Item 2a. Public Comment. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**2a. Public Comment:** Matt Tobin commented on the Region 20 audit. He noted \$1.7 million was budgeted for transportation, but in the over-budget invoices requested, they included three 1/10 payments of the \$1.7 million, which told him we did not get invoices that were over budget. We probably got invoices that were not paid when we requested them. That was a big breach of trust and removes our argument of a contract value the Superintendent had that did not carry into the budget. He looked at all the invoices and they appear not to be very credible. There were no payroll payments even though Personnel costs were \$1.6 million of the \$3 million overage. Another issue, per the Region 20 CFO, R-20 paid \$370,000 on behalf of R-20 for FY 2024 and they paid approximately \$270,000 on behalf of Litchfield for FY 2024. Those were not shown as separate items in the audit. Were they included in the audit and how will they affect the money we owe them? He thought R-20 has to do a lot more work before we agree to pay them for year three. He asked S. Olmstead to check on this when he sits in on the meetings. He also thought he would speak at their meeting under Public Comment. S. Olmstead said they have not said if they would reconvene the Finance Committee to review the audit, although he thinks it's a good idea.

**3. Suspense List Review and Approval:** Tax Collector Helen Bunnell presented the motor vehicle and property tax suspense lists. She explained that the Tax Collector is required to come to the Board of Finance every year to suspense a list of property taxes owed to the Town. Suspense does not mean these taxes are not owed to the Town, but it takes it off the amount of taxes we're looking at as collectible. Usually suspenses are for four years prior, unless people are making payments or other extenuating circumstances. Delinquent statements are still sent out two or three times a year.

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved to approve the motor vehicle suspense list in the amount of 12,331.91. P. Allers seconded, all voted aye, and the motion carried.

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved to approve the suspense list for personal property in amount of \$3,907.63. P. Allers seconded, all voted aye, and the motion passed.

**4. Financial Transfer #6 – Sandy Beach:** D. Raap read the 5/26/26 email from Sandy Beach Chairman Ed Ryle saying they were short by about \$3,000 in meeting payroll for the first two pay periods. The

Morris Board of Finance suggested the two Towns' Boards of Finance get together with the Sandy Beach Commission to analyze their income and expenses to see what the Town contributions should be, since they have been operating on the same seasonal contributions from the Towns for the last 20 years. D. Raap noted the Litchfield Board of Selectmen had increased their next budget from \$17,133 to \$20,000, but a roof repair has depleted their operating funds now. The Board of Selectmen suggested they increase their daily rate for non-residents at the beach. In order to pay the lifeguards, Litchfield Selectmen have agreed to transfer \$2,000 of the \$3,000 request (2/3 of their budget). Next year they will get \$20,000 from Litchfield. This is a supplemental payment, not an advance on next year's budget. There is excess in our FICA line, so that is the source of the transfer.

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved and J. Lupo seconded a motion to approve Transfer #6 for the Sandy Beach Commission in the amount of \$2,000, with source of funds from FICA, 01-8101-56103. S. Olmstead will reach out to the Morris Board of Finance Chair to get more information on their proposal. All voted aye and the motion carried. J. Lupo volunteered to be on the committee.

**5. Region 20 Update:** S. Olmstead said the Region 20 audit is on their website as well as a recording of the meeting where they talked about it with the auditor. D. Raap is waiting to hear back from the other three towns on the suggestion to do our own internal forensic audit where Dr. Villar suggested it be done simultaneously with the towns from Region 6 in order to work on a conclusion together.

**6. Region 20 Negotiations Observer – discussion and possible action:** S. Olmstead referred to the 5/29/26 letter from Dr. Villar notifying all four towns of the upcoming BOE negotiations. Per CGS Sec. 10-153d(a), there can be an observer from each town's BOS, BOF or any other authority making appropriations. It was clear that that representative is not a participant, only an observer. Mr. Olmstead said D. Raap agreed that the representative should be someone from the Board of Finance. The negotiations can be lengthy, possibly with frequent and intense meetings, with window of meetings between 10/6/26 and 11/25/26. It's a big commitment, so he asked the BOF members to give it some thought. He can forward Dr. Villar's email to the BOF. He declined his participation due to his wife being a member of the teachers' bargaining unit. He will hopefully appoint a representative at the next month's meeting.

**7. Monthly Financial Reports for May:** A. Obi began with the revenue report, noting we have collected \$330,000 more than was budgeted and have \$120,000 left to collect. By year's end, there will probably be a surplus. Under expenditures, Mr. Obi reported \$100,000 available to spend, and if used conservatively, we won't go over.

**Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved to accept the May revenue and expense reports as presented by the Finance Director. S. Krucker seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

## **8. New Business**

**a. Correspondence:** None

**b. Payment of Bills:** None

**c. Future Agenda Items:** S. Olmstead announced that Matt Dyer has moved away but has not yet filed his letter of resignation. Once we have that, we will have a special meeting to appoint a replacement who will remain in his seat until the next election.

**9. Adjourn: Motion:** E. Fuessenich moved and J. Lupo seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary