

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2012**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman; Steve Laskowski, John Koopmann, Charlie Perry, Mike Wiggin, Spofford Fire & Rescue Precinct, Dan Cotter (arrived at 7:05), Elaine Levlocke, Selectboard Representative (arrived at 7:06 PM), Rich Kalich (arrived at 7:13 PM)

Absent: Susan Newcomer, Jeff Morse, Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct Representative,

There were 5 members present at 7:00 PM. There was an informal discussion about the portables at the school. They will probably cost upwards of \$50,000 to recycle including the cost of moving and finishing the inside.

Bayard called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM

The Committee reviewed the August 21<sup>st</sup> minutes. Steve Laskowski moved to accept the August 21<sup>st</sup> minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Elaine and passed unanimously.

Dan stated that it was irresponsible to state at this committee that an individual doesn't receive any services for tax dollars. The role of the Committee is to provide guidance to the voters about the Budget.

Mike discussed the reasons that it took 28 minutes for the ambulance to arrive from Keene at the Town Offices in January. He stated that the issue was dispatch from VT. Once the call was turned over to NH 911, Keene Ambulance was here in 5 minutes. Mike stated that the emergency services are provided by volunteers.

School – Tim Reuhr reviewed the Fiscal year end for the school. There is \$325,998 in the fund balance. There were 2 unexpected expenditures this year. An air conditioner was purchased for the computer lab to prevent overheating. Technical equipment is now housed in one room. A Salad Bar was purchased by Food Service for \$4,400 because of a health department issue. It chills, rolls and has a sneeze guard. Interest rates in the cash account are way down. At town District meeting last year voters approved a \$75,000 contribution to the Capital Reserve Fund. Overall the taxes will be reduced between \$200,000 and \$250,000 from the unreserved fund balance.

Open Position on the Committee – Charlie Perry suggested Cliff Emery for the open position on the Committee due to his experience on the Selectboard. Dan stated that Dewey Auger ran for the position in March and should be willing to serve more than 1 year. Steve moved to nominate Dewey Auger to the open position on the Committee. The motion was seconded by Elaine. Rich moved to amend the motion to offer the position to Cliff Emery if Mr. Auger does not accept the position. The motion was seconded by Elaine. Steve wanted to advertise the position if Dewey chooses not to accept. The amendment failed 4-4. The motion to offer the position to Dewey failed by 4-4. Charlie moved to nominate Cliff Emery for the vacant position. The motion was seconded by John. The motion passed by 5 to 3.

Town – Elaine reported that the Selectboard had decided on 1.1% COLA and \$3.50 for fuel. The Selectboard will begin the review of the Budget on Wednesday. Rich stated that he would support a greater raise for the employees. He does not support an increase in taxes. What he is suggesting is fewer better paid employees. There are 18 full-Time employees. A 1.1% increase amounts to \$11,000.

The town budget is complete through 73% of the year. Sixty-Nine percent of the budget has been expended. Resurfacing is at 110% because of the carryover from last year. There are a little over a million in salaries not including benefits annually. John stated that there were reductions in medical benefits premiums as a result of combining with the school.

Spofford Fire – Mike reported that there was \$900 in gas taken by a volunteer firefighter. Fuel records are tracked at the highway garage. The volunteer firefighter was taking 5 gallons at a time at strange times. Firefighters are required to have criminal background checks, but not credit checks.

Revaluation won't take effect until next December tax bills.

Meeting Schedule as follows:

October 23<sup>rd</sup> Town – Police & Highway

November 13<sup>th</sup> Parks & Rec

December 11<sup>th</sup> for Department Heads

January 8<sup>th</sup> for the Fire Precincts

January 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> for the School.

Other - Charlie stated that the County costs continue to spiral out of control. The Committee should continue efforts to be heard. Charlie also was concerned about the cost for the School with declining enrollment. John stated that the enrollment at the school actually has stabilized this year. The Committee determined that it was too late to submit a letter of guidance to the Districts. Rich stated that the budget status forms have looked the same for years. There has to be a way to look at the budget differently to save costs?

Adjournment - Elaine moved to adjourn at 8:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Dan and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine  
Secretary