

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2018**

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

Absent: Carole Wheeler, Dave Smith and Steve Laskowski

Dan moved to approve the January 16th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Chris and passed unanimously.

Town – Brad submitted paperwork on Forester Services. The Budget Cost is closer to \$5,000 than \$3,000 reported last meeting. There was \$18,000 revenue in Timber Cutting in 2016. There is no way to know how many violations there are. The Selectboard also submitted paperwork on the amendment to the Veteran's Tax Credit. It could be up to \$176,850 in lost revenue. The warrant article reads 90 days in active service and honorably discharged...

Brad presented paperwork for the Solar Agreement. The Town is applying for Grants and seeking Investors. The articles read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to enter into the proposed agreements to facilitate the leasing of Town Property on the Corner of Route 63 and Stage Road to the Chesterfield Community Solar, LLC for the purpose of installing a Solar Array. These agreements include a minimum of the following: 1) a 10 year Lease, 2) a PILOT agreement and 3) a PPA (Power Purchase Agreement). These agreements will only be entered into if the LLC acquires sufficient funding for the project.

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Solar Energy Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of acquiring solar arrays built on Town Property and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to be placed in this fund. Contributions to this fund will only be made in the Town enters into a contract with the LLC.

There are several different options if the Town buys out the Project in Year 7 vs Year 9. The latest buyout allowed in Year 10.

Brad asked about handouts provided for the Town at the Public Hearing. Amy has the Budget that was presented last year. There is also a revenue handout and a Capital Reserve Fund Balances handout. Brad will make a copy after the meeting.

Library – Cathy presented updated info from the library. She stated that George had started in September and was working on making changes. The Library is now open 11 to 7 Monday thru Thursday and 9 to Noon on Saturday. It opens at 10 on Mondays for Children's Story Hour. For safety purposes there are always 2 employees on staff. Cathy presented the Value of Library Services, Books, CDs, Puzzles Borrowed and Computer Use, etc. The Computers in the library are old and need to be replaced.

School – The HVAC and Bleachers are one-time expenses that will be coming out of the Capital Reserve Fund. Cathy stated that the roofing, asbestos, windows etc are ongoing projects that are coming out the

Budget. The Committee discussed Capital Assets and suggested a different Fund could be established for the ongoing replacement expenses. The Security System keyless entry needs to be replaced in 2020-2021. They are hopeful that a grant may be awarded before then.

Cathy presented the Financial Report. There is an increase in Revenue due to CAT aid and the accounting of \$16,452 revenue for the 90% PE teacher. Transportation has changed due to in and out of District. The available balance is \$184,275.

Spofford Fire Precinct – Chris presented updated figures. Propane is up due to the new heating system. Gas and Diesel are also up due to expenditures last year. Physicals are down. The overall budget is down .70%. The Offset to Taxes number is not available yet. There is a Forestry Grant and a Regional Training Grant that are in process. The Department will spend \$26,000 on SCBA's this year. There is over \$100,000 in Grant Funding that has come in last year. Chris discussed the proposal to lease equipment vs purchase in the Heavy Equipment CRF. There is a need for a Quick Attack and a Tanker this year. Leasing prevents the large capital expenditure up front and spreads the payments over time.

Bayard expressed that the Heavy Equipment is too expensive and did not want to provide equipment from multiple departments for Mutual Aid fighting a fire in another town. John wants to continue discussion to merge the departments.

The January 30th meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be the Public Hearing on Saturday February 3rd at 1 and 3. The School will deliberate on February 6th and the Town will deliberate on February 8th. The Fire Precincts could be on the 6th or the 8th whichever night is shorter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary