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**Minutes of the
Litchfield Budget Committee Meeting
Held on January 5, 2016**

The Litchfield Budget Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at Campbell High School, One Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH 03052.

PRESENT: C Couture (Chair), K Douglas (Vice Chair), B Spencer, R Peeples, C Pascucci, D Vaillancourt, R Keating, B Bourque (School Board Representative), T Brown (Town Administrator)

Absent: R Keating

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Couture called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

• PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

3. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Mr. Byron requested an agenda item to review the completion of the 2015 town budget.

4. REVIEW/ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

• December 10, 2015

The minutes were deferred to the January 7 meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Couture reported the following correspondence was received: draft warrants from town, copy of police contract, trust fund warrants, budget summary of town changes, town default budget, town expense report, article from school about deferred maintenance, school financial report.

6. BUDGET REVIEW – TOWN

• End of Year Town Review

Mr. Brown reported that a preliminary projection reflects that the town will be over budget by approximately \$4,000. He commented that final payroll and accounts payable figures are still being processed. Mr. Brown indicated auditors will be examining all expenses and reconciling accounts in March and the town will know the exact figures when the audit statement is received.

Mr. Spencer asked about the FEMA reimbursement to the town.

Mr. Brown reported the town received approximately \$27,000 from FEMA and have credited to the appropriate lines in the budget. He indicated we budgeted what the actual cost would be and did not credit the salary lines. He noted there was an approved article for \$30,000 for the wage

48 plan. Mr. Brown commented if you look at some of the lines that came in under budget it is not
49 something we can count on in the future. For example, he pointed out there was an unexpended
50 balance of \$44,000 in the IT account that will not be there in the future; the Fire Department was
51 under spent by \$8,500, but it is difficult to estimate the wages; the Road Agent account was
52 underspent due to engineering work put on hold; Welfare was underspent by \$9,500 and has
53 been reduced in the 2016 budget. He noted that some of the areas in the 2016 budget may not
54 have the same budgets as 2015.

55

- **Warrant Articles**

56 Warrant articles are as follows:

57

58 ***ARTICLE 4 – NORTHEAST ENERGY DIRECT (gas pipeline) \$27,297***

59 Mr. Byron commented the Board of Selectmen decided to oppose the gas pipeline. He indicated
60 it was also decided that if the town wants to continue the opposition there should be a request for
61 legal fees to support that opposition. There is a consortium of 12 towns that are together in
62 opposition and are providing various sums of money toward legal fees. Mr. Byron commented
63 the amount given to Litchfield of \$27,297 was in support of the present population. He indicated
64 that currently there is \$11,700 encumbered and the remainder to be raised is \$16,000. He noted
65 if the voters do not support the article, the town will end their opposition of the pipeline.

66

67 Mr. Peeples suggested asking if the town is in favor of the pipeline before proposing an article
68 requesting the funds. Mr. Byron commented that can be done, but the town would still need the
69 money for legal fees.

70

71 Mr. Vaillancourt asked if there is a benefit to the pipeline. Mr. Byron indicated he did not wish
72 to discuss the issue.

73

74 Mr. Pascucci asked what would happen to the encumbered funds if the article fails. Mr. Byron
75 indicated they will be returned to the general fund.

76

77 Mr. Peeples was concerned that the town is getting ahead of itself. Mr. Byron indicated there
78 was a decision not to bring forth the article last year.

79

80 Mr. Peeples commented that some towns may not want to participate. Mr. Brown indicated that
81 Amherst, Londonderry, and Windham and not members of the consortium.

82

83 Mr. Pascucci asked if Litchfield does not want to participate and other do, how can the lawyers
84 not represent Litchfield. Mr. Byron indicated if Litchfield is a member we have to disclose the
85 funds we raise.

86

87 Mrs. Couture asked how the amount was determined. Mr. Byron explained that \$33,000 was
88 proposed to the Board of Selectmen when Amherst dropped out and the spreadsheet was revised,
89 which resulted in the amount being spread over the remaining towns. Mr. Byron indicated the
90 Board of Selectmen decided it does not make sense to support other towns if they do not want to
91 participate. He commented that the Board of Selectmen decided to support the amount before
92 Amherst dropped out, which was \$27,297.

93

94
95 Mr. Pascucci commented if another town decides not to participate and Litchfield only provides
96 \$27,297 there will be a conflict. Mr. Brown indicated based on the funding the consortium will
97 develop a strategy with at that amount of money.

98
99 Mrs. Couture commented the funds are not going to cover the towns that are not participating,
100 but the towns involved will benefit from it. She indicated it will not stop the pipeline, but
101 mitigation will be necessary.

102
103 Mr. Pascucci commented that he will not support the article because it is a waste of money. He
104 noted the pipeline is coming and nothing will stop it. He indicated this will make lawyers rich
105 and nothing will change.

106
107 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron
108 *Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 4*

109 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

110 **VOTE: 4-4-0**

111 **The motion failed.**

112
113 *Article 4 is not recommended by the Budget Committee because of a tied vote.*

114
115 **ARTICLE 6 - POLICE CONTRACT**
116 ***\$18,329 2016; \$14,623 2017; \$12,659 2018***

117
118 Mrs. Douglas commented that the impact of the Cadillac tax on health insurance should be
119 considered even though it has been delayed until 2021.

120
121 Mr. Byron indicated this contract will expire before the tax takes effect. He noted the Cadillac
122 tax will be an item to be renegotiated in the following contract.

123
124 Mr. Pascucci commented it is always tricky when voting on this type of article because this has
125 more components.

126
127 Mr. Byron commented the Budget Committee has no involvement in the formation of the
128 contract, but rather the dollars that are associated.

129
130 Mr. Pascucci commented this cannot be amended at Deliberative Session.

131
132 Mrs. Couture indicated the Budget Committee is looking at the dollars and sense and if they are
133 reasonable to recommend to the voters.

134
135 Mr. Pascucci asked about the accuracy of the dollars as, for example, the teachers contract was
136 over estimated.

137

138 Mr. Byron commented the numbers include base salary cost, retirement, Medicare, taxes and
139 other expenses. He noted the costs are estimated for 2017 and 2018 because we do not have the
140 retirement numbers at this time and it is impossible to know what they will be.

141
142 Mr. Peeples asked for the current increase in retirement rates. Mr. Brown indicated there is no
143 increase for this year. He commented that if the contract is approved, on April 1 there will be a
144 half percent increase in wages and July 1 another half percent. He noted the rates are calculated
145 through to the end of December.

146
147 Mr. Peeples asked if the rates are compounded. Mr. Brown indicated the rates are not
148 compounded. He noted along with the cost the town agreed to increase the 457 match for the
149 special detail funding if the funds are available up to the maximum contribution of \$1,000. He
150 commented this new contract would increase the contribution from \$1,000 to \$2,000 annually.
151 Mr. Brown indicated in year two, there will be a 2% increase April 1 and 2% in the last year of
152 the contract. He noted there will be no 457 match in year two. He commented that we were able
153 to negotiate a different cost structure for the health plan: 50/50 split for the POS plan and 100%
154 employee paid HMO, which will bring costs down in the following years.

155
156 Mr. Spencer commented that the word “match” was replaced for the word “bonus”, but the word
157 “bonus” is still used in some areas of the contract. Mr. Brown indicated that the bonus applies to
158 the dispatch and the match applies to the officer. He noted the dispatcher does not do a detail.

159
160 Mrs. Douglas commented there are educational bonuses provided in the first year and asked
161 about the following years. Mr. Byron commented that cannot be projected.

162
163 Mrs. Douglas commented that we should know how many employees are eligible. Mr. Byron
164 indicated the bonus applies if the officer is awarded a Bachelors or Masters degree during the
165 year.

166
167 Mr. Brown indicated that is existing language from the last contract. He noted that would be
168 embedded in the proposed operating budget and is not a new cost.

169
170 Mrs. Douglas asked if the bonus is awarded every year of the contract. Mr. Brown indicated it is
171 a one time bonus.

172
173 Mr. Pascucci asked what other aspects can affect the numbers. Mr. Brown indicated health
174 insurance can affect the numbers. Mr. Peeples commented grade changes can affect the
175 numbers. Mrs. Couture commented new hires can affect the numbers.

176
177 Mr. Brown indicated the grade changes are accounted for in the budget.

178
179 Mr. Pascucci asked if the increases were calculated on current wages. Chief O’Brion indicated it
180 includes the steps the officers would be on in those years.

181
182 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron
183 ***Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 6***

184 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

185 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

186 **The motion carried.**

187

188 *Article 8 was recommended by the Budget Committee by a unanimous vote.*

189

190 **ARTICLE 7 – SECOND YEAR OF WAGE PLAN \$30,000**

191

192 Mr. Pascucci asked about the rationale for proposing the article this year.

193

194 Mr. Brown commented that the Board of Selectmen reviewed the plan for year one and projected
195 for year two. He indicated we listed all the employees generically with the current rate of pay
196 and what the new rate would be. He noted based on the increase on April 1, the adjustments
197 indicate placement of the employee on the range. Mr. Brown indicated with year two, this
198 implementation will have many employees below mid-range. He noted we are hopeful with year
199 three all employees will be placed where they should be on the ranges.

200

201 Mr. Pascucci asked what is the disadvantage if the plan is not approved this year. Mr. Brown
202 commented we will lose ground with what we are trying to accomplish. He indicated there are
203 employees that will be underpaid based on their years of service and experience and they should
204 be compensated.

205

206 Mr. Pascucci commented that he knows many people that are under paid and not getting raises,
207 and there are some industries that are doing well. He indicated when you get comparables you
208 are comparing them with those in government positions. He noted if you do the comparable with
209 private employment the salaries would be lower.

210

211 Mr. Byron commented you do not know that for sure and my job as a representative of the Board
212 of Selectmen is to challenge your supposition of the data.

213

214 Mrs. Couture redirected the Committee indicated that the discussion is off-track and Committee
215 members are not here to bring to the table what we hear people say or our own experiences. She
216 indicated we are looking to see if they brought information that is justified and then decide if we
217 can support these numbers as voters in this town.

218

219 Mr. Pascucci commented you are supporting everyone. He indicated that we all do these
220 comparables and that you can find any number to justify any position you desire. He commented
221 the Board of Selectmen did their due diligence, but he is not basing his decision on their data.

222 Mr. Pascucci commented we heard last year we have to support the plan because of unionization,
223 but the amounts approved last year were not distributed equally because they went to two people.
224 He indicated there is more to it than money (i.e. quality of life, great place to work). He
225 commented the economy is in a bad shape and he will not support recommending this to the voters.

226 Mr. Pascucci noted he is looking at the experience of his neighbors and customers.

227

228 Mr. Vaillancourt commented some are 8% and 9% raises.

229

230 Mrs. Douglas thanked Mr. Brown for providing the information. She commented that she
231 understands the Board of Selectmen are concerned about people being placed in the right place
232 in the ranges. She indicated if that is the case, we should concentrate on the employees that are
233 below the range and not those that are above.

234
235 Mr. Vaillancourt disagree with giving raises to administrators as well as laborers.

236
237 Mr. Byron commented the Board of Selectmen used the money last year to get people to the
238 minimum of the range and this year we want to get them into the range. He indicated that there
239 are comments that we are giving raises that are too high to people, but if you look at the increase
240 in terms of percentage, that is how far below the range than they should be today. He noted
241 adjustments have to be made for employees to be where they need to be.

242
243 Mrs. Couture commented that four are labeled above mid-range and 20 are not. She noted that
244 the four that are labeled above mid-range means that is where they will be when this phase is
245 implemented.

246
247 Mr. Pascucci commented that recently the town advertised for a position and 22 people applied.
248 He indicated that Litchfield cannot be that bad for that many people to apply.

249
250 Mrs. Douglas commented realistically who is to say the scale is correct. She indicated it is basdd
251 on other towns, which is what drives up the averages.

252
253 Mr. Peeples indicated the State of NH has a document that reflects mean wages broken down by
254 position, region and town. He noted these numbers are higher.

