

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday December 13, 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.

Others Present: Tom Downey, Kathy Douth, Carolee Davison, Barbara Sweet, Mardy Friary, Sanford Way, Donna Chagnon, Todd Hammen, Tom Jameson, Caroline Pynes, Ewen MacKinnon, Zach Boyijian, and other members of the public.

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

Budget Presentations-

Library-

Ms. Douth presented the budget for the Library. The Library budget has an increase of 9% mainly due to IT services and a 3% cost for employee raises built in.

Other increases came from education increasing \$200 for the Library Director, supplies up \$100 due to increase in prices and repairs increased \$200 for railings and safety panic bar, electric, advertising and printing and updating reference books.

Mr. Peterman asked if they considered charging for Hoopla.

The Library would not like to charge at this time, but maybe in the future.

Planning Board-

Mr. Jameson and Mrs. Jobin presented the budget for the Planning Board.

Mrs. Jobin stated that there were no changes made to the budget. She stated that line items such as professional fees and zoning updates have not been utilized this year due to her taking on more responsibilities as Planning Coordinator, however she recommended leaving it for the 2024 budget due to some potentially large projects that may need further review and more assistance from the CNHRPC.

Cemetery-

Ms. Hammen and Ms. Boswak presented the budget for the Cemetery Trustees.

Ms. Hammen stated that funds were added to the budget to cover tree cutting that was not completed this year. Last year there were funds added to the Highway budget, but they were not able to get accomplished what they wanted to. They requested \$6,000 for tree removal to take down a large tree in the Main St. Cemetery that will require a crane. They stated that there is an additional tree in the rear of the cemetery that also needs to be removed.

Mr. Millette stated that the tree removal should be a warrant article since it is a one-time cost.

Ms. Hammen stated that it will not be a one-time cost and that there were more that are needed to come down in other locations.

Ms. Boswak stated that there are about ten trees total that need to come down. There are two large ash trees on Main St. and there are 3-4 in Tru Cemetery.

Mr. Millette stated that they should do a cemetery at a time, get quotes for the two trees, and then move on to the next. He stated it will cost less to do them at the same time if they are at the same location.

Ms. Boswak stated that they would like to tackle restoring gravestones in Chichester. They have a list of ones already accomplished and they are creating and maintaining records. They increased the expense line to help accomplish this.

The Trustees are also submitting a warrant article to take over Hook Cemetery on Dover Road which failed at the Town Meeting last year. They stated that there was confusion on costs moving forward to maintain the cemetery. They stated that Hook cemetery has 35 graves, 5 of those are military. Only 9 of them have a trust for maintenance. Ms. Boswak stated that there is between \$500-\$600 to go towards the maintenance. It is a visible cemetery and should be maintained.

Mrs. Blaney asked what the ongoing costs of the cemetery would be to maintain.

Ms. Boswak stated that there was a cost breakdown per grave in her handout to the Board.

Mr. Millette confirmed that 26 of those graves do not have trusts so would not be covered.

Ms. Boswak agreed.

The Board asked if there are any dead trees in Hook Cemetery that will need to be removed.

Ms. Boswak stated there is one dead tree, but she does not think it will be a cost to the Town as it may be on the abutting properties land.

Ms. Blaney asked if they can use trust money to care for all of the cemetery or just the graves with a trust.

Ms. Hammen and Ms. Boswak stated that they are unsure what the cost will be to at this time. They will do some research to find out that cost and also to find out restoration costs.

Mrs. Pinard recommended being at Town Meeting to answer questions and give figures to residents with questions.

Parks and Recreation-

Ms. King presented for Parks and Recreation. She stated they did their best to keep it level. They are starting to prep for the Tricentennial, and they need to get park ready. They need to start rehab with perennials. They will be doing the flagpole project in concert with CYA. The current one is unusable. They will also be adding a kiosk to Frangione trails, adding basketball backstops, doing trail repairs, especially carpenter park trail.

Police Department-

Chief Wright presented the budget for the Police Department.

He reported that the Merrimack County Dispatch increased. Every town and every agency saw this increase. This is a onetime charge for five years.

Chief Wright reported that the cruiser line increased due to the vehicle price cost going up. The State has gone to Chevy for State bid. He stated that a Tahoe would be better because the Interceptors have not done well and there are a lot of problems with transmissions. Chevy is a little pricier but not by much. If it goes above and beyond, could it be taken out of the detail fund.

Mr. Millette stated there may be issues parking due to the size of the Tahoe.

Chief Wright stated that the new computer system that is going to be installed is being funded by grants 75% and 25% will come out of the detail account.

Car 5 is replacing car 3. Car 5 has not been outfitted yet, but it will be completed in January.

Chief Wright stated that the department is fully staffed with 5 full time officers, including himself with 5-part timers. One night a week is call coverage.

He stated that part time was lowered but overtime was increased for vacation coverage and training.

Adjournment: Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bouchard and seconded by Mr. Millette to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant


Richard Bouchard


Edward Millette

Stephen MacCleery

