

**Minutes of  
Litchfield Budget Committee Meeting**

**Held on June 26, 2008**

**Present:** B Lemire (Chairman), J Harte (Vice Chairman), P Parker, C Couture,  
M Falzone, R Peeples, G Lambert (Selectmen's representative)

**Absent:** B McCue, D Miller

Chairman Lemire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. P Parker

*Move to approve the minutes of April 24, 2008 as written*

**SECOND:** Mr. J Harte

**VOTE:** 5-0-2 (Mr. Falzone and Ms. Couture abstained)

The motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Mr. P Parker

*Move to approve the minutes of May 22, 2008 as written*

**SECOND:** Mr. J Harte

**VOTE:** 4-0-3 (Mr. Peeples, Chairman Lemire and Ms. Couture abstained)

The motion carried.

**3. TOWN BUSINESS**

**a) Review 2008 Actuals**

Chairman Lemire asked for comments from the Committee, however there were none.

**b) Final Report of 2007**

Selectman Lambert stated he had no official report as yet. Mr. Harte asked for an unofficial copy and Selectman Lambert stated he would request one. Selectman Lambert stated all spreadsheets from the Board of Selectmen will be provided electronically this year, and he handed out a copy of the Board's budget review schedule for information. He also stated the Board of Selectmen is looking into whether funds for roads have been encumbered through the auditor. It was clarified that if a contract had been signed for the work on Brickyard that the funds would be considered encumbered. Mr. Peeples confirmed there had been a contract and there followed a discussion regarding when reimbursement from FEMA might be expected, with Mr. Peeples stating they would probably not be

received until the end of the year. There followed a discussion on whether the FEMA paperwork had been filed.

Mr. Harte asked what the status was regarding the work on Corning Road and whether encumbered fund would be used. There followed a discussion in which Selectman Lambert stated it was his belief that this work would be done this year.

Selectman Peeples provided information about the status of outstanding FEMA funds due to be reimbursed to the Town. Chairman Lemire voiced his concern that there appeared to be a lot of money appropriated which is not being expended or not used for the appropriated purpose. Selectman Lambert reported that the Board of Selectmen has made a request of the Road Agent that he attempt to expedite all outstanding work

Following a query from Mr. Harte regarding \$70,000 for the repair of culverts on Talent and Roberts Roads and whether this work will be completed, there was a discussion and Selectman Lambert provided an update from the Board of Selectmen on culverts and their concerns which they have discussed with the Road Agent. He explained the Board is checking the bid information received. Mr. Falzone received confirmation from Mr. Peeples that Chase Brook and other connecting culverts were included.

Referring to the Board of Selectmen 2009 budget schedule, Selectman Lambert pointed out that the Board would be sending information to the Budget Committee until December 8, 2008. Chairman Lemire requested the Board revise the schedule as the Budget Committee needs to move on to the School Budget by Thanksgiving at the latest, suggesting the Board look at the format for the previous year. Chairman Lemire clarified the protocol for presenting to the Budget Committee which has been used in past years and Mr. Harte pointed out the Budget Committee would require budgets in advance of the meeting at which they would discuss the account.

#### **4. SCHOOL BUSINESS**

Ms. Couture handed out the monthly financials for May. She provided a status report on the amount the school district expects will be unexpended for 2008. She also provided a status report on the Fire Department's concerns pertaining to GMS, explaining that an engineering firm specializing in building and life safety issues has been hired to compile a comprehensive list of these concerns in order to ascertain those items which still need to be addressed. She pointed out that some of the unexpended fund may be used to make necessary repairs to GMS to make sure it opens in the fall. Ms. Couture also confirmed for Mr. Harte that the list will clarify which items are 'must do' and things which are not urgent.

Mr. Harte asked Mrs. Couture whether she had anything to share about the group who recently met with the Governor. Mrs. Couture provided the Committee with

information regarding what is taking place at State level to possibly assist poorer communities with funding for building schools. She also confirmed the Town has a three year window (until 2010) to obtain State aid for Kindergarten.

Chairman Lemire asked whether anyone had questions regarding the Air Quality Report and seeing none he thanked the School Board for providing the report to the Budget Committee.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Representative Lyn Ober was introduced and she provided the Budget Committee with a status report on the various Bills going through the legislature, stating whether or not the Governor had signed them. There was a discussion on the Evergreen Bill, the Bill for Kindergarten Aid and Public Kindergarten Bill. There was also a discussion on the budget shortfall at the State level and how this might be dealt with. The Committee thanked Ms. Ober for her report and for her efforts on behalf of the Town.

Chairman Lemire reminded everyone there would be no meeting in July and the next meeting would take place on the fourth Thursday in August.

**MOTION:** by Mr. R Peeples

***Move to adjourn the meeting***

**SECOND:** Mr. M Falzone

**VOTE:** 7-0-0

The motion carried unanimously and the meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

**Minutes compiled by:**            *Sandra Maxwell, Recording Secretary*