255
256 Mrs. Douglas thanked the Board of Selectmen for providing the information.

257
258 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron
259 *Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 7*

260 **SECOND:** by Mr. Bourque

261 **VOTE: 3-5-0**

262 **The motion failed.**

263
264 *Article 7 was not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 3-5-0.*

265
266 **ARTICLE 8 – FIRST YEAR OF LIBRARY NON-UNION WAGE PLAN \$14,819**

267
268 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron
269 *Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 8*

270 **SECOND:** by Mr. Bourque

271
272 Mr. Peeples asked if the Library wage plan was part of the original wage plan last year. Mr.
273 Brown indicated it was not.

274

275 Mr. Spencer asked if the Library wage plan was on the ballot last year. Mr. Brown replied it was
276 not on the ballot.

277
278 Mr. Peeples asked if this was recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Byron indicated it
279 was recommended by the Board of Selectmen

280
281 Mr. Pascucci asked how many employees are involved. Mrs. Douglas indicated there are seven
282 employees.

283
284 Mr. Vaillancourt indicated one employee will receive a \$9 per hour raise. Mr. Brown indicated
285 they are part time employees.

286
287 Mr. Spencer commented it puts the Director to the top of the range. Mr. Vaillancourt
288 commented it is too much.

289
290 Mrs. Douglas commented it is asking much of the people.

291
292 Mrs. Couture asked where the data comes from. Mr. Byron indicated it is a work product of the
293 Library Trustees. Mr. Spencer added with the collaboration of Mr. Hoch and his wage study
294 parameters.

295
296 Mrs. Couture indicated that it is done in comparison to the towns your employees reside in. Mr.
297 Pascucci commented the wages are based on many factors and turnover.

298
299 Mrs. Douglas commented that we do not understand where the numbers are coming from and the
300 increases are large for year one. Mr. Byron indicated the data comes from the Library Trustees.

301
302 Mr. Vaillancourt commented that it is the same for Article 7. He indicated \$30,000 is too much,
303 but agrees that the employees deserve raises.

304
305 **VOTE: 2-6-0**
306 **The motion failed.**

307
308 *Article 8 was not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 2-6-0.*

309
310 **ARTICLE 9 - ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2016**

311
312 Mr. Brown indicated this money is to start projects from Candleridge to Page Road. He noted
313 repairs for Pinecrest and Cutler Road are included as well as widening Cutler Road on both
314 sides.

315
316 Mrs. Douglas asked about the rationale for widening the road.

317
318 Mr. Byron indicated the road is 17.6' wide and is not wide enough for cars that are passing each
319 other. He noted that cars passing each other tend to veer to the side of the road and wear it away.

320

321 Mr. Pinciario indicated the lanes should each be 11' wide.

322

323 Mrs. Couture commented the town tries to give examples of the roads that will done. She noted
324 there is a reason why we do an annual article and we are behind on road improvements. She
325 indicated in order to try to catch up with the improvement plan we are proposing articles for
326 \$200,000 annually.

327

328 Mr. Pascucci commented last year it was stated in 25 years all the roads will be paved. He
329 indicated some roads will not need to be paved every 25 years.

330

331 Mrs. Couture commented there is a plan that looks at the condition of the roads and base on a
332 rating of the condition they determined that \$200,000 would be appropriate.

333

334 Mr. Vaillancourt commented with the cost of fuel decreasing and a good spring start, \$200,000
335 should yield a good result.

336

337 Mr. Byron indicated if we have money left over we will do more roads.

338

339 Mr. Pascucci commented for many years we have heard "do it now or material costs will
340 increase". He noted this is the perfect year to prove that may not be the case.

341

342 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron

343 *Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 9*

344 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

345 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

346 **The motion carried.**

347

348 *Article 9 was recommended by the Budget Committee by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.*

349

350 **ARTICLE 10 - FIRE STATION EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM \$50,000**

351

352 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron

353 *Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 10*

354 **SECOND:** by Mr. Bourque

355

356 Mr. Byron asked Chief Fraitzl to explain the rationale.

357

358 Chief Fraitzl commented that he looked into the company a member of this Committee provided.
359 He indicated that he requested information and after many phone calls and emails he spoke to a
360 representative of the company. He noted the system is priced low because it is a stripped down
361 system and they do not install, service or warranty the product. Chief Fraitzl commented they
362 had no idea if any they sold were installed in New Hampshire and could not provide any
363 indication of the installation cost. He asked for a more comparable quote to what was originally
364 provide to the Budget Committee, but has not yet received one. He would not recommend
365 consideration of doing business with this vendor.

366

367 Mrs. Douglas commented it is good to compare the cost of the parts with your vendor to keep
368 then honest.

369
370 Chief Fraitzl commented that was for a two unit system. He explained that the second truck
371 would not have adequate capture from the back of the truck and no capture up to the nose of the
372 truck. He indicated exhaust would not be able to be vented from the truck in front.

373
374 Mr. Pascucci asked if the system is a need or a want. He asked if the number is correct as
375 typically budget numbers come in less. He indicated he has done some research as well and
376 believes this is a fair number, but could come in at a lesser cost than is budgeted.

377
378 Mrs. Douglas commented that she hears talk of needing a new fire station and asked how
379 installation of the system would be impacted by the replacement of the fire station.

380
381 Chief Fraitzl commented anything installed now will be capable of being moved.

382
383 Mr. Byron clarified that the Board of Selectmen have not contemplated an article for a new fire
384 station. He indicated this system is being requested in terms of health and safety issues as it
385 prevents inhalation of exhaust by firefighters who have to start the vehicles. He noted if it has to
386 be removed from the station for expansion or new location, it can be done.

387
388 Mrs. Douglas commented that she read the information and this system is being pushed by the
389 people who developed it. Mr. Byron clarified this is recommended by the NFPA and not put
390 forward by vendors of the system. He explained the NFPA is looking at firefighter safety and
391 they are saying we need to protect them against inhalation of diesel exhaust.

392
393 Mr. Vaillancourt asked if the Fire Department was requested to do it this year.

