

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2016**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman; Norm VanCor, Gary Winn, Dan Cotter, Selectboard Representative; Marty Mahoney, School Board Representative; Steve Laskowski, Rick Cooper, Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct; Charlie Perry, Steve Buckley, Spofford Fire Precinct (arrived at 7:09 PM); and Sue Newcomer (arrived at 7:20 PM)

Absent: Rich Kalich, Carole Wheeler and John Koopmann

Chairman Tracy called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Cooper moved the December 15th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Gary and passed unanimously.

Mahoney reviewed the current budget. There are \$41,530 in refunds from Local Government Center. This should be the last year that these will be forthcoming. High School Tuition is down due to 3 withdrawals and 1 transfer to Special Ed. The net available is \$266,226. The Capital Reserve Fund Balance does not reflect the \$75,000 contribution and Expendable Trust does not reflect the \$10,000 contributions.

Mahoney reported that the School Board approved an operating budget of \$8,251,861 down 1.5%. Books will be available on Thursday. Mahoney will do an overview at the 19th meeting. The Board as well as Sharyn D'Eon and Janel Swanson will be available for the meetings on the 26th and February 2nd. There will be a warrant article for \$65,000 to replace controls and thermostats. If Grant Funds are not awarded to cover up to 60% of the cost the article will be withdrawn. There was a discussion about the award for the grant being available prior to the district meeting.

The Library is scheduled to meet with the Committee on the 26th at 7 PM. The Deliberations scheduled for Tuesday February 9th, Primary Day, were moved to Thursday February 11th.

Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct – Cooper reported that the budget is level funded except for the Mutual Aid payment. Mutual Aid is up \$3,000 for Chesterfield and \$2,200 for Spofford. Mutual Aid budget is up 6% but the increases to Chesterfield and Spofford are about 10%. The Selectboard will discuss the Mutual Aid payment further.

There is an increase to the contribution to Heavy Equipment CRF and a reduction to the Small Equipment CRF due to receiving the grant for the SCBA's last year. The \$2,000 contribution should be to the Fire Pond not the Firefighting Equipment Expendable Trust. The Fund Balance at the end of 2014 was \$15,562 and \$9,000 was returned to reduce taxes. The Precinct retains about \$10,000 in the General Fund. There was a discussion about the General Fund Balance. The Town carries about \$1,000,000. Winn asked to reconsider the budget for Propane, Heating Oil, and Vehicle Fuel. The proposed budget is an increase of 1.81% to taxes.

Spofford – Buckley stated that workman's comp and Mutual Aid is up. Fuel and Administrative Expenses are down. Cotter stated that the budget is up about \$3,000 due to the decrease in Bond Interest. Buckley stated that there are slight increases to the contributions to the Capital Reserve Funds. The Fire

Pond next to the Station needs to be dredged. Quotes are \$12,000 so they are proposing to put \$4,000 into Fire Pond this year. The Heavy Equipment contribution is up 5%. The Geo thermal heating system is working better. Winn stated that Pete's Tire Barn had a lot of the same issues with their system. Buckley stated that he believes the tax rate will remain the same, but will provide documentation by the next meeting.

Cooper moved to adjourn at 8:35. The motion was seconded by Cotter and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary