

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2012**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman, Frank Underwood, CF&R Representative; Marty Mahoney, School Board Representative; Jeff Morse, Charlie Perry, Elaine Levlocke, Selectboard Representative; Cliff Emery, Dan Cotter, Mike Wiggin, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative; Rich Kalich, Susan Newcomer, Steve Laskowski

Absent: John Koopmann

Bayard called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Steve moved to discuss the September 18th minutes. The motion was seconded by Elaine.

Rich moved to approve September 18th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Elaine and passed unanimously.

Steve moved to discuss the October 23rd minutes. The motion was seconded by Susan.

Susan moved to approve October 23rd as amended. The motion was seconded by Elaine and passed unanimously.

Status Reports

Town – The Budget is 78% expended and the year is 88% complete. Rick stated that the Capital Reserve Fund contributions and expenditures should be complete within the next couple of weeks.

Outstanding Items – A). The Chloride calculation was corrected to 35 ton. B). Highway Gas & Diesel line item spending is much higher than \$70,000. The 20,000 gallons is for Town vehicles only. Bulk Purchasing includes Fire Precincts. C). There is a request for \$21,000 in Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to replace a truck this year. Cliff asked why the additional contribution? There is \$137,000 in the account and \$84,000 needs to be deducted for the new truck. There is over \$57,000 to roll into next year. The CRF will be looked at next year. D). Rick talked to Tammy St Gelais at NH Municipal Bond Bank. Bonds can't be refinanced in the first 10 years. E). Steve stated that the RSA for Conservation Commissions gives them equivalent power to the Board of Selectmen without the power of taxation. It was asked if there was a way to make purchases expended from the Conservation Fund more transparent to taxpayers? F). Cliff stated that an employee of the Town working 42 weeks & 1,000 hours is entitled to 25 hours of vacation plus ½ pay on holidays. There is no sick pay, no retirement and no health care. Currently no employees are eligible under this stipulation.

School – Marty stated that the next School Board meeting was next Monday so he has nothing new to report.

CF&R - Frank discussed the upcoming budget for 2013. Costs for hepatitis/flu shots and Stipends are the major increases for next years budget. The CF&R Firefighters are only making \$8.00 an hour. Spofford is making closer to \$12. Bayard will help him create a status report for 2012 for the next meeting.

Spofford – Mike stated that the bond on the fire station is also unable to be refinanced. The Bond for the new Station was issued along with a number of other municipalities' bonds. All the bonds would need to be refinanced to change the rate for Spofford. The cost for the 2013 audit should be reduced due to electronic transfer of documents. Spofford is also looking into lowering its electric rates by contracting with other providers. The Mutual Aid cost will be going up \$1,377 or 6%. Spofford is proposing to increase stipends for officers. Mike stated that he believed there had been just under 200 fire calls. Mike stated that Spofford did not purchase items from the operating budget until the end of the year in case of catastrophic events.

Town

Solid Waste - Leon was present to discuss the plan for paper & cardboard recycling.

- 20 to 25 hours per week are spent restacking cardboard currently.
- The Transfer Station's total annual 'Haul' Fees are \$4,960. Cardboard is \$4,030 per year. Paper is \$930
- The proposal states that:
 - if the town invests \$83,500 for additional equipment plus monies for the new ramp (\$16,500 (est)) or circa \$100,000
- Paper and cardboard sale revenue could total \$17,480 A number of items were raised, among them that
 - The Committee was concerned about the repetitive handling.
 - The Committee was concerned about wiping out the CRF and then needing to increase the CRF to keep up the program.
- It was suggested that Leon work with the Town Administrator to construct a more thorough analysis of the proposal. There is no allowance for labor or the load/unload ramp in the payback analysis present by Leon.

Cemetery – is up 2.6%. Bayard asked the Selectboard to look at the budget again. Only \$44,388 was expended in 2011. Estimated expenditures will be \$44,042 in 2012. Why are they are asking for \$50,877 in 2013?

OEM is level funded except for a new line item for expenditure of grants.

RERP is entirely State funded.

Library is not final at this time.

Parks & Rec overspent Salaries in 2012 due to good weather. They are predicting declining revenue to \$106,377 from \$113,690 in 2012. 2012 was best case for weather. There is a limit to the percentage increase of fees for residents vs non-residents. . The Department's expense budget is \$88,367 for 2013 vs \$83,800 for 2012. This budget is primarily self-sustaining at this time. Debbie Bokum has taken over the Chair position from John Zannotti.

Elaine reported that the \$36,000 warrant article #6 was on hold, because the Selectboard thought the amount could still be lowered. It was asked if the portable classrooms could be moved to supplement the concession stand. Cliff stated that Margaret Winn and Bob Brockmann had provided a significant amount of guidance to improve the operations of Parks & Rec.

Health Officer has decreased by \$150

Police – The department is down by 2 full-time officers. The Selectboard has increased the pay for the part-time officers by \$1.50 per hour. There is a significant cost to training new officers. Bayard stated that the Town has relatively stable population, but crime is increasing. Elaine stated that if the Police are doing their job well, the average population is not seeing this increase. It is 20% of the people that take 80% of the time.

Animal Control is level-funded. There is no animal control officer.

Personnel Administration is up .8%

Elaine stated that the tax rate has been set. Chesterfield is \$17.33 and Spofford is \$17.57. For 2012, Chesterfield was \$17.94 and Spofford was \$18.08.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be December 11th. The following meeting will be January 8th for the Fire Precincts. The next meetings will be January 15th and the 22nd for the School. The public hearing will be January 26th. The Town will be 1 – 3 the School will be 3 – 5. Deliberations will be January 28th, 29th and 30th (if necessary).

Steve moved to adjourn at 9:53 PM. The motion was seconded by Susan and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary