

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman; Cathy Harvey, School Board Representative; Dave Smith, John Koopmann, Carole Wheeler, George Goulet, Dan Cotter, Chris Babcock, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative; Rick Cooper, Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct Representative; Steve Laskowski, Doug Foster, Gary Winn and Brad Roscoe, Selectboard Representative (arrived at 8:15 PM)

The Annual Meetings are March 18<sup>th</sup>; the School is at 9 AM and the Town will follow at 10:30 AM.

Summary – Bayard calculated average cost per student \$8,566,546/453.5 equals \$18,890/student. The increase to taxes if the budget passes is \$61.51 on \$100,000 house. The amount is \$62.46 if all warrant articles pass. Bayard predicts that tax bills will increase 5.79% if you live in Chesterfield or West Chesterfield and will increase 6.32% if you live in Spofford.

Cathy answered some final questions. Realty websites rank Chesterfield 43<sup>rd</sup> out of 336, which it makes it desirable for families looking for a good school district. Cathy reviewed the process for evaluating teachers. She stated that tuition for Hilltop Montessori is \$17,900 per year for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Private schools do not accept some of the special ed situations that public schools are required. Faculty and staff are not required to meet the same standards as public school teachers. NEA recommends 13-17 students per class. Smaller Balanced Assessment Results from 2014-2015 show Chesterfield is higher than the state average for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in ELA and Math with the exception of 4<sup>th</sup> grade Math.

Article 2: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,566,546 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the District. This article does not include appropriations proposed in other warrant articles.

Dan moved to recommend Article 2. The motion was seconded by Carole. Cathy, Dave, John Carole, George, Dan, Chris, Rick, Doug, Gary and Bayard voted Yes. Steve voted No. Motion passed by majority.

Article 3: To see if the District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the Chesterfield Support Staff Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year	
2017-2018	\$0
2018-2019	\$12,650
2019-2020	\$ 9,280

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

Carole moved to recommend Article 3. The motion was seconded by Dan. The next teachers contract will be negotiated next year for the 2018-2019 school year. There is no increase in cost for the 1<sup>st</sup> year in the support staff contract.

Dave, John, Carole, George, Dan, Chris, Gary and Bayard voted Yes. Rick, Steve and Doug voted No. The motion passed by majority.

Article 4: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$89,500 for the purpose of purchasing the 21.7 acre Chickering Lot which is adjacent to the School.

Carole moved to recommend Article 4. The motion was seconded by George. Cathy stated that she had contacted Masiello to see if \$89,500 was a marketable price. It was determined yes. Most buildable lots are from 8, 9, \$10,000 per acre. The Conservation Commission makes small donations and uses the money to leverage the purchase of larger parcels of lands with State, Federal and Private Grant money. The Commission could also limit future development. Bayard stated that Enrollment is increasing 5.60% and the fund balance is low. Steve stated that he felt the property fit in nicely with the Master Plan for green space in the center of Town he wanted to see the Board pursue donations and grants with much less impact to the taxpayers.

Dave, John, Carole, George, Dan, Chris, Rick, Steve, Doug, Gary, Bayard and Brad voted No. Cathy voted Yes. The motion failed.

Article 5: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate, and authorize the School Board to transfer \$65,000 to be deposited in the Capital Reserve Fund established by voters on March 5, 1994, for the purpose of major renovation/reconstruction of the school buildings and related costs, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Dan moved to recommend Article 5. The motion was seconded by Gary. Dan stated that next year he wanted to see a definitive Capital Improvements Plan. The Fire Alarm system does not meet current code and is not on the Capital Improvements Plan. There is no current budget allocation for repairing the system.

Cathy, Dave, John, Carole, George, Dan, Chris, Rick, Steve, Doug, Gary, Bayard and Brad voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Article 6: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate, and authorize the School Board to transfer \$10,000 to be deposited in the Special Education/High School Tuition Fund, established by voters on March 7, 1992, or to take any action in relation thereto.

Dan moved to recommend Article 6. The motion was seconded by Carole. Cathy stated that there was one student aging out in October that affected 3 budget items significantly: \$73,703 in HS OOD, \$20,460 in Health and \$20,656 in Transportation. That is significant impact for one student. Dan stated that he believed there should be a recommended value for this account as well. Cathy stated that this fund is only for use in unexpected cases. A student that is enrolled needs to be budgeted for.

Cathy, Dave, John, Carole, George, Dan, Chris, Rick, Steve, Doug, Gary, Bayard and Brad voted Yes. The motion passed Unanimously.

The next meeting is February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Gary moved to adjourn at 8:54 PM. The motion was seconded George and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine  
Secretary