

Chichester Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday December 7, 2020

Members Present: Richard Bouchard, Ed Millette, Jason Weir, Jodi Pinard Town Administrator and Kristy Willey Administrative Assistant

Budget Meeting Members: Doug Hall, Tara Blaney, Stephen MacCleery, Tom Houle.

Members of the public: Chief Clarke, Craig Sykes, Russell Blaney, Donna Chagnon, Zach Boyajian, Evelyn Pike, Stan Brehm, Caroline Pynes, Mary Castelli, Tom Downey, Kathy Doult, Carolee Davison, and other members of the public.

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

Budget-

Mrs. Pinard went through revenues with the Boards and some increases including health insurance, property liability, BCEP increase and slight increase with the Fire Department. Mrs. Pinard thanked all the Departments for doing their best to keep the budget level.

Highway-

Mr. Sykes stated that he did his best to keep the budget as level as possible.

Mrs. Pinard stated that she used the past 7 years average for storms to try to plan for overtime.

The grader tires were removed from the budget.

Mr. Millette asked about sand/salt expense was so high. Mrs. Pinard stated that there were unpaid invoices that had to be paid from the prior year.

Mr. Hall thought he may be underestimating tree removal as he noticed a lot of dead ash trees that need to be removed.

Mr. Sykes stated that he does not know exactly how much it will cost per tree but there are many that came down in the storm. He stated that he will be trying to obtain bids for a better idea for the budget.

Mr. Millette asked about the road reconstruction line. Mrs. Pinard stated that she left it as a place holder.

Mr. Blaney stated that the engineer put together and estimate in the \$300,000 range.

Mr. Millette asked about large CIP purchases. Mr. Sykes stated that in 2021 he would be looking to replace the 2005 truck due to its condition. He would look to utilize it as a spare piece. He did find a figure for 172,189.00 for a large dump body from the state.

The Board had a discussion on using a fund or warrant article for truck.

Mr. Houle asked if the gravel material lines are high enough due to the maintenance needed on gravel roads.

Mr. Sykes stated that he has plans to get the gravel roads back in order but trying to maintain a level budget.

Mr. Bouchard stated that in the future that could be a road reconstruction plan as many of the gravel roads need to be built back up.

Mr. Millette asked about the maintenance line and if its high enough.

Mr. Sykes stated that he is trying to keep the budget level, but he does not agree with some lines and thinks some should be more. The heavy equipment is very expensive to maintain.

Mr. Hall had concerns about budgeting the same for maintenance as the prior years. He felt it would be useful for Mr. Sykes to put together a reasonable budget with increased numbers that he felt more comfortable with.

Mr. Sykes agreed to put together a proposed alternate budget with his recommended increases.

Police Department-

Chief Clarke stated that budget presented is pretty much status quo. He would like to discuss an additional full time Officer. The schedule has taken its toll on the Officers as they must work every weekend. He stated this was not the year to add that in but wanted to be sure that the Boards are aware that he will request it in the year coming.

Mr. Hall asked Chief Clarke if he should put together an alternate budget to add a new Officer.

Mrs. Pinard stated it would be roughly and additional \$30,000.00 in benefits and Chief Clarke stated that he could almost cover the payroll expense in other lines.

The Board will discuss this at a later date.

Cemetery discussion-

Mr. Millette asked about why the sexton stipend was reduced to zero.

Mr. Millette stated that he would like to reach out to them to have them come in.

Mr. Weir stated that he agrees and would like to discuss it further with them as it's a great way to provide continuity moving forward.

Mrs. Pinard will reach out to the Cemetery Commission to ask them to come in for a discussion.

Library-

Ms. Doult reported for the Library budget.

Ms. Doult stated that all employees get a 2% pay raise.

There is a new position of bookkeeper. She stated that the same person has been doing it for 30 years voluntarily and they are seeking someone to fill the position moving forward.

Telephone increase is due to a rate increase.

Planning Board-

Mr. Brehm presented for Planning Board.

Mr. Brehm stated that the Board utilized the Master Plan fund awarded at Town Meeting from last year to update the Master Plan and the encumbered funds from for zoning to make some more zoning changes. Mr. Brehm stated this will be an ongoing expense and would like to add it as a line item to the budget instead of warrant articles.

He would also like some more money added to the line for assistance from Central NH Regional Planning Commission for our larger products. The Planning Department has been extremely busy and needs additional assistance.

Mr. Brehm will bring more information for a decision tomorrow night.

Pay increase-

Mr. Hall asked Mrs. Pinard to show what an across the Board pay increases would look like for the Town.

Mr. Weir stated that the Board has not discussed pay increase yet but will do so in the future.

Parks and Recreation-

Mr. Boyajian stated that the budget basically remained the same. He did mention in the year 2022 they will be looking into contracting for some more field maintenance as volunteers' hours have been reduced.

Mr. Boyajian stated that they do not have a CIP project for this year, only a deposit.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted

Kristy Willey, Administrative Assistant

Approved on February 9, 2021

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir