

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2012**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman; Charlie Perry, John Koopmann, Rich Kalich, Mike Wiggin, Spofford Fire & Rescue Precinct, Gary Winn, Vice-Chair; Cliff Emery, Selectboard Representative; Marty Mahoney, School Board Representative; Steve Laskowski, Deb Chickering, CF&R Representative; Dan Cotter (arrived at 6:42 PM)

Bayard called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

- 1). Rich moved to approve the December 20th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Marty and passed unanimously.
- 2). Bayard discussed John Zannotti's job relocation, and his inability to attend Tuesday meetings for the foreseeable future. Gary stated that the Committee has had members in the past not present for the public hearing and deliberations. Bayard noted that the sign up period for elected Town Office positions to appear on the ballot is January 25th through February 3rd. The Committee members up for re-election are Bill Bucknell, Bayard Tracy, John Koopmann and Gary Winn. Bill Bucknell will not be seeking re-election.
- 3). Marty stated that the School Budget has not had final approval yet and will be ready prior to the January 17th meeting.
- 4). Chesterfield Fire & Rescue – Deb reported that electricity went up this year. Insurance and Workman's Comp went up 9%. The Commissioners used \$3.50 for fuel and raised payroll by 1%. The cost for the audit has decreased. The mutual aid amount for Chesterfield & West Chesterfield is \$20,351. This used to be billed for through the County. Minus the Mutual Aid the Fire Precinct operating budget is up \$629. They are proposing to reduce the general fund by \$11,221 to contribute to the Small Equipment CRF.

The Committee asked the Precinct to prepare an explanation for the public hearing to explain the individual grants and prepare a list of equipment to be purchased with each one. Steve asked the Commissioners to call the DRA and ask them for assistance writing the warrant articles. There is a proposed purchase of an AED LP 500 for \$3,500 and \$28,000 for a defibrillator with monitor. Spofford Fire Chief, Gordon Rudolph, reported that chances of survival with a defibrillator monitor are much better than with an AED.

Bayard asked the Precinct to find the \$2,867 increase in CRF's as well as the \$629 increase in the operating budget. Bob Goderre wanted to point out that this is a very tight budget and he does not want to compromise the liability for Fire Protection Services. If you have a close budget and fuel goes up then the budget is in trouble. Bayard stated that the Precinct was welcome to ask the Committee to vote on the Budget

as is. Cliff asked if there was anything in the \$150,000 grant that the Precinct needs beside the defibrillator and fire hose that they haven't asked for? The answer was no.

5). Spofford – Mike reported that the operating budget is down to \$64,410 minus Mutual Aid, Bond & Interest on the New Fire Station. The Precinct presented revised Large Equipment and Small Equipment schedules. Mike reported that Spofford is 55% of the Town's valuation. Chesterfield and West Chesterfield are only 45%. It was estimated that medical calls are about 70%. It was asked if the 2 precincts should be merged? The Commissioners reported that that was something that would not happen for a while. Mike predicted that the Precincts will be required to have full-time staff at the stations in the future. The budgets will definitely increase if that happens. The protective equipment for 1 firefighter is approximately \$10,000.

6). Town – A revised budget was presented showing additions to the General Fund that the Budget Committee may not be aware of. There will be a tax sale of property on Route 9 in February. The Town is not interested in being a landlord for the next 3 years. Rich asked about increases to assessed value. Rick estimated an additional 2,000,000 next year. Pete's Tire Barn is in process. Assessments are based on value as of April 1st.

Cliff asked the Committee for a vote on increasing the Transfer Station employee back to full-time. It is estimated that to reinstate full-time benefits is around \$40,000 per year, including wages, short term & long term disability and retirement benefits. Cliff stated that the Selectboard has purchased actual health insurance costs for the employee for 3 months until vote at Town Meeting. The Selectboard has been working over 2 years on this reduction. The part-time secretary has been reduced to 10 hours per year. The staff is licensed and all safety concerns have been addressed. Gary asked the Selectboard to be sure that the numbers are accurate for presentation at the Public Hearing. Marty asked the Selectboard to think about how the operation of the transfer station will change if \$40,000 is added back into the budget. The Committee declined to vote.

Bayard moved to adjourn at 9 PM. The motion was seconded by Gary and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary