

State of Minnesota Capital Investment Committee:
Chair Fae Lee, Vice Chair Mary Murphy and Rep. Dean Urdahl:
From: Mayor Keith Johnson, City of Litchfield, Minnesota:

- These past two years (2020, 2021) because of Covid-19 and now in the beginning of 2022 with inflation of building and labor costs has greatly affected and stalled the building of our Wellness/Recreation Center for our city, school district, and our demographic area.
- The city of Litchfield, MN is grateful for the 2020 5-MillionDollar bonding allocation to help us build our portion of this Wellness Center. The Litchfield School District will be asking for the voters to approve a 13.5- Million Dollar 8 Lane competitive and recreation pool on the November 8, 2022 General Election. This will be the school districts contribution to our community Wellness Center Facility.
- Together with the City of Litchfield and the Litchfield School District, this proposed Wellness/Recreation Center in Litchfield will house an 8-lane competitive and recreation pool and a 4-station field house with bathrooms, locker rooms, Community Education office, community room and large lobby area. Targeted price at this time is 28-Million for the entire facility.
- Also, in February of 2020, the Minnesota House of Representatives House File #3674 gave the city permission to seek a .05% sales tax to match the 5-Million Dollar Bond over 20 years at the Presidential General Election November 3, 2020 to build a Wellness/Recreation facility.
- Because of Covid-19, the city decided to postpone the .05% sales tax ballot question in November of 2020 and will ask the voters to approve the .05% sales tax on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot.
- In 2020, with the 5-Million Dollar Bond, and If we would have asked for voter approval of the .05% sales tax match, the city then budgeted 10-Million Dollars to build the city side of the project, which was doable without city residential and business property tax increase for our side of the project. Now with inflation and two years later, we are looking at a 12 to 14-Million Dollar building budget increase because of inflated building and labor costs.
- The city voters need to pass the .05% sales tax on the November 8, 2022 ballot to help match the 2020 5- Million Dollar bond for us to even consider building this facility with the school district in 2022-23 and keep the city residential and business property taxes down to a minimum. The residential and business property taxes on the 13.5-Million Dollar 8 Lane pool will be spread out over the entire school district property tax payers.
- In order to ease the stress of inflation, the City of Litchfield is asking the 2022 bonding committee for an additional 2 million to the already acquired 2020 5 million Dollar bond to receive a total of 7 million dollars to defray the rise in building and labor costs. The city can match the 7-Million Bond with the .05% Sales Tax over the next 20 years.