

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2018**

Present: Gary Winn, Chairman; Dan Cotter, Brad Roscoe, Selectboard Representative; Carole Wheeler, George Goulet, Cathy Harvey, School Board Representative; Bayard Tracy, Rick Cooper, Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct Representative; Steve Laskowski, Doug Foster and Dave Smith.

Absent: Chris Babcock, Spofford Fire & Rescue Precinct; John Koopman

Minutes - Steve moved to discuss November 14th minutes. The motion was seconded by Dan. Rick moved to approve November 14th as amended. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously.

Calendar – The Committee discussed the meeting dates. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 16th. January 23rd and January 30th are also scheduled if necessary.

The Committee moved to hold the Public Hearing on February 3rd with the School at 1 PM and the Town at 3 PM. Brad will see that the Hearing is properly advertised.

The School District Meeting is Saturday March 10th at 10 AM.

The Town Meeting is Saturday March 17th at 10 AM.

Code Enforcement – Rod was asked to be present to discuss the \$4,000 budget item for Hoarding. Rod stated that there are 150 hoarders by statistics in Town. Hoarders are Junk Yards. There are no resources in Town to deal with these professionally. They are public safety issues for fighting fires. Rod would like to be able to refer to professional agencies. This would afford 20 weeks of counseling. The Question was asked about why Hoarding over Opioid Addiction? Rod offered presentation from Winchester.

There was a flood in the Town Offices last week, illustrating the need for digital storage. There is still paperwork that needs to be converted to digital.

Parks & Rec – Eric Barnes, Dewey Auger and Peter Zampella, Parks & Rec Director, were present to discuss the Parks & Rec Budget. The overall budget is down 5%. The Commission is predicting a \$127,000 in Revenue for 2018. They are managing staff better to reduce salaries. The \$1,000 hardware purchased last year was a one time expense. Telephone expense has gone up due to losing Argent's free service. Admission is not increasing this year. A resident has gone to the Selectmen requesting to have music at the Beach. The resident is trying to attract families. The Gates will still be locked at 9 PM. The Committee discussed Parks & Rec being self-funding and how to see that \$11,000 in revenue gets returned to their projects. The Selectboard is still looking for the cost of a Storm Water Plan and Implementation to address the Drainage issues at North Shore and Ware's Grove.

Library – Ken Walton, Chairman of Library Trustees and George Preston, Library Director were present. George started in August. The Director Salary is up 17.5% due to the full-time position. An updated Circulation Report was submitted. The Trustees are focused on fundraising not involving the staff. George is interested in pursuing Grants. There are system upgrades that need to be done. The Koha

server is failing and several computers have been refurbished and need to be replaced. The Trustees and Friends organizations are willing to help. It was suggested that computers should be a Capital Expenditure.

Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct – The 15% increase in revenue for taxes is primarily due to the \$15,162 in Warrant Article 8 to purchase the generator. The Commission has applied for a NH 50/50 grant due to the fact that it is a primary shelter for Residents. The School Generator only runs the gymnasium and not the kitchen. There are no showers at the School. The Precinct Commissioners may decide that this is a necessary purchase and the article be written to purchase the generator and its entirety.

Article 4 is the Budget. Article 5, 6 and 7 are Contributions to Heavy Equipment, Small Equipment and Fire Ponds. Article 9 is to bury and screen the Propane Tank for the Generator. It was suggested that the Highway Garage could bury the tank at a reduced expense. Article 10 is a repeat of the Grant from last year to replace an engine. If the Grant is not received this year, the 6E2 is scheduled to be replaced next year on the Heavy Equipment CRF. Article 11 is also a repeat Grant to replace the Thermal Imaging Camera. Article 12 is also a joint grant with Spofford and Westmoreland. This Grant was also applied for last year with minor changes. Article 13 is a Joint Grant hosted by Spofford for Driver Training and Pump Training. The Joint Grant hosted by Spofford last year was granted.

Town – COLA is 1.3%. The Selectboard has an \$8,000 contract for snow removal in front of the Town Offices. There is a Warrant Article to demolish the old Town Office Building for \$30,000. There are 3 Articles for the Town Hall; \$415,000 is for a complete kitchen; \$50,000 for Annex Bathrooms only and \$30,000 to study future Construction. The Goal being one of these articles to move forward. The Committee asked for some options for the old Town Office Building as well. The concern being that there could be an agreement before the Selectboard and the Town could vote to have it torn down. There was also concern about lease agreement and enforcing contingencies.

The Selectboard has hired temporary help in the Selectmen's Office until a new Town Administrator is hired. The Selectboard is still researching Town Administrator Salaries but have used \$60,000 for the Budget. They are hoping to get someone in place by mid March. The Town Office Copier needs to be replaced. The Committee reviewed Revenue. Miscellaneous Health and Agencies have submitted documentation that they are serving Chesterfield Residents. Legal Expense is up \$20,000 due to Building, Code Enforcement and Zoning Issues. The Highway Garage is purchasing a 1-Ton Truck. The Solar Proposal was discussed.

School – Cathy presented a rough Capital Improvements Plan through 2022 to be discussed in more detail next week. The Budget being presented next week is not finalized.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary