

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday February 2, 2021

Members Present: Richard Bouchard, Ed Millette, Jason Weir, and Jodi Pinard Town Administrator

Members of the Advisory Budget Committee: Stephen MacCleery, Tara Blaney, Don Peterman, Doug Hall, Tom Houle.

Members of the public: Russell Blaney, Donna Chagnon, Ewen MacKinnon and other members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and the following into the record.

IN LIGHT OF THE COVID 19 (CORONA VIRUS) SOCIAL DISTANCING ADVICE MADE BY THE GOVERNOR AND CDC, THE TOWN OF CHICHESTER FOLLOWING A DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY BY THE SELECT BOARD CHAIRPERSON, IS PROVIDING A MEETING PARTICIPATION VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE FOR YOUR SAFETY.

If you would like to participate in the telephone conference, please call this number from home: **+1-312-626-6799** and enter this code: **Meeting ID: 834 2910 1982 & Passcode: 451105** Follow along using a digital copy from our website at: ChichesterNH.org. We will also be streaming the meeting as a webinar which you join by going to this link :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429101982?pwd=aTV2aXNxeEVJRng0UklaUWlrbmZlQT09> Please reach out to Jodi Pinard with any questions or concerns @ Email:jpinard@chichesternh.org

Mrs. Pinard Statement – I would like to thank the residents of Chichester for there assistance with the unfortunate closing of Town Hall due to a positive COvid-19 test. Due to the close contact all of us who work in Town Hall are considered a close contact and must quarantine for 10 days. I would like to personally Thank Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Millette for personally reaching out to me asking how myself and all the employees are doing. Once last Thank you to the Epsom Town Clerk's Office that has graciously been completing DMV transactions for our residents as well. Town Hall will be professionally cleaned by Servpro for the safety of the employees and all residents. I also wanted to inform the Board that two items on the agenda will not be addressed tonight due to the office closure as I could not gather the backup and forward it out but will be addressed on the 9th. The abatements and approval of the outstanding meeting minutes.

Appointments:

Girl Scout Troop Drive Thru Cookie Booth Request – The girl scouts requested to hold a Drive Thru Cookie Booth as they have in the past at Town Hall on February 26th from 3:30pm-6:30pm. They will mark off the driveway as they have in the past in the safety of all. This will be the third year in a row the girl scouts have held this event.

The consensus of the Board was to allow this event and asked for the girl scouts to reach out if they needed anything.

Joint Board of Selectmen and Advisory Budget Meeting-

Public Hearing – 2021 Proposed Budget and Warrant Articles - Pursuant to RSA 32:5

Mr. Bouchard – Called the Public hearing to Order at 6:15pm.

Ewen MacKinnon, Town Moderator – Began by reviewing the procedures that would be followed during the Public Hearing ensuring that everyone would be heard.

Mr. MacKinnon began the review of the 2021 proposed budget.

Once the review was completed it was noted of an additional error of \$2,000 that would increase the bottom line of the operating budget. The budget includes 2.5% wage increases for employees. As well the mandated increases on other benefits.

The total operating budget as proposed \$2,777,403.

Warrant Article #7

Mr. Boyajian asked how the amounts in this warrant article came to be as some of the requests were not reflected.

Mrs. Pinard read off the original requests to help explain the cuts in the warrant article.

Mr. Millette explained that during the process decisions were made to push planned purchases and deposits out into future years to relieve some of the burden off the taxpayer.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:45pm

Warrant Article #6 - Discussion

Mr. Hall stated he would like to propose a \$3,000 increase to the selectmen stipend. He stated the selectmen are currently being paid less than what they had been previously. It was stated that the individuals that take are elected to the position do a lot more work than just meetings and should be compensated.

Mr. Peterman stated that he agreed with Mr. Hall's recommendation.

Mr. Hall made a motion to recommend an increase of \$3,000 to be added to line 4130-10 Board of Selectmen Stipend.

Mr. Millette stated that for those who did not know this had been brought up at a previous meeting and that he personally does not do this for the money. He appreciates the sentiment but that he does feel that it is the right time.

Mr. Weir stated that he too does not feel that this is something that should be done.

Mr. Bouchard stated that he as well does think that increasing the selectmen stipend should be done at this time.

Budget Committee – Vote on recommendation – Steve MacCleery No, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle No, Tara Blaney NO. **2-3 Motion Fails**

Selectmen - Vote on recommendation – Richard Bouchard No, Ed Millette No, Jason Weir No. **0-3 Motion Fails**

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Tara Blaney motioned to recommend Warrant Article #6. This was seconded by Tom Houle. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery Yes, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes.

Motion Passes 5-0

Selectmen Motion – Jason Weir motioned to recommend Warrant Article #6. This was seconded by Ed Millette. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #7

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Doug Hall motioned to recommend Warrant Article #7. This was seconded by Tara Blaney. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery Yes, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes. **Motion Passes 5-0**

Selectmen Motion – Ed Millette motioned to recommend Warrant Article #7. This was seconded by Jason Weir. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #8

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Tom Houle motioned to recommend Warrant Article #8. This was seconded by Tara Blaney. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery Yes, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes. **Motion Passes 5-0**

Selectmen Motion – Jason Weir motioned to recommend Warrant Article #8. This was seconded by Ed Millette. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #9

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Don Peterman motioned to recommend Warrant Article #9. This was seconded by Tara Blaney. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery Yes, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes. **Motion Passes 5-0**

Selectmen Motion – Ed Millette motioned to recommend Warrant Article #9. This was seconded by Jason Weir. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #10

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Don Peterman motioned to recommend Warrant Article #10. This was seconded by Doug Hall. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery Yes, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes. **Motion Passes 5-0**

Selectmen Motion – Jason Weir motioned to recommend Warrant Article #10. This was seconded by Richard Bouchard. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #11

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Don Peterman motioned to recommend Warrant Article #11. This was seconded by Tara Blaney. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery Yes, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes. **Motion Passes 5-0**

Selectmen Motion – Ed Millette motioned to recommend Warrant Article #11. This was seconded by Jason Weir. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #12

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Tom Houle motioned to recommend Warrant Article #12. This was seconded by Don Peterman. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery Yes, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes. **Motion Passes 5-0**

Selectmen Motion – Ed Millette motioned to recommend Warrant Article #12. This was seconded by Jason Weir. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #13

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Tom Houle motioned to recommend Warrant Article #13. This was seconded by Don Peterman. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery No, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes.

Motion Passes 4-1

Selectmen Motion – Ed Millette motioned to recommend Warrant Article #13. This was seconded by Jason Weir. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #14

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Don Peterman motioned to recommend Warrant Article #14. This was seconded by Doug Hall. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery Yes, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle No, Tara Blaney Yes.

Motion Passes 4-1

Selectmen Motion – Ed Millette motioned to recommend Warrant Article #14. This was seconded by Richard Bouchard. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #15

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Don Peterman motioned to recommend Warrant Article #15. This was seconded by Don Peterman. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery No, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes. **Motion Passes 4-1**

Selectmen Motion – Ed Millette motioned to recommend Warrant Article #15. This was seconded by Richard Bouchard. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir No, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 2-1**

Warrant Article #16

Advisory Budget Committee Motion – Don Peterman motioned to recommend Warrant Article #16. This was seconded by Tom Houle. Roll Call Vote – Steve MacCleery Yes, Doug Hall Yes, Don Peterman Yes, Tom Houle Yes, Tara Blaney Yes.

Motion Passes 5-0

Selectmen Motion – Ed Millette motioned to recommend Warrant Article #16. This was seconded by Jason Weir. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Warrant Article #17

Selectmen Motion – Jason Weir motioned to remove Warrant Article #17 as requested by the conservation commission. This was seconded by Ed Millette. Roll Call Vote – Jason Weir Yes, Ed Millette Yes, Richard Bouchard Yes. **Motion Passes 3-0**

Department Heads

Police Department – Chief Clarke stated that the radar signs have been installed. He has observed that they do get the attention drivers and speeds are reducing.

Library – Kathy Doult stated the library continues to provide services to the residents of Chichester.

Parks & Recreation – Zach Boyajian stated that some trail work has been completed. They are also still working to get the gutters installed on the snack shack.

Planning Board -Stan Brehm stated that a second public hearing will be happening on Thursday for Chichester Commons. The board will also be reviewing master plan updates with CNHRPC.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted

Approved February 9, 2021

Jodi Pinard, Town Administrator

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir