

## Chichester Board of Selectmen

### Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday November 2, 2021

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

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

**Members of the public:** Chief Quimby, Craig Sykes, Zach Boyajian, Donna Chagnon, Russ Blaney, Tom Downey, Brady Jezewski, Lori Littlefield Bass, and other members of the public.

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

The Board of Selectmen along with the Budget Committee met to discuss the upcoming budget season.

A deadline of November 29, 2021 was set for all warrant article proposals.

Mr. Weir stated that he wants a level budget, with no increases. He doesn't want to raise taxes at all, even if that means cutting services.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Town added 6.5 million in assessed value and the tax rate should be set within the next few weeks.

Mr. Millette stated that Town cannot control the whole budget, only our portion. He stated that the Town has to expect increases, especially for payroll and other items that have to increase, such as insurance. The COLA for this year is 5.9%. Employees will have increases as well, so he is supportive of COLA.

Mrs. Pinard stated that ask for a level funded budget is not fair to ask considering all of the increases with inflation. The Board will have to look at the budget and decide what they feel should be cut.

Mr. Weir stated that he wants increases and impacts laid out.

Mr. Sykes stated that he will not jeopardize public safety to save money.

Mrs. Pinard stated that revenues are right where they should be.

Mr. Hall asked what was happening with the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He would like to see what the projects are, what year they are slotted for purchases and description of the need.

Mrs. Pinard would like the Board to consider no new projects or equipment this year, unless absolutely necessary.

**Department Heads-**

### **Highway-**

Mr. Sykes brought a proposal to the Board for Merrill Construction to pave a section of roadway starting on Healy Pasture from Pleasant St up to the Cul-de-sac. Merrill will cover the costs with the exception of shim and overlay. Mr. Sykes stated that he did a cost estimate, and this would save the Town \$15,000. The Town portion would be \$38,340.

The Board discussed where they would find money in the budget to cover the Town cost. They decided to utilize a portion from the Municipal Transportation Fund and the rest from the budget.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to approve the proposal by Merrill Construction in the amount of \$38,340.00, \$20,000.00 to be taken out of the Municipal Transportation Fund and \$18,340.00 from the Highway budget to pave Healy Pasture Road. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. Motion passes.

Mr. Weir stated that he would like Mr. Sykes and the Town Engineer to spend some time on the development roads to check everything before the Town accepts the roads.

Mrs. Pinard stated that driveway inspections were not completed while the development was being completed.

Mr. Sykes stated that the Highway part timer resigned, and he will be looking for a replacement or a contractor until he can find one.

Mr. Sykes stated that he has had a huge issue with the Town line on the Loudon border on East Ricker Road. RSA states that a perambulation must be completed every seven years, but it has not been completed in a very long time.

The Board discussed that perambulation has not been done in upwards of 30 years and the cost would be too much to complete when there is no other issue besides East Ricker Road. The Board advised Mr. Sykes to work with Loudon regarding the Town line.

Mr. Sykes stated a Highway email was hacked, but Mrs. Pinard helped him take care of it with the IT company.

Mr. Sykes reported that the guardrail on Burnt Hill Road is completely rotted and it will be roughly \$27,000.00 to fix. A 900ft section needs to be addressed.

Mr. Sykes stated that the equipment is getting ready to go for winter, but the new trucks have been delayed even longer than expected. Funds for the trucks will need to be encumbered for 2022.

Mr. Hall thanked Mr. Sykes for the condition of Smith Sanborn Road. He stated that it has never looked so good.

### **Parks and Recreation-**

Mr. Boyjajian stated that the park activities are winding down.

Parks and Recreation hosted Truck or Treat and the Haunted Walk which had a great turnout.

Boy Scout, David Testerman created a handful of signs for the recreation areas for his Eagle Scout project.

**Police Department-**

Chief Clarke was not in attendance of this meeting.

**Planning Board-**

Mr. Brehm was not in attendance of this meeting.

**Fire Department-**

Chief Quimby stated that the deck in the back of the Fire Department is now complete, which came out beautiful.

All annual inspections are complete, along with the annual school safety inspection.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to withdraw \$4970.00 out of the FD Personal Protective Gear & Associated Repair Expendable Trust Fund. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

**Library-**

Mr. Downey reported for the Library. He stated that there are lots of programs coming up.

The Library celebrated Halloween the week of the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Library applied for some grant monies.

One employee resigned, and they are looking for a replacement.

There will be a book sale this Saturday.

**Depot Street Light-**

Mr. & Mrs. Baas came before the Board to discuss a streetlight on Depot Road near their home and next to Thunder Bridge. Mrs. Baas stated that the light had been out for many years and recently the bulb was replaced so it is back on. Mrs. Baas stated that they felt it drew attention to Thunder Bridge at night when its on, and no one is supposed to be on the Bridge after dusk. They see no reason for the light to be on and would like it to be removed.

The Selectmen's Office will look into the light and get back to the Baas's.

**Abatements-**

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to abate Map 2, Lot 72-A in the amount of \$819.00 as well as any interest and penalties. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to abate Map 4, Lot 156-128RV in the amount of \$1.00 as well as any interest and penalties. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

**17 King Road-**

Mrs. Pinard stated that this property is being sold in the very near future. Zoning violations will hopefully be corrected at that time.

**Great Meadow Campground-**

Mr. Boyijian stated that he noticed from the Madeline Sanborn Conservation area that the wetlands appear to be filled in on the Campground property.

The Selectmen's office will investigate this further.

**Haunted Walk-**

Mrs. Pinard wanted to publicly thank, Zach Boyijian, Malinda Weir, Alisa Mullen, and others who helped put on such an amazing event.

**91-A:3 II (e)** - Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with anybody or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.

A motion was made by Mr. Bouchard and seconded by Mr. Millette to enter into non-public. Bouchard, Aye, Millette Aye, Weir, Aye. **Motion Passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Weir and seconded by Mr. Millette to exit non-public session. Bouchard, Aye, Millette Aye, Weir, Aye. **Motion Passes.**

A motion was made by Mr. Weir and seconded by Mr. Millette to seal the non-public meeting minutes until resolved in Court. Bouchard, Aye, Millette Aye, Weir, 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 8:32 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant

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Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir