

Litchfield Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
January 14, 2019

Chairman Burgess called the meeting to order in the First Selectman's office in town hall at 5:30 p.m. with Erich Marriott, Ed Gadomski, Richard Quay, Sky Post, James Stedronsky and Richard Furniss (Alt.) present.

Absent: Rose Blondin (Alt.)

Consent Items:

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion: Sky Post moved to approve the December 10, 2018 regular meeting minutes. Richard Quay seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion: Sky Post moved to accept the December 2018 Finance Report previously sent to all members by Amaechi Obi. Erich Marriott seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Invoices

It was noted that the statement of services from bond counsel Joseph Fasi should not have been on the agenda. It is a BOS matter for which, once approved by BOS, the BOF will be asked to approve the transfer of funds to pay.

Motion:

Sky Post moved to approve payment in the amount of \$13,000 to Clermont & Associates, LLC for the audit. Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Board of Education – Preliminary Budget Guidance

Superintendent of Schools Sherri Turner, Director of Business Operations David Fiorillo, Board of Education Chairman Gayle Carr, and school board members Frank Simone and Matt Terzian were present to discuss the early stages of putting numbers together for the BOE budget.

Superintendent Turner stated that the schools were in the middle of budget reviews with all the department heads. Chairman Burgess commented that for the coming year the amount of State aid to the towns was very uncertain and no amount should be relied upon. Jim Stedronsky applauded the schools for doing a good job economizing where possible and for collaborating with Wamogo, but noted the ultimate goal should be the unification of the high schools. He stated that, in light of the progress on collaboration made by the schools, the BOF should not insist on a zero budget increase this year.

Richard Quay expressed concern about the length of time it will take to unify the high schools and achieve real savings as costs continue to rise and the number of students goes down year after year. Sky Post commented that nothing has changed from last year. Richard Furniss commented that it is evident that the State is pushing to reduce municipal aid and thereby force the municipalities to collaborate more with each other.

Ed Gadomski commented that since the student population continues to decrease and spending increase, the State should ease up on mandates. Erich Marriott confirmed with Superintendent Turner that with a zero increase this year there would have to be teacher reductions. Turner stated that last year six teachers were eliminated but this year she has not asked for any staff reductions.

In response to Richard Quay's concern regarding slowness of progress toward more collaboration, BOE Chairman Gayle Carr responded that as soon as she became Chairperson of the BOE, she began the long term planning process. Superintendent Turner added that the schools were taking the collaboration effort seriously and BOE member John Morosani's work on the collaboration effort would not have been possible without the support of the schools.

Jim Stedronsky suggested that, in light of the collaboration progress made by the schools, the BOF move to approve a 2% increase in the BOE budget for the coming year. He withdrew his suggestion when Chairman Burgess stated that it was premature to do so since the BOF does not yet have all the facts and numbers. Chairman Burgess noted the BOE also needs to review their building capacity which has been reduced and plan accordingly.

2019-2020 Budget Process

The Capital Committee met last week and Leo Paul gave an update on the status of the \$4.3M capital budget, noting that some items could be done on a pay-as-you-go basis rather than bonding. At this point, the amount of bonding is unknown.

New Business

1. Correspondence –There was no correspondence.
2. Transfers – There were no transfers.
3. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. Self-Funded Health Benefits meeting will be held on February 6, 2019. Leo Paul noted that the Fund Balance was being driven down rapidly by the health benefit costs of both the BOE and the BOS personnel.
 - b. The next BOF regular meeting will be held on February 11, 2019 beginning at the new start time of 5:30p.m. in the First Selectman's office in town hall.
4. Impact of December 19, 2018 Referendum decisions – Chairman Burgess said there may be required involvement by the BOF in future meetings about the new town hall.

Adjournment

Motion: Richard Quay moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Jaacks
Recording Secretary