

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday December 12, 2023

Members Present: Edward Millette, Richard Bouchard, and Jodi Pinard Town Administrator, Kristy Jobin Administrative Assistant

Advisory Budget Committee Members Present: Frand Swirko, Don Peterman, Corie St. Germain, Tara Blaney, and Marlene Hammond.

Call to Order: Mr. Millette called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Budget Workshop-

Mr. Millette thanked the Budget Committee for volunteering for the budget process.

Mr. Peterman will serve as the Advisory Budget Committee Chairperson this budget season.

The Board discussed that the Town budget is roughly 10% of the taxes.

Mr. Peterman is wondering what the overall evaluation of the Town is now.

Mrs. Pinard will have that number tomorrow for everyone.

The Boards had some discussion on the housing shortage and the new assessed property values.

Mrs. St. Germain asked if there are some items that are nonnegotiable in the budget.

Mrs. Pinard stated that things like insurance and the dispatch fee are things that cannot be changed.

The Board stated that they put in 3% to start for cola for payroll and asked Department heads to ask for needs, but level funded as possible for guidance.

Mrs. Pinard went through Revenues, noting that tax deeds are down, motor vehicles are up this year \$100,000, building permit fees are up, rooms and meals are up \$20,000.

Mrs. Pinard stated that election costs are up this year due to there being 5 elections.

Police Department-

The Boards discussed if a new cruiser was needed and asked to prepare the current milage for fleet.

Mr. Millette asked if a new cruiser is needed since they were short staffed.

Mr. Peterman asked if the new cruiser could be extended further.

Mrs. Pinard stated that if we extend it, we will not get trade value so the cost will go up.

Fire Department-

Mr. Millette stated there was an increase in the capital area mutual aid which cannot be avoided.

Mr. Peterman asked about the pager increase.

Mr. Millette stated the cost went up for them.

Highway-

Mrs. St. Germain suggested that the Road Agent should quantify why he needs the additions that he is requesting. She stated that if Townspeople knew the plan with what he would do with the additions they would be more likely to get behind them.

The Board asked for an explanation of the need for additional employees and if new ones are given then why are contracted services not being reduced.

Mr. Millette stated that as a Town we should be contracting a lot of things out such as grading etc. There is a CIP request for a sander rack expansion which needs a warrant article.

CIP-

Mrs. Pinard stated that she is requesting a \$25,000 deposit to the Town Revaluation Fund for the next 4 years, as well as a deposit into Town Facilities Capital Reserve Fund for unexpected repairs to Town buildings.

A request for deposits for the Town Vehicles Fund of \$20,000 and \$80,000 for the Fire Apparatus Reserve Fund were also made.

The next meeting will be on December 13, 2023.

Adjournment: Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bouchard and seconded by Mr. Millette to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant


Richard Bouchard


Edward Millette

Stephen MacCleery