

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 31, 2017**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman; Cathy Harvey, School Board Representative; Dave Smith, Doug Foster, Dan Cotter, John Koopmann, Chris Babcock, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative; Rick Cooper, Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct Representative; Steve Laskowski, Gary Winn, Brad Roscoe, Selectboard Representative.

Absent: George Goulet and Carole Wheeler

Minutes - Rick Cooper moved to discuss January 17<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Dan. Dan moved to approve the January 17<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Brad and passed unanimously.

School – 252 students were in the Budget and 294 showed up. One Classroom teacher and 2 aides were hired with the \$88,000 voted in on the floor at the School District Meeting. It looks like the Transfer to Capital Reserve is showing \$60,000. The Committee believes this is Article 4 and 5 this will only happen if money remains on hand. The School Board will research this.

Cathy presented the Financial Report as of January 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is \$49,344 unencumbered. There was more revenue received from State Sources. The deficit is growing in preschool. High School 144 students were budgeted 129 are enrolled. There was savings in Propane for the building and a change order for special ed transportation has decreased. There are 2 OOD placements, 1 in Middle School and 1 in HS, coming next month.

The Committee discussed Article 4: Purchasing the Adjacent Land. Brad reported that he did meet with the Conservation Commission. John reported that the Conservation Commission can spend money for educational purposes. Is the land being offered at a fair price? Can the wetlands on the property be put in a Conservation Easement? Brad stated that the Conservation Commission usually leverages easements with Grants or Government Funds to maximize the investment value.

The Capital Improvements Plan was submitted for the School.

Town – Library submitted appropriations returned since 2002. Nothing was returned in 2008, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Questions were asked about the library policy for sick days.

Full Time Employee Benefits for 2015 were presented. The Committee would like salaried employees and 2016 data as well.

Town Hall Annex to Bid Package was discussed based on Public Hearing last week.

Broadband – Inadequate broadband reduces Real Estate values by 20%.

The sense of the committee was to not support the \$3,000 purchase of a new round table in the Selectboard Room.

Spofford Fire Precinct – Chris reported that the Geo Thermal heat/AC in the Spofford Station was failing. There is only 1 of 3 systems running and \$14,000 has been spent trying to repair it since 2014-2016. It is estimated that replacing the system will be \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Other – Cathy requested minutes more than a day in advance. She also requested that Committee members be respectful with their comments.

Steve, Carole and George are up for renewal in 2017.

The Public Hearing is Saturday, February 11 at 1 PM and 3 PM. The Deliberations Sessions on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> for the Town, the 15<sup>th</sup> for the School and the 16<sup>th</sup> , if necessary, need to be put on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine  
Secretary