394
395 Chief Fraitzl commented that the number one hot item is cancer rates among firefighters. He
396 note diesel exhaust is the number one cause. He indicated we have just issues firefighters second
397 hoods because they contain high amounts of carcinogens.

398
399 Mrs. Douglas commented she has a degree in engineering and understands how the NFPA
400 develops the standards. She indicated if the Cancer Society is recommending the system it is a
401 better argument.

402
403 Mr. Vaillancourt commented he has been in those environments and understands who they affect
404 a person.

405
406 Mr. Peeples commented he can support the article if the Board of Selectmen put it out to bid.
407 Chief Fraitzl indicated it is going out to bid.

408
409 Mr. Peeples commented there are many vendors out there and he believes what is proposed is
410 high for a quote. Chief Fraitzl indicated it is from one of the vendors that provides the system.

411

412 Mr. Peeples commented that we are going to be talking about replacing fire trucks in the near
413 future.

414

415 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

416 **The motion carried.**

417

418 *Article 10 was recommended by the Budget Committee by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.*

419

420 **ARTICLE 11 - FIRE STATION / OLD TOWN HALL PARKING LOT PAVING \$70,000**

421

422 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron

423 *Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 11*

424 **SECOND:** by Mr. Bourque

425

426 Mr. Pascucci indicated he will vote not to support the motion because asphalt is not as expensive
427 and we spend a lot of money. He believes it can wait a year. He noted the voters did not support
428 this last year.

429

430 Mrs. Douglas asked if this includes drainage as was proposed last year. Mr. Byron indicated it
431 includes a drain in front of the doors to tie into the catch basin on the side of the lot.

432

433 Mrs. Douglas asked if the cost includes mitigation of the septic tank. Mr. Vaillancourt indicated
434 that grinding will not affect the septic tank.

435

436 Mr. Byron commented the lot cannot be raised as there is currently a bump at the doors that
437 cause trucks to come close to the top of the doors when they are raised.

438

439 Mrs. Couture read the parameters of the 2015 warrant article.

440

441 Mr. Spencer commented the quote is over a year old and the cost of asphalt has decreased
442 dramatically.

443

444 Mr. Pascucci commented there is too much money being taken out of the pockets of the
445 taxpayers and we already have an article for \$200,000 for asphalt. He suggested using that for
446 the paving of the lot.

447

448 Mrs. Douglas asked how the vote of the Budget Committee impacts the article or what the
449 impact would be if the article were removed.

450

451 Mr. Byron commented that he believes there was a new quote. He indicated if the Board of
452 Selectmen receives another quote they will amend the article at Deliberative Session. He noted
453 the Budget Committee has a choice to recommend or not.

454

455 Mr. Vaillancourt commented the quote should be \$8,000 less.

456

457 **VOTE: 3-5-0**

458 **The motion failed.**

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Article 11 is not recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 3-5-0.

ARTICLE 12 - BUILDING SYSTEMS TRUST FUND \$30,000

MOTION: by Mr. Byron

Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 12

SECOND: by Mr. Bourque

Mr. Byron indicated the tax impact on this article is \$0.

Mrs. Couture asked what the chances are that any money will be available for this purpose. Mr. Byron indicated the Board of Selectmen keep at least between 5% and 12% of the town and school budgets.

Mr. Pascucci asked about the current balance in the trust. Mr. Spencer indicated there is \$20,000 in the trust fund.

Mrs. Douglas asked why the request is more than double the balance.

Mr. Brown commented that there is concern with the heating units above the town hall and police station. He indicated there are five heating units above and there are condenser units outside. He noted one has already failed and the heating units are 15 years old, which is close to the end of their useful life. Mr. Brown indicated the town wants to be prepared for a major failure. He commented that they toured the recreation building and there is an aging heating system there as well.

Mr. Pascucci commented that he would like to understand the process. He asked if something failed now and the cost was higher than what is proposed in this article, how would we get the money out of the fund balance legally.

Mr. Byron indicated the Board of Selectmen can only spend what is approved by the voters or in a warrant article. He noted if the scenario Mr. Pascucci suggested occurs, the Board of Selectmen would draft a proposal, approve it and bring it to the Budget Committee to review and approve. If approved, it would go to the DRA who would have to approve it and allow the Board of Selectmen to remove funds from the fund balance. Mr. Byron indicated it is a long process. He noted if you have a building with no heat and pipes in danger of freezing, you want to have this money available to repair it. Mr. Byron commented this type of fund allows the Town Administrator to manage the town systems.

Mr. Pascucci commented that his question was about legalities. He asked because it will take some time, is there money in the budget to pay for it and then when the proposal is approved the general fund can be reimbursed.

Mr. Byron commented typically we can do that. He indicated if a system fails and the Board of Selectmen takes money out of the budget and then brings it to the Budget Committee and the Committee does not approve it, then we could be in trouble.

506
507 Mrs. Douglas commented if we have systems that are at the end of life, failure cannot be
508 anticipated. She asked if there are servicers of the systems and if they have knowledge of the life
509 expectancy.

510
511 Mr. Peebles believes this article is a good idea.

512
513 Mr. Spencer commented the question is how much do we put into the fund. He asked if the
514 Town Administrator is satisfied with \$50,000. Mr. Brown indicated he would be satisfied with
515 that amount.

516
517 Mr. Pascucci commented that he likes a fund that has concrete wording with a plan and does not
518 like vague wording. He indicated he agrees with this idea, but does not agree with the amount of
519 money being requested.

520
521 Mrs. Douglas asked if the Board of Selectmen have to vote to access the money from the fund.
522 Mr. Brown indicated the Board of Selectmen are agents to expend and only they can make the
523 decision to draw from the fund.

524
525 Mrs. Couture asked about the justification with a total fund of \$50,000. She indicated the chart
526 of systems shows they are not in much need. Mr. Brown indicated it was a quick list.

527
528 Mrs. Couture commented that \$20,000 seems like a solid number. She indicated she considered
529 the estimate provided in the supporting documents and believes that \$30,000 is not justified.

530
531 Mr. Brown commented that the septic system and HVAC systems can be very costly. He
532 indicated there are five heating units at the town hall that need assessment.

533
534 Mr. Spencer commented when you need to spend it you take the money out of the fund and
535 replace it the following year. Mr. Brown commented there is \$20,000 in the fund currently and
536 if we have two major events in one year we will not have enough money to fix them. He
537 indicated buildings do not fix themselves and do not give warning when they are going to break.

538
539 Mr. Spencer commented he is in favor of a reserve fund, but is not sure of the amount to add.

540
541 Mrs. Couture called the question.

542
543 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
544 **The motion carried.**

545
546 *Article 12 was recommended by the Budget Committee by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.*

547
548 **ARTICLE 13 - EARNED TIME ACCRUAL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND \$60,000**

549
550 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron
551 *Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 13*

552 **SECOND:** by Mr. Bourque

553

554 Mr. Byron explained the fund was created several years ago to offset the effect on the budget in
555 terms of severance and earned time that an employee leaving the town would have. He indicated
556 in the upcoming years there is the possibility of having some employees leave and we need
557 approximately \$60,000 to offset that.

558

559 Mr. Brown commented we have no way of knowing when they are going to leave. He explained
560 that the town looked at the current population and some employees who could leave without
561 advance notice. He indicated we do allow buy backs, but if there is overtime or contracted
562 services we will have to cover that in the budget. Mr. Brown noted in 2014 severance was taken
563 out of the budget, which leaves the town at a disadvantage.

564

565 Mr. Pascucci asked if there is a policy that states employees have to give notice prior to the next
566 budget. Mr. Brown indicated there is no such policy in the personnel policies.

567

568 Mrs. Douglas asked why the requested amount is more than doubled. Mr. Brown commented we
569 expended \$39,000 in 2015, charging this fund and taking the remainder out of the budget. He
570 noted on an annual basis employees are able to sell back their time. He indicated that we know
571 on average we incur \$25,000, but that does not include NHRS and other payroll taxes. Mr.
572 Brown commented we know that there are five employees who could retire, which creates a
573 liability that will cost \$60,000 today. He noted it will be an ongoing process to manage the fund.

574

575 Mrs. Douglas asked if we are enabling that practice by funding this.

576

577 Mr. Peebles commented if you know it will happen, why not put it in the budget as a line item.

578

579 Mr. Pascucci asked what will happen if the article fails.

580

581 Mr. Byron indicated we will have to try to get additional funding through the Budget Committee.

582

583 **VOTE: 4-4-0**

584 **The motion failed.**

585

586 *Article 13 was not recommended by the Budget Committee by a tied vote of 4-4-0.*

587

588 **ARTICLE 14 - PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND \$25,000**

589

590 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron

591 *Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 14*

592 **SECOND:** by Mr. Bourque

593

594 Mrs. Douglas asked for the rationale of the article.

595

596 Mr. Byron asked to skip Article 14 and go to Article 15 that will explain this article.

597

598 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron

599 *Move to table Article 14*

600 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

601 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

602 **The motion carried.**

603

604 ***ARTICLE 15: PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND AMENDMENT***

605 *To see if the town will vote to amend the Public Works Expendable Trust Fund, as show below*
606 *with original text shown unchanged, new text shown in bold and deleted text shown as crossed*
607 *out:*

608 *This fund can be used for payment of solid waste disposal fees in excess of the annual budgeted*
609 *appropriation for that purpose as well as the replacement of capital equipment at the Solid*
610 *Waste Facility with a value of greater than \$5,000. In addition, this fund can be used for **repair***
611 ***and replacement of vehicles and equipment**, payment of snow removal related costs, including*
612 ***but not limited to**, wages, contracted service fees and purchase of salt and sand in excess of the*
613 *annual budgeted appropriation for those purposes. (2/3 vote required).*

614

615 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron

616 *Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 15*

617 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

618

619 Mr. Byron explained that this article increases the potential usability of this fund. He noted there
620 is no appropriation associated and requires a 2/3 vote.

621

622 Mr. Pascucci asked for the reason for the article. Mr. Byron commented that it changes the
623 purpose of the fund.

624

625 Mr. Pascucci commented he is not in favor of expanding funds.

626

627 Mrs. Douglas asked if a situation arose that triggered a need for the change. Mr. Byron
628 commented we have vehicles that have blown engines and this will allow us to offset some of the
629 costs of snow removal such as in 2015. He indicated we have a truck that may have a problem
630 and has to be fixed and this would make sense to have the ability to do so.

631

632 Mrs. Douglas commented there is money currently in the budget for these types of items.

633

634 Mr. Spencer indicated that the Budget Committee does not have to vote on this. Mrs. Couture
635 concurred.

636

637 Mr. Byron withdrew the motion. Mr. Spencer withdrew the second.

638

639 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

640 *Move to take Article 14 off the table*

641 **SECOND:** by Mr. Byron

642 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

643 **The motion carried.**

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VOTE ON MOTION BY MR. BYRON TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 14: 5-3-0

The motion carried.

Article 14 was recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 5-3-0.

ARTICLE 16 - LIBRARY EARNED TIME EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the library's Vacation Accrual Expendable Trust Fund created in 2012 and return the balance of such fund to the Town's general fund. The balance of this fund as of December 31, 2015 is \$7,368.00. And further, to see if the Town will vote to establish an Earned Time Accrual Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of annually accounting for the cost of earned but unused vacation time so that the expenses associated with employee resignations, retirements and buyouts of accrued earned time do not impact the current year budget, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,368.00 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2015; and to further appoint the Library Board of Trustees to serve as agents to expend from the fund. This would have a net cost to 2016 general taxation of \$0.

MOTION: by Mr. Byron

Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 16

SECOND: by Mr. Bourque

Mr. Brown indicated this article proposes to discontinue the vacation accrual expendable fund and create an earned time accrual expendable fund. He noted the Library has change to an earned time system.

Mr. Pascucci asked if they have a policy to give notice in advance of the next budget if an employee plans to leave. Mr. Byron indicated he did not know the answer and that Mr. Pascucci would have to ask the Library Trustees.

VOTE: 8-0-0

The motion carried.

Article 16 was recommended by the Budget Committee by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Referring to the Tax Cap article, Mr. Byron indicated the Budget Committee does not have to vote on the article.

Mr. Spencer asked how the tax cap amount of 5.5% was determined. He commented there needs to be a discussion on this. Mr. Spencer indicated he has a problem with the way the number was developed.

Mr. Byron indicated that it is a waste of time if the Budget Committee does not have to vote on the article.

Mr. Pascucci commented this article is directing the Committee.

691 Mr. Byron indicated the wording is required by state law. He noted the variable is either include
692 the percentage or dollar amount and in this case the Board of Selectmen decided to use a
693 percentage.

694
695 Mr. Spencer commented it is based on five years of history and within that there was a different
696 situation. He indicated that the percentages of what the Budget Committee recommends for the
697 operating budget and what the Board of Selectmen look at is the budget plus warrant articles,
698 which means you are way over the tax cap.

699
700 Article 19: Recycling Revolving Fund

701
702 Mr. Byron indicated there is no appropriation in this article. He explained that when selling
703 metals to the consortium money is received in return. He commented it is requested to put that
704 money into a revolving fund so it can be used for construction debris disposal (for example).

705
706 Mr. Brown indicated that the money currently goes into the general fund to offset expenses. He
707 commented this article would allow us to take revenue from those fees and deposit it into a
708 revolving fund to be self-sufficient. He noted recycling revenues have been lessened by half.
709 Mr. Brown indicated we can either keep it the way it is currently and will have to supplement
710 any shortfall of revenues or create a revolving fund and not lose the revenues.

711
712 **ARTICLE 20: FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC TRAINING \$37,600**

713
714 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron
715 **Move for the Budget Committee to recommend Article 20**
716 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

717
718 Mr. Byron indicated the Board of Selectmen have not yet voted on this article. He noted Chief
719 Fraitzl informed us we are losing a paramedic and this article will ensure us to have a paramedic
720 on duty.

721
722 Chief Fraitzl explained in 2009 there was an article to take a firefighter and fund their training
723 for paramedic certification. He reported that employee is leaving the department. He explained
724 they are looking for a new employee and would ideally like to hire a paramedic, but the chances
725 are slim. He indicated the Board of Selectmen was notified and they recommended requesting
726 funding for a contingency should we not be able to hire a certified paramedic. Chief Fraitzl
727 commented that research shows the cost of certification is \$11,000. He indicated we would have
728 to have a firefighter on duty during the day at a cost of \$26,600.

729
730 Mr. Spencer asked when it is expected to have a person on the payroll. Chief Fraitzl indicated it
731 is hoped to have a new hire in April. He noted we are losing that employee and need to fill that
732 40 hour position.

733
734 Mrs. Douglas asked if after the completion of the training, there will be an obligation for
735 continued years of employment. Chief Fraitzl commented that is being reviewed legally. He
736 noted it has been done in some areas and has been challenged.

737
738 Mr. Pascucci commented you cannot legally make someone stay in your employ, but you can ask
739 for reimbursement.

740
741 Mr. Peeples commented we are looking at a reoccurring theme. He suggested advertising for a
742 certified person. He indicated there will be a 16 month gap for someone to be trained and
743 certified and if that person does not stay we will be looking at hiring another person.

744
745 Mr. Byron indicated the Chief will be looking for a certified paramedic, but they are not
746 abundant. He commented the Chief's intention is to try to find someone who is an advanced
747 EMT and use this as a recruiting tool to get that person on board. He noted if the Budget
748 Committee wants us to hire a certified paramedic and we cannot, we are impacting public safety.

749
750 Mrs. Couture asked why a second person cannot be trained so there is an additional person on
751 staff. Mr. Byron indicated that can be done, but that person will be part time. He noted a large
752 percentage of our firefighters are EMTs, but we need a paramedic to support the town.

753
754 Mr. Spencer commented the current paramedic is budgeted for \$54,000 and we want to add
755 \$37,000 to hire a new person.

756
757 Mr. Brown clarified that the program cost is \$11,000 and the coverage cost is \$26,600. Mr.
758 Byron indicated that the \$37,000 is not the salary of the person.

759
760 Mr. Spencer commented the salary is in the budget, but there will be a lag to when the new
761 person would come on board. Mr. Byron indicated that we will have part time employees to
762 cover the gap.

763
764 Chief Fraitzl commented the intent is to hire an advanced EMT or a certified paramedic, which is
765 not a common commodity.

766
767 Mrs. Douglas commented we have a responsibility to the taxpayers to spend money wisely. She
768 indicated she has a problem supporting the article if we are going to be training someone every
769 three years without the protection of having people stay if trained and certified.

770
771 **VOTE: 6-2-0**

772 **The motion carried.**

773
774 *Article 20 was recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6-2-0.*

775
776 **• Final Votes**

777
778 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
779 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$112,245 for Account 4130.1, Executive, for 2016*

780 **SECOND:** Mrs. Douglas

781 **VOTE: 7-1-0**

782 **The motion carried.**

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MOTION: by Mr. Spencer
Move to approve the bottom line of \$13,674 for Account 4130.2, Town Meeting, for 2016

SECOND: Mrs. Douglas

VOTE: 8-0-0

The motion carried.

MOTION: by Mr. Spencer
Move to approve the bottom line of \$99,277 for Account 4140.1, Town Clerk, for 2016

SECOND: Mr. Peeples

VOTE: 7-1-0

The motion carried.

MOTION: by Mr. Spencer
Move to approve the bottom line of \$215,024 for Account 4150.1, Accounting, for 2016

SECOND: Mr. Peeples

VOTE: 7-1-0

The motion carried.

MOTION: by Mr. Spencer
Move to approve the bottom line of \$102,126 for Account 4150.2, Information Technology, for 2016

SECOND: Mr. Peeples

VOTE: 6-2-0

The motion carried.

MOTION: by Mr. Spencer
Move to approve the bottom line of \$95,937 for Account 4150.4, Tax Collection, for 2016

SECOND: Mr. Peeples

VOTE: 7-1-0

The motion carried.

