

**Minutes of the
Litchfield Budget Committee Meeting
Held on January 30, 2016**

The Litchfield Budget Committee held a meeting on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Campbell High School, One Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH 03052.

PRESENT: C Couture (Chair), K Douglas (Vice Chair), R Peeples, C Pascucci, D Vaillancourt, R Keating, F Byron (Selectmen’s Representative), B Bourque (School Board Representative)

Absent: B Spencer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Couture called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

3. BUDGET COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mrs. Couture commented that the 2016 Town of Litchfield budget bottom line has changed; wording regarding article recommendation has changed; and an amount changed in Article 10. She asked if anyone would like to reopen or revote the changed articles.

6. TOWN BUDGET

Article 6: Operating Budget

Mrs. Couture noted the new bottom line for the 2016 Town Operating budget is \$5,425,953 as \$30,000 was added to the budget for the implementation of the second year of the town wage plan.

MOTION: by Mrs. Douglas

Move to recommend Article 6, 2016 Operating Budget, as amended at Deliberative Session

SECOND: by Mr. Keating

Mr. Pascucci commented that money should not be included in the budget. He indicated the Board of Selectmen feel that because the voters approved the article to implement the first year of the wage plan last year they approved subsequent years as well. Mr. Pascucci commented if we recommend the amended article with the additional \$30,000 added to the operating budget, it will be taken out of this committee’s hands going forward and will be in the budget annually. He indicated it is a paradigm shift and we are making this committee less relevant.

Mr. Bourque commented that because it has been added to the budget does not mean it is in the budget every year.

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48 Mr. Pascucci believes it is included in the budget regardless.

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50 Mr. Bourque commented when something similar is included in the budget, this committee
51 removes it.

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53 Mr. Peebles commented he is in favor of giving voters more choices.

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55 Mrs. Douglas commented the warrant states \$30,000 for three years, but is not clearly indicated
56 that it would be \$30,000 each year for three years, for a total of \$90,000 or if it is \$30,000 over
57 three years. She noted she has issue with the way the article was prepared.

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59 Mr. Byron clarified that during Deliberative Session last year, the slides for the warrant clearly
60 stated it was a total of \$90,000 (\$30,000 per year for 3 years). He indicated nothing has been
61 withheld from the voters.

62
63 Mrs. Couture commented although a small group of people attended this morning, the vote was
64 significant. She indicated it is her assumption they are representative of a larger group of
65 Litchfield voters. She noted they had the opportunity to comment. Mrs. Couture commented the
66 Budget Committee would be recommending or not recommending that \$30,000 be added to the
67 budget.

68
69 Mr. Pascucci commented that, for him, it is about the process. He observed that voters who
70 watch the Deliberative Session at home may not have time to attend and vote on the articles, or
71 may feel they do not have to show up after viewing the debate.

72
73 Mr. Byron commented during the discussion at Deliberative it was stated the Board of Selectmen
74 agreed it was only a vote of \$30,000. He indicated the intent of Mr. Spencer’s question that was
75 read in the minutes last year was not that the Board of Selectmen would bring an article forward
76 every year.

77
78 **VOTE: 4-4-0**
79 **The motion failed.**

80
81 **Article 6 is neither recommended nor not recommended by the Budget Committee.**

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83 **Article 9: 2nd Year of Town Wage Plan Implementation**

84 Mrs. Couture indicated since the article wording has changed there is no money attached to the
85 article; therefore, the Budget Committee has no recommendation on this article.

86
87 **Article 10: 1st Year of Library Non-Union Wage Plan Implementation**

88 Mrs. Couture noted that the amount associated with the article has changed from \$14,819 to
89 \$10,648.

90

91 Mrs. Douglas asked if we recommend the article are we recommending the total \$30,000; will
92 there be articles for \$10,000 for the next two years; or will the subsequent years be included in
93 the budget?
94

95 Mr. Pascucci commented when he voted last year for the town wage plan he was under the
96 impression that the Library was part of the town. He indicated he had many reasons why he
97 voted the way he did this year. He noted the Board of Selectmen should have put it in the
98 budget.
99

100 Mrs. Douglas wanted to know if the Budget Committee will be recommending just the \$10,000
101 in the article.
102

103 Mrs. Couture indicated there will be different Trustees next year who can make the decision.
104

105 Mrs. Douglas clarified that voting positively on this article does not mean she is voting on future
106 endorsements of this plan.
107

108 **MOTION:** by Mrs. Douglas

109 ***Move to recommend Article 10, 1st Year of Library Non-Union Wage Plan Implementation, as***
110 ***amended at Deliberative Session***

111 **SECOND:** by Mr. Keating

112 **VOTE: 6-2-0**

113 **The motion carried.**
114

115 **Article 10 was recommended by the Budget Committee.**
116

117 **MOTION:** by Mrs. Douglas

118 ***Move to adjourn***

119 **SECOND: Mr. Peeples**

120 **VOTE: 8-0-0**

121 **The motion carried.**
122

123 The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.
124

125 **Next Meeting:** Saturday, February 6, 2016 following Deliberative Session
126

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