

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2020**

Present: Steve Laskowski, Chairman; Alex Winn, Judy Idelkope, Scott Riddlemoser, Burt Riendeau, Brad Roscoe, Jeanny Aldrich, Selectboard Rick Cooper, CF&R Representative; Rob Hodgkins, Spofford Fire Precinct and George Goulet

Absent: Dan Cotter, Gregg Denzler and Genienne Hockensmith

As Chair of the Chesterfield Budget Committee, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Committee is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-646-558-8656 (New York) or # 1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago) and password 985 4165 6246 or by clicking on the following website address:

<https://zoom.us/j/98541656246?pwd=VHp2N2RpRHl2WHNodjdjODlNMmI0dz09>

Meeting ID: 985 4165 6246

Passcode: 288404

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting;

We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting using Zoom, and instructions are provided on the Town of Chesterfield website at: <https://chesterfield.nh.gov/>.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access;

If anyone has a problem, please call 802-579-6199 or email at: amy.lafontaine@nhchesterfield.com.

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Police – Police Chief, Duane Chickering, was present to discuss the Police Budget. He is in the 2nd year of his 3 year contract. There is a proposed pay increase for officers. 22 Full-Time Officers, 16 Part-Time Officers have left the department since 1984. Only 2 Full-Time Officers have retired from Chesterfield. The PD Secretary is retiring in April after 30 years. The increase brings the officer pay to just below State Police Rates. The Extra Details in Hinsdale that were proposed last March never happened because of shortage of officers. There is a new IT Company called World Wide Computer Solutions for higher security. The IT Line is actually down more than what has been submitted to the Committee.

The PD is switching to all wheel drive Durangos. Dodge stands by its products. They are no longer making the Chargers. The wrong numbers were presented from the Capital Reserve Funds. The Budget

Paperwork will be re presented. The Small Equipment CRF proposes a laptop and 8 Tasers for 2022 and Light Bars have been moved to 2024.

Library – Beth Ruane, the new Library Director, went over the Budget with the Committee. The Youth Librarian is on the 4th Step. There is a new company for Custodial which is more expensive. No employees at the Library are eligible for health insurance or other benefits at this time. They are all below 35 hours per week. In the Big Shift Library remodel project the 2nd half of Carpet is going in next week. The Library is still expecting children to come over after school once the Library is reopened. Steve asked how many library cards have been issued?

Personnel Administration – Jeanny stated that the deductible was too high and employees were shopping for cheapest prices. Brad pointed out that in the private sector employees paid 15 to 20% of the insurance premiums. Town employees are only paying 5%. Jeanny pointed out that private employers then often issue HSA cards to cover the deductibles.

Government Buildings – Town Hall will be open again early next year. Jeanny stated that there will be an additional cleaning cost that will be passed onto renters. The alarm contract is up 500%. Steve asked about the \$12,000 spent in building repairs and maintenance? There is a building expendable trust and capital reserve funds that were created to cover these items he suspects. The Town received \$1.59 contract for Propane. The Pre-buy Contract is completed in August. Some of the amounts are guesses. Buildings have been used a lot less than usual this year.

Parks & Rec – Jeanny wasn't sure what the changes were that this Budget came back to the Committee. It is possibly just listing out salaries and explaining that Pat Rawson Construction overexpended on Tree Work and Grounds Maintenance. Steve asked if the new After School Day Care Program was adequately covered by Town Insurance?

Ex – Officio Reports –

Chesterfield Fire & Rescue – Rick reported that the Cab & Chassis for the new Truck has been finished and on to the next location for building.

Spofford – Rob reported that there was nothing new to report

School – No representative present

Other – Steve reported that there would not be a Joint Meeting between the Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The planning meeting on December 22nd for this has been cancelled.

Minutes – Rick moved to approve November 10th minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Brad. Alex, Judy, Scott, Burt, Brad, Jeanny, Rick, Rob, George and Steve voted Yes.

The next meeting will be January 5th at 7 PM. The Agenda includes: Capital Reserve Funds, Expendable Trusts, Miscellaneous Health Agencies, Warrant Articles, Revenues and Fire Precincts.

Brad moved to adjourn at 8:56 PM. The motion was seconded by Rick. Alex, Judy, Scott, Burt, Brad, Jeanny, Rick, Rob, George and Steve voted Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy LaFontaine
Secretary