

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday January 9, 2024

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: John Taluba, Heather Chiavaras, and other members of the public.

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

Budget Workshop-

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

Mrs. Pinard stated that the warrant mirrors the CIP. She stated that there are only 3 warrant articles that impact the budget. The other three will be pulled out of Capital Reserves.

Mr. Millette stated that the ask is \$230,000 over last year.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the unaudited amount includes bills from all of 2023 with the exception of some stragglers that may come in.

The budget as proposed would create a tax impact of .10 per thousand.

Highway-

Mrs. Hammond stated that she is not opposed to making the new employee a warrant article.

Mr. Millette stated that he would like to see it in the budget because it shows right up front what the tax impact will be.

Mrs. Hammond stated that it would need to be specific to show the total cost of the position because it is in two sections of the budget due to salary and benefits. Also, If the position is kept in the budget, she questioned if it was necessary to keep overtime and contracted services as high. She would like to see other lines reduced.

Mrs. St. Germain stated that the overtime is for storms which he cannot control.

The Board had a discussion on whether or not a new employee should go on the warrant article. Authorized for one year and then it goes into operating budget the next year. All the warrants do not carry over every year. Full time permanent position.

Mrs. Blaney asked if they should propose the overtime line be cut.

Mr. Peterman stated that he is not convinced that there should be another full-time person.

Mr. Swirko and Mrs. Hammond agreed.

Mrs. St. Germain stated that if there was a better forecast for what to expect she may be able to get on board with the idea of a new employee. The extra help may benefit some of the issues but there may be a lot more things that pop up and we will need that money for those items.

Mrs. Blaney would like to ask Mr. Sykes to come back to give the Boards an actual plan.

Mr. Millette stated that he is the one that pushed Mr. Sykes to ask for another employee due to all the issues.

Mr. Peterman asked if they were not short staffed over the summer would this be a problem.

Mr. Millette stated they only ran with 2 full-time people due to an employee being out.

Mrs. St. Germain stated that we are not the only community that runs with two full timers.

Mr. Swirko stated that he got the impression that it will make it even and not put us ahead. It will not increase services.

Mr. Bouchard stated that they have to trust the dept heads. He suggested an additional presentation with more information would be helpful.

Mrs. St. Germain asked if he would he eliminate the part time position to get the full time?

Mr. Bouchard stated that he would be ok with that.

The Highway trees line can be reduced \$2,000.

Cemetery-

The quote to remove the two large trees on the Main St. burying yard is for \$7,000.

There is a Cemetery trust fund with \$17-18,000 in it.

Mrs. Hammond suggested that the Trustees use the additional \$1,000 from the trust fund.

The boards agreed to keep the budget line for trees at \$6,000 and for the Trustees to use the \$1,000 from the trust fund.

Other Business-

Mrs. Pinard reported that the old laptop computers cannot be updated for the Supervisors of checklist. They do have a one brand new one for them to use.

Approval of Minutes-

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to approve the meeting minutes of December 5, 2023; December 12, 2023; December 13, 2023; December 19, 2023, with minor changes. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Motion passes.

Adjournment: Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Stephen MacCleery