

Minutes of Litchfield Budget Committee

February 16, 2015

Present: Rodney Allen, David Blocher, Don Jenkins, Elton Wade

Absent: Judy Bourget, Richard Lane, Pat Soboleski

Reports:

1. Reviewed and accepted minutes from Jan 19 meeting.
2. The Selectmen accepted the Budget Committee Capital Investment Plan proposal at their Jan 26 meeting.
3. Don Jenkins will meet with Trudy Lamoreau to review items from the capital (insurance) inventory and estimate replacement dates and costs.
4. The Selectmen have been requested by the Road Advisory Committee to call a public meeting to discuss the potential abandonment/privatizing of 7 town roads that do not meet present specs and are very costly to maintain.
5. The Selectmen discussed the idea of trying to borrow to upgrade and pave roads while interest rates and paving (oil) costs are low. This will be referred to the Road Advisory Committee.
6. The 1 ton truck is on its last legs and will have to be replaced next year – if it lasts that long.
7. The RSU #4 School Board will begin holding budget meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Elton and David plan to attend. Elton will invite the Litchfield members of the School Committee a future meeting to discuss the expected impact on the real estate tax rate and ways to increase voter participation in the RSU budget adoption meeting.
8. Elton will ask the Selectmen to appoint a replacement for Judy Bourget on the Budget Committee.

Work Session:

9. Committee members reviewed the revenue, expense and fund balance reports through Jan 31:
 - a. Expenses seem in line through 7/12 of the year.

- b. Revenues seem reasonable except that data for RE Taxes and Homestead Reimbursement are missing.
- c. The sub-account report is not very useful as it appears to show only changes in the prior month, not year to date. All non-dedicated accounts are combined into a single “Town Sweep” account. David will discuss alternative reports with Trudy.

Next Meeting:

10. Next meeting is 6:30 PM on Monday, Mar 16 at the Town Hall

- a. Report on recent activities
- b. Meet with members of School Board?
- c. Review status of Capital Investment Program progress and issues

Respectfully submitted,

David Blocher, Secretary