

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2021
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD**

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Litchfield was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at the Litchfield Intermediate School Auditorium. There were approximately 90 people in attendance, including Michael D. Rybak, Town Attorney. In the absence of the First Selectman, Selectman Jeffrey Zullo called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Lisa A. Losee, Town Clerk, served as Clerk.

Motion was made by Michael D. Rybak, Jr. and seconded by Margaret Hunt that Cleve Fuessenich preside as Moderator. Jonathan Torrant moved to close nominations, seconded by M. Hunt. It was then moved, seconded and voted unanimously that C. Fuessenich serve as Moderator. Motion carried.

The Moderator read the Certificate of Posting, which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

J. Torrant motioned to waive the reading of the Call of the meeting, seconded by Peter Losee. A copy of the Warning was made available to all in attendance and is attached to these minutes as Exhibit B. All voted in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

The Moderator read Item I. To consider and act upon various line item transfers to adjust General Fund departmental budgets to be within approved spending limits for fiscal year 2020/21 in the total amount of \$196,127.00, as recommended by the Board of Finance in Budget Transfer #6.

A copy of the transfer was made available to those present and is attached to these minutes as Exhibit C. J. Torrant made motion to approve the transfer as presented, seconded by P. Losee. Vote by hand count was 61 in favor and none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

The Moderator read Item II. Shall the Town of Litchfield join in the establishment of a temporary regional school district study committee with Regional School District No 6, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 10-39.

John Morosani motioned to approve Item II, seconded by J. Torrant. Peter Litwin commented that he's waited 60 years for this vote; John Morris asked for explanation of process and statutory timeframe to complete study. J. Zullo explained the need to approve this formal committee per statute, 5 members including 2 from the Board of Education will be appointed to represent Litchfield and work with 5 members chosen to represent Region 6 along with 1 representative from the State Department of Education. They will continue work where the preliminary study group left off and prepare a plan with the hopes of bringing it to referendum in June 2022. Atty. Rybak stated that the study could take up to two years but did not think it would take that long. The Plan developed by this group will need to be filed in the Town Clerk's office of each town-

the same Plan-Town Clerks will publish legal notice that the Plan will be available for public inspection for 30 days. A referendum will need to be held simultaneously in the towns of Litchfield, Morris, Goshen and Warren; on the same day, at the same time, with the same question on the ballots; and it must pass by majority vote in every town. J. Torrant has waited for vote 58 years and cannot imagine how this could be voted down. Jennifer Zorne spoke against the regionalization speaking to past experience with Region 6, unequal payoff of debt, feeling that Litchfield will be subsidizing Region 6, that other towns will not support tax increases to support schools and feels it will fall on Litchfield to do so. J. Zullo agreed financial equalization a valid issue and would entertain that the BOS, BOF and BOE form an adhoc committee to support this study group; that debt, assets, and revenue must be equal and Litchfield be well represented. Burke Gibney would like a proper study done but was not in favor of the first Plan of the preliminary study group endorsed by the BOE; does not believe the cost savings would be as predicted; preliminary Plan shows Litchfield seeing a 1.6% decrease in taxes while Warren, Morris and Goshen would see an 11% decrease in taxes; other towns to save more; Litchfield not well represented; deal breaker would be the governmental structure of the regional board that would consist of 3 representatives of each town meaning that Litchfield would only have 3 votes on any decision to 9 votes from Region 6 towns and 8 votes are needed to approve anything; other towns would have complete BOE control while majority of funding will come from Litchfield; will only support a fresh start with no members who were on the preliminary group involved. Jodiann Tenney supports work done by initial group agreeing that new people would be needed for a fresh look as well as those with historical knowledge; must have faith that BOE members will put students above the town. J. Zullo confirmed there would be agendas, minutes, meetings are public, public comments and public hearings will allow for public participation in this process. J. Torrant understands concerns but we must go forward and vote yes tonight to establish this study group. J. Zorne looking for more transparency, has the feeling that this is being pushed through due to steps the administration has already taken such as combining the schools' websites and moving all administration to Wamogo; there is the appearance that this is a done deal. J. Zullo supported the need for clear study stating that Litchfield has more debt as well as more revenue in the solar panels and what happens to that revenue needs to be studied. Helen Bunnell asked who was on the preliminary study group and there was no one in the crowd who could answer her.

H. Bunnell moved the question, seconded by Adrian Selby. It was so voted unanimously by voice to do so. The vote was then taken by hand count. 80 people were in favor and none were opposed. Item II was unanimously approved.

The Moderator read Item III. To appoint five members of the temporary regional school district study committee, two of whom must be members of the Litchfield Board of Education, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 10-40.

The Moderator called for nominations from the Board of Education. Matt Terzian, Chairman of the BOE, nominated John Morosani and Lynne Stone, seconded by Frank Simone. Nominations were closed and motion made and seconded to do so and move the question. J. Tenney motioned to appoint J. Morosani and L. Stone to represent the BOE, seconded by B. Gibney. Vote by hand count was unanimous and motion carried.

The Moderator stated that the vote for the remaining 3 members would be done by paper ballot and ballots would be counted by the Registrars of Voters. He then called for nominations for the appointment of three members At Large.

J. Zullo nominated the following who had expressed interest to the office of the First Selectman in serving on this regional committee. Those he nominated were: Jill Johnson, Kathleen Tranquillo, Frank Simone, Rene MacKenzie, Erin McKenna, Bill Davenport, and Caroline Wilcox Ugurlu. J. Torrant seconded the nominations. P. Losee nominated Julie Hrica, seconded by M. Hunt. J. Torrant motioned to close the nominations, seconded by P. Losee, which passed unanimously by voice. Each nominee present was given the opportunity to speak on their behalf. Vote was then done by paper ballot. Results are as follows:

JILL JOHNSON <u>47</u>	KATHLEEN TRANQUILLO <u>3</u>
FRANK SIMONE <u>24</u>	RENE MACKENZIE <u>2</u>
KARA CRUOGGIO <u>35</u>	ERIN MCKENNA <u>10</u>
MARGARET HUNT <u>43</u>	BILL DAVENPORT <u>81</u>
JULIE HRICA <u>18</u>	CAROLINE WILCOX UGURLU <u>10</u>

The three highest vote winners, together with the two Board of Ed members, are appointed the temporary regional school district study committee of the Town of Litchfield. Jill Johnson, Margaret Hunt and Bill Davenport along with BOE members John Morosani and Lynne Stone will represent the Town of Litchfield on this regional school study group.

There being no further business to discuss, M. Hunt motioned to adjourn, seconded by H. Schoelzel. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Losee

Town Clerk

Exhibit A

POSTING CERTIFICATE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TO BE HELD October 13, 2021

I, Lisa A. Losee, the duly elected Town Clerk of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, hereby certify that I have posted in the office of the Town Clerk, on the town website, and all other places designated by the Town, the warning of Special Town Meeting to be held Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Litchfield Intermediate School Auditorium which was caused to be published in the Republican-American, a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the Town of Litchfield in its issue of October 7, 2021, which publication was a least five days prior to the holding of said Town Meeting (counting the date of publication but NOT the date of the meeting).

Signed and sealed at Litchfield, Connecticut this 6th day of October, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa A. Losee', written in a cursive style.

Lisa A. Losee
Town Clerk
Town of Litchfield

Exhibit B

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD
TO BE HELD OCTOBER 13, 2021**

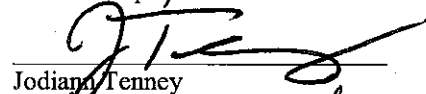
Notice is hereby given to the electors of the town of Litchfield and those qualified taxpayers lawfully entitled to vote in Litchfield Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes that a Special Town Meeting will be convened on October 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Litchfield Intermediate School Auditorium, 35 Plumb Hill Road, Litchfield, CT for the following purposes:

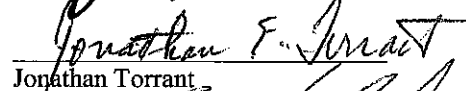
- I. To consider and act upon various line item transfers to adjust General Fund departmental budgets to be within approved spending limits for fiscal year 2020/21 in the total amount of \$196,127.00, as recommended by the Board of Finance in Budget Transfer #6.
- II. Shall the Town of Litchfield join in the establishment of a temporary regional school district study committee with Regional School District No. 6, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 10-39.
- III To appoint five members of the temporary regional school district study committee, two of whom must be members of the Litchfield Board of Education, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 10-40.

Copies of the above documents are available for public inspection in the First Selectmen's Office or on the town's website at: <https://www.townoflitchfield.org/>

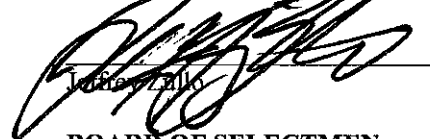
Dated at Litchfield, Connecticut this fifth day of October, 2021.


Denise Raap


Jodiann Tenney

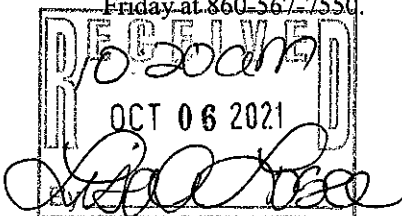

Jonathan Tarrant


Thomas Waterhouse


John P. Zullo

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD**

Please wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in all municipal buildings. Any persons requiring special assistance should contact First Selectman Denise Raap between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 860-567-7550.



Memorandum

Date: August 02, 2021

To: Board of Selectman ✓ approved 8/17/21
Board of Finance/Town Meeting

From: Amaechi Obi, Finance Director

Re: Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget Transfer #6 for \$196,127

The Finance Department is requesting the following year-end transfer to adjust General Fund departmental budgets, including salaries, to be within approved spending limits. Note although some departments increases are less than the \$20,000 threshold that requires a Town Meeting, at year end, the Town consistently includes them in the final year end transfer. The total of \$196,127,00 is .006 of the original budget of \$31,888,577.

FY 20/21 Budget Transfer Requested:

			(Decrease) Debit	(Increase) Credit
TO	1101	51401 Advertising		\$268
TO	1103	51404 Bank Fees		\$338
TO	1105	50101 Wages		\$2,268
TO	1105	50103 Wages		\$926
TO	1105	50108 OT		\$252
TO	1107	50102 Wages		\$1,450
TO	1106	51010 Vitals		\$5
TO	1108	50106 Data Supplies		\$4,364
TO	1108	55102 Office Equip		\$3,710
TO	1701	53101 Electric		\$11,981
TO	1701	53101BOE Electric		\$28,840
TO	1802	52401 Liability Insur		\$7,991
TO	1803	53108 Postage		\$3610
TO	1804	52111 Other Prof Serv		\$600
TO	2401	50104 PT		\$5,612
TO	3102	50103 FT		\$1,955
TO	3102	50108 OT		\$37,115
TO	3104	51102 Supplies Auto		\$36,389
TO	3104	51202 Repairs Equip		\$8,778
TO	3106	51416 Solid Waste		\$24,185
TO	4101	50104 Perm PT(increase hours)		\$15,068
TO	4401	52102 Prof Serv		\$421
TO	5101	54134 OWL		\$1
FROM	1903	51703 Contingency	\$56,933	
FROM	1201	50103 Electric	\$2,694	
FROM	7101	55304 Bond Interest	\$37,900	
FROM	1301	50103 Wages	\$11,600	
FROM	8101	56102 Medical	\$87,000	

TOTALS \$196,127 \$196,127