

**Litchfield Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2017**

Chairman David Wilson called the meeting to order in the Litchfield Intermediate School Art Room at 7:00p.m. with, Helen Bunnell, Ed Gadomski, Richard Quay, James Stedronsky, Rose Blondin (Alt.) and Sky Post (Alt.) present.

Late: Anne Dranginis arrived at 7:08p.m.

Also Present: Amaechi Obi, Leo Paul, Sherri Turner, David Fiorillo

The Chairman appointed Rose Blondin a full member in the absence of Anne Dranginis, then reversed the appointment with the 7:08p.m. arrival of Anne Dranginis.

**Approve Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting on November 13, 2017**

**Motion:** Helen Bunnell moved to accept the 11-13-17 regular meeting minutes. Jim Stedronsky seconded the motion. All voted aye with Rose Blondin abstaining and the motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Bill Burgess said that Litchfield has gotten along without a referendum so far, but due to state cuts that may change, noting that there have been three referendums in Morris that turned down the town budget. He talked about the need for open transparency between the BOE and BOF, and the impact of property taxes with an upcoming home assessment and state tax increases.

**Election of Officers**

Chairman Wilson spoke about his 14 years of service and experience with the BOF. He said there are many people in favor of school regionalization although he is unsure if that is the solution to the town's budget challenges. He said he will be stepping down from the BOF as of December 12, 2017, and will not be seeking the Chairman position.

He called for nominations for BOF Chairman.

**Motion:** Ed Gadomski nominated Helen Bunnell for the Chairman position. James Stedronsky seconded the motion.

**Motion:** Anne Dranginis moved to close nominations for Chairman. Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye, making Helen Bunnell the new Chairman, and the motion carried

Chairman Wilson called for nominations for BOF Vice Chairman/Recording Secretary.

**Motion:** Jim Stedronsky nominated David Wilson, who declined the nomination. Jim Stedronsky then nominated Richard Quay. Helen Bunnell seconded the motion.

**Motion:** Anne Dranginis moved to close nominations for Vice Chairman/Recording Secretary. Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye, making Richard Quay the new Vice Chairman/Recording Secretary.

### **BOE – Input for Budget Process**

Superintendent Sherri Turner briefly spoke, then introduced David Fiorillo, who distributed copies of the Litchfield Public Schools 2017-2018 Budget Development Schedule that depicts dates of meetings and activities. He also distributed copies of the Litchfield Public Schools Mission and Goals. He said they will use a zero-based budgetary process.

Superintendent Turner invited BOF members to attend their meetings. Ed Gadomski agreed to represent the BOF at these meetings. There were questions about how the oversight of line items was conducted and David Fiorillo said they start from scratch every year. Richard Quay noted the challenge to the BOE is to show the BOF their budget as a whole is responsible. James Stedronsky mentioned John Post's speech about increased savings through energy efficiencies.

There was discussion about the feasibility of cost-saving by transferring more responsibilities from the BOE to the town, lowering the ratio of teachers to students, and reducing the number of high level administrators. Matt Terzian noted there are a number of state mandates for the schools that require compliance.

### **Director of Finance's Monthly Report**

1. Amaechi Obi said as of November 30, 2017, the Town has collected 53.1% of revenue compared to 54.6% same time last year and total expended 48.5% of the BOS Budget (compared to 33.7% last year.) The Fund Balance is \$5,084,547.13 which is at 16.32%. Current year property taxes collected are 56.5% compared to 56.6% same time last year. All Tax Collector's revenue collected was 56.0% and all revenue within Town is at 53.1% of original budget compared to 54.6% same time last year. He answered questions about the General Fund total and year-to-date collected. He said as of today, the town has received no monies from the state. He and Leo Paul answered questions about various line items and there was discussion of what the Public Works department does in terms of snowplowing.
2. Financial Transfers: There were no financial transfers.

### **Correspondence**

It was noted that a legal document was received and any BOF member can request to read it. The auditors indicated they will be finished with the audit this month. David Fiorillo said he gave the auditors the OPEB information they requested.

### **Payment of Bills**

**Motion:** Richard Quay moved to approve the invoice #129771 dated 12-11-17 from PrintMaster for the Annual Town Report 2014-2015 in the amount of \$473.00 and the invoice from Clermont & Associates, LLC dated 10-31-17 that is the third billing for the town audit in the amount of \$7,500.00, leaving a balance of \$28,950.00. Ed Gadomski seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

Ed Gadomski said the Green Team needs volunteers and asked if a BOF member wanted to replace him on the Green Team. Richard Quay volunteered to represent the BOF on the Green Team.

Ed Gadomski said the first meeting of the Capital Committee was held to set their meeting schedule, but he missed it. There is another meeting tomorrow.

### **New Business/Future Agenda Items**

Helen Bunnell thanked the BOF members for their confidence in electing her Chairman and thanked David Wilson for his lengthy service.

Ed Gadomski said John Post would like to attend the next BOF meeting to make a presentation about the Green Team. It was agreed to add a brief Green Team presentation on the January 8, 2018 meeting agenda.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Ed Gadomski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm, and James Stedronsky seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be a regular meeting on Monday, January 8, 2018 in the LIS Art Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Jaacks  
Recording Secretary