MOTION: by Mr. Spencer
Move to approve the bottom line of \$50,606 for Account 4152, Assessing, for 2016

SECOND: Mr. Peeples

VOTE: 8-0-0

The motion carried.

MOTION: by Mr. Spencer
Move to approve the bottom line of \$15,000 for Account 4153, Legal, for 2016

SECOND: Mr. Peeples

VOTE: 8-0-0

The motion carried.

829 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
830 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$534,547 for Account 4155.1, Personnel Administration,*
831 *for 2016*

832 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

833

834 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron

835 *Move to amend the bottom line for Account 4155.1, Personnel Administration, to \$564,547*

836 **SECOND:** by Mr. Bourque

837

838 Mr. Byron explained his motion is in response to the Budget Committee’s action on the school
839 budget for leaving \$30,000 in the budget for non-bargaining unit employees. He indicated if the
840 motion passes, we will remove the warrant article for the non-union employees wage plan
841 implementation.

842

843 Mr. Spencer asked where the \$30,000 would be assigned. Mr. Byron indicated that it would be
844 assigned to the salary line.

845

846 Mr. Spencer commented that Mr. Byron’s motion is out of order because the additional funds
847 have to be specifically assigned. Mr. Byron indicated this is a motion on the bottom line.

848

849 Mrs. Couture agreed that this is a vote on the bottom line.

850

851 Mr. Peeples called the question.

852

853 **VOTE ON THE AMENDED MOTION FOR A BOTTOM LINE OF \$564,547 FOR**
854 **ACCOUNT 4155.1, PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION: 2-6-0**

855 **The amended motion failed.**

856

857 **VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION FOR A BOTTOM LINE OF \$534,547 FOR ACCOUNT**
858 **4155.1, PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION: 7-1-0**

859 **The motion carried.**

860

861 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

862 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$53,922 for Account 4191.1, Planning Board, for 2016*

863 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

864 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

865 **The motion carried.**

866

867 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

868 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$596 for Account 4191.3, Zoning Board, for 2016*

869 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

870 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

871 **The motion carried.**

872

873

874

875 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
876 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$89,871 for Account 4194.1, General Government*
877 *Buildings, for 2016*
878 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
879 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
880 **The motion carried.**
881
882 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
883 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$7,483 for Account 4195, Cemeteries, for 2016*
884 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
885 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
886 **The motion carried.**
887
888 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
889 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$61,124 for Account 4196, Town Insurance, for 2016*
890 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
891 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
892 **The motion carried.**
893
894 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
895 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$14,149 for Account 4197, Advertising, Regional*
896 *Associations, for 2016*
897 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
898 **VOTE: 6-2-0**
899 **The motion carried.**
900
901 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
902 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$1,437,295 for Account 4210.1, Police Administration, for*
903 *2016*
904 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
905 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
906 **The motion carried.**
907
908 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
909 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$151,118 for Account 4210.5, Police Support, for 2016*
910 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
911 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
912 **The motion carried.**
913
914 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
915 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$46,500 for Account 4215.1, Ambulance, for 2016*
916 **SECOND:** Mr. Vaillancourt
917 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
918 **The motion carried.**
919
920

- 921 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
922 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$512,311 for Account 4220.1, Fire, for 2016*
923 **SECOND:** Mr. Vaillancourt
924 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
925 **The motion carried.**
926
- 927 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
928 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$296,128 for Account 4220.9, Fire Hydrants, for 2016*
929 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
930 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
931 **The motion carried.**
932
- 933 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
934 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$78,492 for Account 4241.2, Code Enforcement, for 2016*
935 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
936 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
937 **The motion carried.**
938
- 939 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
940 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$11,887 for Account 4290.1, Emergency Management, for 2016*
941 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
942 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
943 **The motion carried.**
944
- 945 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
946 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$46,488 for Account 4311.1, Road Agent, for 2016*
947 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
948 **VOTE: 7-1-0**
949 **The motion carried.**
950
- 951 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
952 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$620,721 for Account 4312.1, Road Maintenance, for 2016*
953 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
954 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
955 **The motion carried.**
956
- 957 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
958 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$13,000 for Account 4316.3, Street Lighting, for 2016*
959 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples
960 **VOTE: 8-0-0**
961 **The motion carried.**
962
- 963 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
964 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$365,658 for Account 4321.1, Solid Waste Administration, for 2016*
965
966

967 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

968 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

969 **The motion carried.**

970

971 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

972 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$1,646 for Account 4411.1, Health, for 2016*

973 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

974 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

975 **The motion carried.**

976

977 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

978 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$31,000 for Account 4411.2, Mosquito District, for 2016*

979 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

980 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

981 **The motion carried.**

982

983 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

984 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$15,417 for Account 4414.1, Animal Control, for 2016*

985 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

986 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

987 **The motion carried.**

988

989 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

990 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$15,167 for Account 4415, Health Agencies, for 2016*

991 **SECOND:** Mr. Vaillancourt

992

993 **MOTION:** by Mr. Pascucci

994 *Move to amend the bottom line of Account 4415, Health Agencies, to \$0*

995 **SECOND:** by Mrs. Douglas

996

997 Mr. Byron commented there is no warrant article for Health Agencies and that would zero out all
998 monies to the agencies that service Litchfield.

999

1000 Mr. Pascucci commented that he has been against budgeting for this from his first day on the
1001 Committee. He does not believe charity belongs in government. He noted he does believe in
1002 supporting charities [on a volunteer level]. Mr. Pascucci indicated that the first year he did not
1003 support it, but others did. He commented it was a warrant article last year and it was approved.
1004 He indicated that it is now in the budget and it does not belong there.

1005

1006 Mr. Spencer asked why Health Agencies was not included in the warrant. Mr. Byron indicated
1007 there was no discussion on it at Deliberative Session last year.

1008

1009 **VOTE ON THE AMENDED BOTTOM LINE FOR ACCOUNT 4415, HEALTH**
1010 **AGENCIES, OF \$0: 3-5-0**

1011 **The motion failed.**

1012

1013 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

1014 *Move to amend the bottom line of Account 4415, Health Agencies, to \$11,250*

1015 **SECOND:** by Mrs. Douglas

1016

1017 Mrs. Couture commented the town gets a list of the amounts for services every year and \$15,167
1018 is an actual request. She indicated these are services provided by the organizations and not
1019 charities.

