

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 5, 2013**

Present: Bayard Tracy, Chairman; John Koopmann, Steve Laskowski, Rich Kalich, Cliff Emery, Charlie Perry, Dan Cotter, Sue Newcomer, Steve Buckley, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative; Elaine Levlocke, Selectboard Representative; and Frank Underwood, Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct Representative

Absent: Ege Cordell, School Board Representative

Guests: Ruth Van Houten, Will & Carole Vogeley, Jeff Chickering, Rick Cooper, Rick Carrier, Town Administrator; Jon McKeon, Stephen Bevis, Leon Dunbar, Tom Duston and Dave Sheldon

Bayard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A motion to thank Ruth Van Houten for her contributions to the Town passed unanimously. The OEM room is now named after Ruth.

1). After comments by Susan and Dan, *John K moved the September 10th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Dan and passed unanimously.*

2). Status of Budgets

a) Town – Elaine presented a budget status to date. The budget is 79% expended as of November 5th which is right on track. . Rick reported that the property valuation in 2012 was \$564,999,284 and for 2013 is \$482,929,331, a decrease of \$82 Million. This decrease is primarily in the value of land.

b) Spofford Fire and Rescue - Steve reported that there were no budget issues at present and that a joint Commissioners meeting was held last month. Another is scheduled next week.

c). Chesterfield Fire & Rescue - Frank reported that \$55,636.72 remains in the budget. Payroll is \$27,000 to be expended next month.

d) No report was made for the School District

3). 2014 Highway Operating Budget Review: Bart Bevis reviewed the Department's budget items and answered the committee members' questions. The department's operating budget is up 1.6% or \$12,425 to \$800,319. This includes the Town's COLA increase of 1.4%. Over-time is budgeted to rise 7.5%. Merit raises are calculated but are not given unless earned. Bart reiterated the need for the budget to include funds to cover unexpected expenses. For example, the rainstorm in September cost the Town \$40,375.61

(including outside trucking & equipment) which was unanticipated. The committee requested that the numbers of miles to be repaved be corrected.

4). 2014 Solid Waste Department Budget Review – Leon reported that revenues are budgeted to grow 50% to \$45,000 while expenses are budgeted to decline by \$20,916 or 8.8%. These changes are largely due to leasing a bailer for cardboard and new hauling arrangements. Bayard thanked Leon for his efforts for this initiative. Payroll expenses are up 2.3% as 2 employees now qualify for longevity pay increases.

5). The Committee also reviewed the following departments' budget changes for 2014 from 2013:

- Debt Service- (2.5%)
- Zoning Board-(3.5%)
- Forest Fires – No Change
- Code Enforcement- (8.5%) Steve Dumont is still the deputy.
- Police – The Chief will be invited to the next meeting.
- Animal Control - No Change
- Library – Not yet approved by the Selectboard.
- Executive – The issue of returning to a 5 day work week was raised. No recommendations or actions were taken
- Financial Administration – +3.1%
- Conservation Commission and Planning Board have yet to be reviewed by the Selectboard. Cliff asked for the contribution to the lake host program to come out of the Budget. Jon reported that the Commission is allowed to spend Conservation Fund money as they see fit within the state statutes.

6). Other – Jon reported that the Master Plan needs to be redone. Volunteers are needed.

7). Adjournment – The next meeting will be November 19th. The Committee thanked the Selectboard for attending. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary