

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday January 30, 2024

Members Present: Edward Millette, Richard Bouchard, Stephen MacCleery and Jodi Pinard Town Administrator

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

Others Present: Craig Sykes, Ewen MacKinnon, Alan Quimby, and other members of the public.

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

Avitar Contract

Mrs. Pinard presented the Avitar Assessing contract to the selectmen. The contract had options for a 1-year or 5-year contract.

The board discussed both options.

Mr. MacCleery made a motion seconded by Mr. Bouchard to enter into a 1-year contract with Avitar in the amount of \$15,600 for the term of the contract. Roll Call MacCleery Aye, Bouchard Aye, Millette Aye. Motion Passes

Highway Department Budget Discussion

Mr. Sykes stated that there has not been a consistent number of employees in the highway department since 2020. He stated that since he was hired, he has only been fully staffed for roughly ½ a year. This has been due to employees resigning as well as illnesses. Mr. Sykes is asking for an additional full-time employee. If the full-time employee is not an option, then he asked that a full year part time employee be hired.

Mr. Sykes' reasoning for the additional employee is as follows coverage for vacations, coverage for illnesses and doctor's appointments as the staff is getting older and require more appointments. Mr. Sykes also stated that it is very difficult to work when you are not feeling well and would like to have coverage for these issues.

Mr. Sykes was also asked what projects he would be able to complete if an additional employee. He gave the following examples ditch work along the side of the road, culvert replacement, catch basin replacement, as well as general drainage replacement, and having the extra person would assist in the safety of the employees.

Discussion between the Selectmen and Advisory Budget Committee was had, and the consensus was to remove the request for a full-time highway employee and add a year-round part-time employee to the proposed budget.

2024 Proposed Budget Discussion

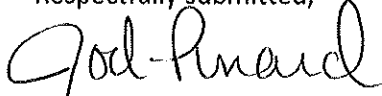
The Selectmen and Advisory Budget Committee discussed the budget, and some changes were made. The original proposed operating budget for 2024 was \$3,520,784 and after the changes were made the proposed budget was reduced. The new proposed operating budget for 2024 is \$3,440,733. A reduction of \$80,051.

Warrant Article Discussion

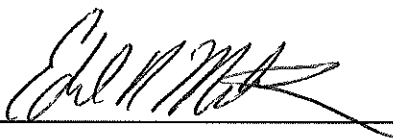
The warrant articles were discussed. The only change made was to Article 13 (c) Town Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund, it was reduced from \$25,000 to \$18,750. All other requests stayed the same.

Adjournment: Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. MacCleery, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,


Jodi Pinard, Town Administrator

Richard Bouchard


Edward Millette


Stephen MacCleery