

LITCHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our mission is to provide rigorous and varied educational opportunities that challenge and engage all students to attain their highest level of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth. (2007)

**LITCHFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 27
Litchfield, New Hampshire 03052**

Approved Minutes for February 10, 2018

In Attendance: Brian Bourque, Chair
Christina Harrison, Vice Chair
Derek Barka, Board Member
Elizabeth MacDonald, Board Member
John York, Board Member
Mr. James L. O'Neill, Superintendent
Cory Izbicki, Business Administrator
Michele E. Flynn, Administrative Assistant

I. PUBLIC SESSION **Immediately following Deliberative Session**

A. Call to Order

Brian called to order at 12:30 p.m.

B. Deliberative Session Amendments and Changes

Mr. Bourque indicated that the Board needs to vote on recommendations for the articles that were amended at Deliberative Session.

Article 1 was proposed as:

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote at the first session of the annual school district meeting, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Twenty-Two Million, Three Hundred Forty-Two Thousand, Six Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$ 22,342,614)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Twenty-Two Million, Eight Hundred Six Thousand, Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$22,806,098) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Litchfield School District or by law; or the School Board may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Estimated Tax Impact: Operating Budget \$0.63 Default Budget: \$1.15

*Not Recommended by the School Board
Vote 0-4-0*

*Recommended by the Budget Committee
Vote 5-0-0*

Mr. Bourque indicated the article was amended to reflect the operating budget was reduced by \$1, as follows:

*Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote at the first session of the annual school district meeting, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Twenty-Two Million, Three Hundred Forty-Two Thousand, Six Hundred **Thirteen** Dollars (\$ 22,342,**613**)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Twenty-Two Million, Eight Hundred Six Thousand, Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$22,806,098) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Litchfield School District or by law; or the School Board may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.*

Estimated Tax Impact: Operating Budget \$0.63 Default Budget: \$1.15

Mr. Barka made a motion to recommend Article 1 as amended. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 4-1-0.

LITCHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our mission is to provide rigorous and varied educational opportunities that challenge and engage all students to attain their highest level of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth. (2007)

Article 2 was proposed as:

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Nineteen Thousand, Seven Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$ 519,732) for the purpose of funding the costs associated with the expansion of the Kindergarten program at Griffin Memorial School from half day to full day? This appropriation is anticipated to be offset by \$96,280 in aid from the State of New Hampshire.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.48

*Recommended by the School Board
Vote 4-0-0*

*Recommended by the Budget Committee
Vote 6-0-0*

Mr. Bourque indicated Article 2 was amended to reflect changes as follows:

Shall the Litchfield School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand, Two Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$774,242) for the purpose of funding the costs associated with the expansion of the Kindergarten program at Griffin Memorial School from half day to full day? It is anticipated that this appropriation will be offset by \$430,650 to come from state and local revenues.

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.38

Mr. York indicated he was confused on Article 2. He commented that Board members never received notification that the Board of Selectmen had approved the use of impact fees and no information that the warrant article was changed. He expressed that he did not understand how the Chair could make changes to an article without Board approval. He commented perhaps the Chair had feedback from the Superintendent and the Vice Chair.

Mr. Bourque indicated that the February 7 meeting was cancelled.

Mr. York commented the Chair had no authority to change the warrant article. He believes the Chair went about it in an unprofessional way. He indicated it is difficult for him to support the article based on what has occurred. Mr. York commented other members can vote to support the article, but they would be voting to believe the Chair can implement school directed policy with no authorization of the School Board.

Mr. Bourque commented the change that was made was to include the impact fees as an offset to the appropriation. He indicated we as a Board directed the Superintendent to secure impact fees to utilize for kindergarten and that is what changed.

Mr. York indicated the majority of the Board did not receive information on what was occurring. He commented we would have supported the Chair if the Chair included the Board in one of the biggest warrant articles that we wanted to be approved by the voters. He noted he is not able to support the article now and is disappointed in the Superintendent.

Mr. Bourque apologized for his oversight in informing the Board regarding the impact fees approval.

Mr. York commented that the Chair cannot change the warrant article. He indicated the Board did not authorize the Chair to change the warrant article and feels legal opinion is needed.

Mr. O'Neill apologized to the Board for not ensuring that all Board members were informed with the impact fees information.

Mrs. Flynn clarified that the official written notification from the Board of Selectmen regarding their approval of the use of impact fees was not received until late in the day on Friday.

Mr. Bourque indicated that legal opinion can be requested.

LITCHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our mission is to provide rigorous and varied educational opportunities that challenge and engage all students to attain their highest level of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth. (2007)

Mr. O'Neill commented that the amendment was made by politic by all assembled at the meeting. He indicated there was a change or amendment made by the Chair as a citizen and discussed by the body of the meeting and a vote was taken. He noted he assumed the Board voted as part of that body.

There was no final vote on the motion.

B. Public Input

William Spencer, 9 Cranberry Lane, commented two changes were made: from lease of the modular classrooms to purchase and the funding. He would expect the Board would have voted on that.

II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3II (b, c)

[Minutes of Non-Public Session are written under separate cover.]

Upon a motion by Mr. Bourque, the Board entered into non-public session at 12:45 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. (c) Matters, which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mr. Barka, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. York, yes.

III. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. York, the Board returned to public session at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Bourque seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote: Mr. Bourque, yes; Mrs. Harrison, yes; Mr. Barka, yes; Mrs. MacDonald, yes; Mr. York, yes.

The Board discussed posting agendas and meeting material attachments in a more timely manner.

It was suggested to allow the public to comment online during board meetings.

Final Votes on Amended Warrant Articles

Final votes on the articles amended at Deliberative Session were discussed.

Mr. Barka made a motion to recommend Article 1. Mrs. Harrison seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Mr. Barka made a motion to recommend Article 2. Mrs. MacDonald seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

IV. ADJOURN

Mr. Barka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Mrs. MacDonald seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele E. Flynn
Administrative Assistant to the School Board