

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 1, 2012**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman; John Koopmann, Charlie Perry, Rich Kalich, Susan Newcomer, Jeff Morse, Mike Wiggin, Spofford Fire Precinct; Marty Mahoney, School Board Representative; and Dan Cotter (arrived at 7:05 PM)

Absent: Steve Laskowski, Elaine Levlocke, Selectboard Representative; and the Chesterfield Fire Precinct Representative

No action was taken on the SAFER Grant at the Fire Precinct Meeting. Dan moved to approve February 28th as submitted. The motion was seconded by Charlie and passed unanimously. Susan, Marty and Jeff abstained.

There was no Selectboard person present to report on the status of the \$33,000 increase to reinstate a full-time employee plus benefits.

Rich moved enthusiastically to nominate Bayard as Chair. The motion was seconded by Charlie. Mike Wiggin moved to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Bayard stated that if he were to be elected as County Commissioner that he would most likely be resigning. Bayard was elected unanimously.

Charlie moved to nominate John Koopmann as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Rich and passed unanimously.

Marty reported that the available balance is now \$143,965. This is significantly higher than the \$86,156 from last month. Susan reported that the Bookmaking project at the school was a success. There are some books still on display in the library. The School had proposed a reduction in force due to declining enrollment. A senior staff member has applied for a sabbatical next year. It is a requirement that they stay employed for 2 years after they return. They would receive ½ pay while out on sabbatical. The employee that would have been let go is a teacher that had only been there for a couple years. The lower salary of the new teacher and the ½ of the salary for a teacher on sabbatical balanced out. The reduction in force will be delayed for another year. John K encouraged the Committee to tour the School. He will distribute a Special Education Study that is 2 years old.

Bayard asked the members of the Committee to be thinking about what the guidance letter should say this year. The guidance letter is addressed to the budget producing entities in Town. The Budget Committee presents the budget to the district meetings. The Committee can recommend or not recommend a specific budget. The budget can only be approved 10% over what the budget committee recommends. The Chief of Police, the Road Agent and the School Business Administrator visited with the Committee last year. Susan was concerned about the heavy-handedness of the guidance

letter last year. Bayard thought that having an actual value to solve to improved the quality of the budgets received last year. Bayard expressed frustration because the Town budget increased 3.3% and the School budget decreased by still increased taxes due to declining revenue. Rich suggested spending a meeting on finding revenue sources other than property taxes. Dan suggested that the Committee get approval from the Selectboard for overtime before meeting with department heads after hours. Dan also suggested having the representative from DRA come back to show how the tax rate is derived. Bayard moved to send a guidance letter. The motion was seconded by Charlie. The motion passed by majority.

The next meeting will be August 21st at 7 PM. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary