

1                                   **Minutes of the Litchfield Budget Committee Meeting**  
2                                   **Held on February 8, 2014**

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4 The Litchfield Budget Committee held a meeting on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at Campbell  
5 High School, 1 Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH 03052.

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7 **PRESENT:** R Peeples (Vice Chair), W Spencer, C Pascucci, C Couture, J York (School Board  
8 Representative), J Brunelle (Selectmen’s Representative)

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10 **Absent:** A Cutter (Chair), D Vaillancourt,

11  
12 Mr. Cutter called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

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14 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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16 **2. PUBLIC INPUT.**

17 There was no public input.

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19 **3. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

20 There were no revisions or additions to the agenda.

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22 **4. SCHOOL BUSINESS**

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24       • **General Updates**

25 Mr. York indicated there were no updates.

26  
27       • **Final Voting**

28  
29 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

30 *Move to reopen Article 1: Operating Budget to re-vote recommendations*

31 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci

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33 Mr. Spencer commented that he was not in support of the operating budget as changed at  
34 Deliberative Session.

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36 Mr. Pascucci echoed Mr. Spencer’s comment.

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38 **VOTE: 5-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**

39 **The motion carried.**

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41 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

42 *Move to recommend the amount of the FY15 Operating Budget as amended at the February 8,*  
43 *2014 School District Deliberative Session*

44 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci

45  
46

1 Mr. Pascucci commented that the vote was made clear when amended.

2

3 Mrs. Couture provided a brief recap of the amendments to the FY15 Operating Budget. She  
4 noted that one dollar (\$1.00) was added to the bottom line for adult education and \$43,663 was  
5 added to the bottom line for transportation to represent the difference of the anticipated increase.  
6 She commented that when the budget was presented, it was stated that the increase to  
7 transportation could be as much as 25% due to Nashua going to bid for transportation. Mrs.  
8 Couture indicated that the School Board offered to bring forward a vote at Deliberative Session  
9 to change the amount of the increase if the total 25% increase was budgeted.

10

11 Mr. Peeples disagreed that was the case and commented that the increase was based on  
12 speculation.

13

14 Mr. York disagreed with Mr. Peeples's statement.

15

16 Mr. Spencer commented that he supported voting an increase into the transportation budget. He  
17 believes it could have been absorbed in the budget.

18

19 Mr. Pascucci agreed and commented that Dr. Cochran stated the increase could have been  
20 absorbed in the budget.

21

22 Mr. Peeples commented that the School Board accepted the 25% increase without doing  
23 anything.

24

25 Mr. York indicated that the School Board did act. He noted there were several conversations  
26 with Nashua and transportation vendors. He noted that the School Board believes there will be a  
27 25% increase.

28

29 Mr. Spencer agreed.

30

31 Mr. York indicated that Litchfield is tied to the contract out of Nashua. He commented that the  
32 School Board believes that the number brought forth to date is accurate. He noted that this is  
33 based on the Business Administrator's conversations with Nashua and on the vendor that will  
34 win the contract.

35

36 **VOTE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 1: FY15 OPERATING BUDGET WITH AN**  
37 **AMENDED BOTTOM LINE OF \$20,974,688.57: 3-3-0, with Mr. Spencer, Mr. Pascucci**  
38 **and Mr. Peeples opposing**  
39 **The motion failed because of a tied vote.**

40

## 41 **5. TOWN BUSINESS**

42

### 43 • **General Updates**

44 Mr. Brunelle reported that there was an unfortunate article in the HLN where they grossly  
45 estimated town taxes. He noted that the corrections and retraction will be published in their next  
46 edition. Mr. Brunelle indicated that the town has published corrections.

1  
2 Mr. Brunelle commented based on the approval of all town warrants [and the budget] the  
3 increase will be \$0.37 per thousand of home valuations. He indicated that this information is  
4 published on the town website and in other online areas.

5  
6 Mr. Spencer commented that the School District appropriately included the correct increase in  
7 their Deliberative Session presentation. He indicated the Town should have done the same.

8  
9 **6. PUBLIC INPUT**

10 Keri Douglas, 9 Pheasant Street, commented that it was unfortunate how the article regarding the  
11 tax increase was published in the HLN. She encouraged the Town to include the tax impact on  
12 the warrant articles.

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14 Mr. Spencer asked how the re-vote will be communicated.

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16 Mr. Peeples indicated he will communicate it to the Chair and the Moderator.

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18 • **Upcoming meetings**

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20 The next meeting of the Budget Committee is to be determined.

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22 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

23 ***Move to adjourn.***

24 **SECOND:** Mr. Pascucci

25 **VOTE: 6-0-0**

26 **The motion carried unanimously.**

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28 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

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30 **Minutes by:** *Michele E. Flynn (Recording Secretary)*

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32 **Date approved:**