

Town Of Litchfield
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Minutes

Approved 9/12/16

Date: September 8, 2016

1.0 Convened at 3:10 PM; Pledge to Flag: Selectmen Present: Chairman, Mark Russell and George Thomson.
Selectmen Absent: Tim Lachapelle. **Others present:** Trudy Lamoreau, Larry Nadeau, Steve Ochmanski, Elery Bane, Linda Hutchings and Janice Cowan.

2.0

3.0

4.0

5.0 Scheduled Business:

5.1 Assessing Workshop – Elery explained the factors that went into this year’s calculations. He presented a number of possible mill rates with the corresponding calculated overlay. At Monday’s meeting the Selectmen will first decide whether to commit the taxes at that meeting or wait until after the School Budget Validation Referendum. If they decide to commit that evening, they will then set the mill rate.

5.2 Citizen Petition Ordinance – Mark relayed the opinion of the Town’s Attorney that the Citizen Petition that was presented to the Selectmen at the August 22 meeting was a valid petition. Mark referenced an MMA publication entitled “Petitions for Town Meeting”. Mark indicated that at Monday’s meeting the Selectmen will need to consider the merits of the petition and either 1) schedule a Town Meeting or 2) refuse to put the petition on a Town Meeting Warrant. Any refusal of the petition would have to be “reasonable” and both Mark and George did not think grounds existed to refuse this petition. Mark noted that the petition that was presented contained many typographical errors and, in his opinion, some substantive and non-substantive defects. According to the publication, the Selectmen had no power to make any changes to the petition, but did have the ability to put an alternative article on the warrant which corrected the perceived deficiencies. Mark presented a draft of an alternative warrant article. George opined that he did not want the Selectmen to offer an alternative, but would consider one, if the residents expressed a desire at a public hearing that one be offered. A tentative schedule of Public Hearings and a Special Town meeting was presented as follows:

Sept 12 Selectman’s meeting – decide on merits of petition.

Sept 26 Selectman’s meeting – Public hearing on the petitioned article

Oct. 10 Selectman’s meeting – second Public Hearing if needed

Oct 24 Selectman’s meeting – recess for a Special Town Meeting.

Adjournment at 3:52 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Russell
Chairman