1020

1021 Mr. Spencer commented that he made his motion for the amount approved by the voters last
1022 year.

1023

1024 **VOTE ON THE AMENDED BOTTOM LINE FOR ACCOUNT 4415, HEALTH**
1025 **AGENCIES, OF \$11,250: 2-6-0**

1026 **The motion failed.**

1027

1028 **VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION TO APPROVE THE BOTTOM LINE OF \$15,167 FOR**
1029 **ACCOUNT 4415, HEALTH AGENCIES: 3-5-0**

1030 **The motion failed.**

1031

1032 **MOTION:** by Mr. Byron

1033 *Move to approve a bottom line of \$15,166 for Account 4415, Health Agencies, for 2016*

1034 **SECOND:** Mr. Bourque

1035

1036 **MOTION:** by Mrs. Couture

1037 *Move to amend the bottom line of Account 4415, Health Agencies, to \$12,000*

1038 **SECOND:** by Mr. Bourque

1039

1040 Mr. Pascucci commented we can go back and forth on this issue. He indicated that the Board of
1041 Selectmen approved it and brought forth a warrant last year.

1042

1043 **VOTE ON THE AMENDED BOTTOM LINE FOR ACCOUNT 4415, HEALTH**
1044 **AGENCIES, OF \$12,000: 4-4-0**

1045 **The motion failed.**

1046

1047 **MOTION:** by Mrs. Douglas

1048 *Move to amend the bottom line of Account 4415, Health Agencies, to \$7,500*

1049 **SECOND:** by Mrs. Couture

1050

1051 Mrs. Douglas commented it is not fair to the agencies not to provide some funding, but her
1052 concern was there is no time to bring forth a warrant article.

1053

1054 **VOTE ON THE AMENDED BOTTOM LINE FOR ACCOUNT 4415, HEALTH**
1055 **AGENCIES, OF \$7,500: 1-7-0**

1056 **The motion failed.**

1057

1058 **VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION FOR A BOTTOM LINE FOR ACCOUNT 4415,**
1059 **HEALTH AGENCIES, OF \$15,166: 4-4-0**

1060 **The motion failed.**

1061

1062 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

1063 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$10,000 for Account 4445.2, Welfare, for 2016*

1064 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

1065 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

1066 **The motion carried.**

1067

1068 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

1069 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$83,029 for Account 4520.1, Parks and Recreation, for*
1070 *2016*

1071 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

1072 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

1073 **The motion carried.**

1074

1075 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

1076 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$207,017 for Account 4550.2, Library, for 2016*

1077 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

1078 **VOTE: 7-1-0**

1079 **The motion carried.**

1080

1081 **MOTION:** by Mrs. Douglas

1082 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$902 for Account 4583.1, Patriotic Purposes, for 2016*

1083 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

1084 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

1085 **The motion carried.**

1086

1087 **MOTION:** by Mr. Peeples

1088 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$1,760 for Account 4611.2, Conservation Commission, for*
1089 *2016*

1090 **SECOND:** Mrs. Douglas

1091 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

1092 **The motion carried.**

1093

1094 **MOTION:** by Mr. Peeples

1095 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$1 for Account 4723.1, Debt Services, for 2016*

1096 **SECOND:** Mrs. Douglas

1097 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

1098 **The motion carried.**

1099

1100 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

1101 *Move to approve the bottom line of \$5,395,953 for the Town of Litchfield operating budget for*
1102 *2016*

1103 **SECOND:** Mr. Peeples

1104
1105 Mr. Pascucci commented that this budget is going to be approved. He indicated the difference
1106 between the operating budget and the default budget is small. He noted that he is looking at the
1107 'big picture' and believes there is room for improvement. Mr. Pascucci commented this is the
1108 Budget Committee's budget and the budget has grown significantly over the last 10 years. He
1109 indicated at the rate the budgets are increasing the town budget will be \$10M in seven years. He
1110 noted that the budget has to be controlled and the Budget Committee must be responsible to our
1111 voters.

1112
1113 Mrs. Couture commented in terms of this budget it is a reduction in the tax rate of 19 Cents and
1114 the default will be a reduction of 24 Cents.

1115
1116 Mr. Pascucci commented that he sometimes feel the Budget Committee is in the business of
1117 managing acceptable levels of increase every year instead of avoiding spikes. He indicated he
1118 does not support the recommendation of upward growth when things are declining.

1119
1120 Mr. Bourque commented that Mr. Pascucci makes the same argument every year. He asked if
1121 the costs in his company increase or not.

1122
1123 Mrs. Douglas commented she is voting against the bottom line because of other reasons. She
1124 believes there are areas within the budget where there are increases that can be changed.

1125
1126 Mr. Byron called the question.

1127
1128 **VOTE: 5-3-0**
1129 **The motion carried.**

1130
1131 **7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS/OLD BUSINESS**
1132 Mrs. Couture indicated the School Board approved the default budget and discussed the warrant
1133 articles on December 16. She asked if they could be sent to the Budget Committee before
1134 Thursday night.

1135
1136 Mr. Spencer commented that the Committee will be voting the school district bottom line. He
1137 indicated there is an open question regarding the Superintendent's salary in the budget.

1138
1139 Mr. Bourque indicated the number is close to what is budgeted.

1140
1141 Mr. Spencer noted that health care is included in that account and he asked for the numbers on
1142 Thursday night.

1143
1144 **8. PUBLIC INPUT**
1145 There was no public input.

1146
1147 **9. ADJOURN**
1148 **MOTION:** by Mrs. Douglas
1149 ***Move to adjourn***

DRAFT

1150 **SECOND:** by Mr. Peeples

1151 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

1152 **The motion carried.**

1153

1154 The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

1155

1156 **Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 7, 2016

1157

1158 **Recorded by: Michele E. Flynn, Recording Secretary**

1159

1160

1161

1162