

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2013**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman; Marty Mahoney, School Board Representative; Steve Laskowski, John Koopmann, Charlie Perry, Cliff Emery, Susan Newcomer, Dan Cotter, Jeff Morse, Frank Underwood, Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct; Elaine Levlocke (arrived at 7:10 PM).

Attendees: Rick Carrier, Town Administrator

Absent: Rich Kalich and Mike Wiggin, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative

The January 8th minutes were moved for consideration. After a discussion, Susan moved to table the minutes until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Charlie and passed unanimously.

Town – Elaine stated that Parks & Rec does not have a plan to replant trees at Ware’s Grove at this time, but they are open to feedback. It was discussed if Parks & Rec should get involved with the basketball program. It was asked about the school contributing to the Summer Program Fund.

Chesterfield Fire & Rescue – The amounts in Warrant Article 4 for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA’s) may change to \$36,000 in order to buy 6 this year, 6 next year and 3 the year after so the equipment doesn’t become obsolete all at once. The SCBA’s are \$6,000 a piece. There will be another article to name the Commissioners as agents for the Building Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). There is \$15,536.72 in the Non-CRF. Cliff asked about the pay rate for Chesterfield Fire? Frank stated that he needed to know what Spofford had for calls for comparison. The Chief in Spofford made over \$6,000. The Chesterfield Chief only earned just over \$4,000. Elaine stated that Spofford only pays 1 hour for training. A training exercise for 8 people in Chesterfield for 8 hours is 64 hours significantly more than the 8 hours in Spofford. Frank pointed out an error in the Annual Report: Spofford only had 166 calls last year.

School - Marty reported that the Mid-Year Review would be coming next week. The unencumbered balance at the mid-year is 150 to 175 thousand. Sharyn D’eon, the Principal, and Tim Ruehr the SAU29 Business Manager would be present for questions next week. Marty reported that he has also asked them to be present on the 30th for deliberations.

The 2013-2104 budget is presented with consideration to most importantly maintain the quality and integrity of the school’s current instructional program. The proposed budget reflects declining K-12 enrollment, not as significant as previous year; decrease in state revenues Catastrophic and Adequacy Aid, which are still unknown, and increases to State Retirement of 3% which impacts this budget at 22%. Adequacy Aid is an amount the State deems for an education in order to make all communities equal. The

amount is not enough to educate a child. The proposed budget is \$7,722,655 down – 481,276. Taking into account \$270,000 in transfers and \$195,000 surplus in the general fund from 2010-2011 the budget is down 173,276. The School Board hopes there is another unencumbered balance at the end of next year \$195,000. The only way to make back \$195,000 is to cut teachers and programs. There are 25 less projected students. John encouraged everyone to visit the school during school hours to observe operations prior to the deliberations.

There are staffing reductions proposed for 2013-2014 school year. A Music Teacher is being reduced by 50% for a savings of \$39,421. One Full Time Special Education Teacher is being eliminated for a cost savings of \$66,131. The School Psychologist is being reduced by 25%. This is currently an 80% position with benefits, the benefits will reduce costs by \$48,600. Three Full-Time support staff positions are also being eliminated for a savings of \$171,860. This includes one classroom aide and one inclusion aid. Other than these there is no elimination to regular instruction staff or programs proposed for next year. Marty reported that there has been a significant reduction to teaching staff. 5 to 6 teaching positions have been eliminated over the past 10 years. The Committee asked for a ratio of class size and staff for the next meeting. Susan cautioned the Committee to be careful about combing class with 12-15 students. If the class size gets above 28 at the K-8 level you will need to add another adult into the classroom so the cost savings decreases.

Marty reported that reorganization at the SAU has decreased SAU costs to Chesterfield by \$38,786. He stated that this is the first time ever that SAU costs have gone down. Building Maintenance costs have gone up \$22,381. Salaries & Benefits are up \$9,381 due to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Building & Grounds Manager has worked out so well that they are proposing a \$3,000 raise. This position has eliminated some contracted services and summer custodial. There is one bus being eliminated for a savings of \$46,151. Changes in Special Education enrollment will save \$28,760. Technology is up \$10,321 due to software upgrades and purchasing 26 new PC's.

There is one warrant article for a \$60,000 expenditure from the Capital Reserve Fund to upgrade the school's current wired & wireless systems. The Budget Analysis and the Budget Back-up should match up to the Budget Overview. The Staff Salaries are also in the book. There are no proposed security changes for the 2013-2014 school year. Marty stated that in his opinion it was too easy to gain access of the Main Office. Susan, Jeff & Frank will need back-up from 2012-2013 budget. There will be a line item by line item review at the next meeting.

Susan moved to adjourn at 9:04 PM. The motion was seconded by Dan and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary