

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday October 15, 2019

Members Present: Richard Bouchard, Ed Millette, Jason Weir, and Jodi Pinard Town Administrator and Kristy Barnouski Administrative Assistant

Budget Committee: Stephen MacCleerry, Thomas Houle, Don Peterman, Doug Hall.

Others Present: Russell Blaney, Chad Roberge and other members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Mr. Bouchard stated that the Board, the Road Agent, along with the RAC did a walk through for the Webster Mills road reconstruction project and Mr. Plunkett is going to put together a letter stating everything is complete.

Mr. Bouchard stated that the Headwalls need to be mortared which the Highway Department will take care of.

It was noted that the first hill after the bridge may need to be reconstructed the next time the road is done.

Underground Conduit-

Mr. Merrill was not in attendance for the meeting as requested. The Board decided to table the discussion until Mr. Merrill is in attendance.

Abatement-

Mr. Roberge stated that one of the lots in the development for Map 4 Lot 68B had a value listed which was incorrect. He noted it was a data entry error. The property is going to closing and this came up in the deed research. It didn't get zeroed out during revaluations which needs to be abated.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to abate following for Map 3 Lot 68B-01 in the amount of \$753.06 in tax payments on assessed value of \$18,000 for the tax years 2017, 2018 and 2019. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Advisory Budget Committee-Setting of Budget Directives

Mr. Weir presented a revenues and tax impact worksheet from 2013-2018.

Mrs. Pinard stated that she has already been made aware of some increases coming forward including health, dental, property and liability, unemployment and workers compensation.

Mr. Weir would like to pick a number not to exceed, to bring to budget and each department head will be responsible for staying within that number and budget.

Mr. Hall stated that historically the Board of Selectmen pick the employee raises. He questioned how that would work if there is a hard number.

There was a discussion between the Selectmen and the Budget Committee on the need to have employee performance evaluations.

Mr. Millette stated that the Town has to be aware of equal jobs and equal pay.

Mrs. Pinard stated that people who work in the public sector come for their benefits. Employees may not want to stay if insurances go up and pay does not.

Mr. Hall stated it will be tough for any Department Head to pick and choose who to give raises to.

There was discussion on putting money in budget for research on the wages again.

Mrs. Pinard stated that Mr. Weir suggested it should be zeroed out at the last Town meeting and the Selectmen could complete it by summer which never happened.

Mr. Hall he suggests going up 1.6% on salaries which is the same as social security, plus increase for benefits and then maintain 0% increase for the budget.

Mr. MacCleery likes the idea of coming up with a number and working backwards.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the departments can't keep cutting from everywhere. The Town will be cutting services at this point if you keep asking them to do that. The property valuation goes up and tax rate goes down.

Mr. Peterman suggested to set the benefits aside and then zero to small increase for rest of the budget.

Mr. Millette stated that is no different than what the Town has always done.

Mr. Houle stated that more pressure needs to be put on the school to keep their budget level. He stated that he is upset about the fund balance returned.

Mr. McCleery stated that we should put money aside for salaries and then have a zero percent increase. He stated the department heads should be responsible to pick and plead their case.

Mrs. Pinard will send out the number to the Boards tomorrow.

Wage increase will be 1.6% across the board for cola.

The Board will give the Department Heads a directive stating 1.6% for wages and level funding.

Mr. MacCleery made a motion and Mr. Hall seconded to agree to 1.6% and level funding of the budget.

Motion passes.

Assessing Bids-Opening

Avitar gave a proposal for 3 years. \$11,520.00 for a 3 year term with all services included.

Whitney Consulting Group gave a proposal of \$9600.00 for the first year.

\$10,000 for the second year.

\$10,500 for the third year.

\$27.00 for parcel

\$1000.00 day for any BTLA hearings.

\$500.00 for half day of BTLA hearings

\$850 for additional accessing services per day.

\$425.00 for any quarter of the day services.

Heating Oil Bids-

Eastern- 2.50 for oil, propane 1.70

Davis Fuel 2.399 propane 2.189

Bids will be reviewed by the Boards and taken in consideration.

Hazard Mitigation Update-Contract

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to accept the terms of the pre-disaster mitigation grant program as presented in the amount of \$7,500.00 to update the Town of Chichester Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of the project will be \$10,000.00, in which the town will be responsible for 25% match \$2,500.00. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Extrication Gear- Awarding Bid

Mr. Millette presented three bids for extrication gear.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to expend up to \$12,000.00 of funds out of the extrication warrant article voted on at Town Meeting. Millete, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Zoning compliant-

The Board reviewed a zoning compliant for map 3 lot 36. The consensus of the Board is to send a letter of zoning violation to the property owners and if they do not comply assess fines. The Letter shall give the property owner thirty Days to comply and shall be written by the Town attorney.

Other Business-

The Board agreed to attend the School Board meeting on Oct. 30th at 5:30pm to meet with them and discuss the budget.

Mr. Weir stated that Mr. Plunkett should be buying sand while it's dry out. He asked for Mr. Plunkett to receive a directive to do so.

Mr. Bouchard stated that Mr. Plunkett's candidate for the open Highway position did not accept the job offer due to pay and benefits.

The Board had a discussion on the hiring of Fire Chief and what would be the best option for the Chichester Fire Department. No decisions were made. The Board will resume the discussion at a later date.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Barnouski, Administrative Assistant

Not approved until signed

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir