

## Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday December 8, 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 and Don Peterman.

**Members of the public:** Chief Quimby, Russell Blaney, Donna Chagnon, Zach Boyajian, Evelyn Pike, Stan Brehm, and other members of the public.

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

### **Budget-**

Mrs. Pinard stated that there is a bottom-line increase of 1.96% The largest increase mainly come from Health insurance in line 4155 increased. Property liability and workers comp have also increased. Those three nonnegotiable items make up most of the increase and the operating budget only increased a little over \$4,000.

Elections are reduced due to only one election in the upcoming year.

Valuation has increased by 1.3 million. There is roughly 4 million dollars in assessed value in our building permit software so 2021 we should see an assessed value increase of the 4 million.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the last three years the Town has stayed very steady with the tax rate, so the goals of the Selectmen and Budget Committee have been met in that aspect.

Mr. Weir was concerned that due to lost revenues and with operating budget going up he thinks it will be a significant increase to the tax rate. Mrs. Pinard does not agree.

### **Planning Board-**

Mr. Brehm stated that he had a discussion with CNHRPC. This year we have spent \$4,000 On Master Plan update and another \$3,000 on zoning updates. He would like to add a circuit rider as other Towns do in the amount of \$8000. This would be the line item utilized for any zoning updates and professional services we use. This would be done instead of going for warrant articles every year.

Mr. Weir stated he was not comfortable adding an additional \$6,000 to that line. He would prefer to keep warrant articles for zoning/master plan updates.

Mr. Brehm stated that Ms. Willey is swamped with Planning and he would like to use CNHRPC to help do planning items.

Ms. Willey stated that she is extremely busy in the office and is having difficulty keeping up with the workload. She stated that they will not be able to sustain much longer and soon the office will need more help.

After some discussion, the Board decided to increase the legal expense and professional fee line and leave the zoning and master plan updates as warrant articles.

**Fire Department/Ambulance-**

**Ambulance-**

Chief Quimby went through the Fire budget with the Boards. He explained some increases are due to COVID-19 and need of extra PPE.

**Fire-**

Capital Area Mutual Aid has increased which led to an increase in the Fire budget.

Fuel lines have been moved around from ambulance to Fire.

No pay increases have been added into the budget.

Mr. Weir asked if he envisioned moving everything into the Fire budget.

Chief Quimby stated that he would like to do it and could have that ready for next year.

Mr. Weir stated that he should just combine the eight lines and do it this year. Chief Quimby agreed.

Mr. Millette stated that he is on Board and wanted to do it a year and half ago.

**CPP discussion-**

Mrs. Pinard presented the draft for the Capital Purchase Plan sheet for review.

**Adjournment:**

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted

Kristy Willey, Administrative Assistant

Approved on February 9, 2021

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Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir