

**Litchfield Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Litchfield Firehouse**

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Richard Quay called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present: Patty Dauten, Richard Quay, Jim Stedronsky, Matthew Tobin (alternate), Sam Olmstead (alternate, 7:05 p.m.)

Members Absent: Erich Marriott, Pat Donovan, Elliot Fuessenich

M. Tobin was seated as a regular member.

Others Present: First Selectman Denise Raap. Finance Director Amaechi Obi was absent.

Approval of the 12/12/22 Regular Meeting Minutes: **Motion:** J. Stedronsky moved to approve the meeting minutes of 12/12/22, and P. Dauten seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Review and Action on Ordinance Amending Solid Waste Chapter: D. Raap gave a short summary of the updated ordinance and said it only affects the budget in a positive way, but the Selectmen wanted to take it to the Board of Finance for its review. D. Raap explained that the changes include having the industrial, commercial, institutional, schools and non-profit entities pay their own tipping fees, as is the practice in most all other towns. The trucks that pick up the dumpsters can weigh them for an accurate charge. Right now, about \$700,000 is paid by the taxpayers for municipal solid waste. An estimate of savings in the Public Works budget for this year is \$240,000 of the \$700,000. This is conservative, as we are still not sure if USA treats condos as commercial or residential. Another change is that instead of taking waste to MIRA, it will be taken by USA Hauling. *[S. Olmstead arrived here at 7:05 p.m. and was seated as a regular member.]*

Motion: J. Stedronsky moved to recommend support to the Board of Selectmen for the proposed updated ordinance. In discussion, P. Dauten said she did not support it, but acquiesced when D. Raap explained that while her restaurant will be paying tipping fees, her taxes will be less. D. Raap said this is also an incentive for all of us to reduce our garbage, divert food waste and recycle more. M. Tobin seconded the motion. Upon voting, all voted aye and the motion carried.

Finance Director's Monthly Report: R. Quay referred to the lengthy report that pulled the numbers from Munis and was described as a snapshot of the end of December. Absent a summary with more detail, the group decided to wait to discuss the complete report next month when the Finance Director is present.

Motion: J. Stedronsky moved to table the January Finance Director's monthly report to the February meeting. P. Dauten seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

New Business

a. Financial Transfers: None

b. Correspondence: None

c. Payment of Bills: None

d. Future Agenda Items: P. Dauten said no one comes to the Board of Finance during the budget process, and they do not see the proposed budget until the Board of Selectmen has approved it. J. Stedronsky suggested they invite any departments to come to the Board of Finance meeting if it would like a presentation. We could also sit in at the Selectmen's meeting where the budgets are reviewed. S. Olmstead felt they should not address the proposed budget until the Board of Selectmen has completed its work.

Next, R. Quay addressed the lack of traffic control in town. J. Stedronsky suggested traffic camera tickets and speed bumps, both of which are not allowed per D. Raap. She then compared ticket writing now to a year ago, with the new resident trooper now writing a lot more tickets. She added that we are submitting an application for a flashing beacon for the crosswalk in front of Center School.

R. Quay then asked if the grand list will be greater this year, and D. Raap said she anticipates it will, with increased building and the new Tractor Supply. Also, motor vehicle values will not drop as much as anticipated by some.

Adjourn: Motion: J. Stedronsky moved to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. and M. Tobin seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ann Combs".

Ann Combs, Recording Secretary