

Chichester Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday November 16, 2021

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

Members of the public: Tom Houle, Donna Chagnon, Loren Boulet and other members of the public.

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

Encumbrances-

Mrs. Pinard stated that there were two encumbrances that needed to be completed before year end.

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to encumber funds from 2021 for the year 2022 for 1) Warrant Article number 18 for the plow truck in the amount of \$3,000.00 and 2) Warrant Article number 16 for the Ford F550 truck including warranty and outfitting in the amount of \$107,000.00. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

Tax Rate Setting-

Mrs. Pinard stated the current tax rate is \$23.18. The proposed tax rate from the Department of Revenue is \$23.10. Currently Fund Balance is at 4% or \$361,008.00. Mrs. Pinard does not recommend utilizing Fund Balance due to already being below the recommended 5%.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded to accept the proposed tax rate from DRA in the amount of \$23.10 for the remainder of 2021 and 2022 tax year. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

School Update-

Mrs. Chivaras provided an update from the school as she was not able to attend the last meeting.

Mrs. Chivaras reported on multiple events including: The Grange gifted the 3rd grade students' dictionaries as they have done for many years, the Lions Club did their annual eye screening at the school, and the annual Halloween Parade took place in the school.

The monthly School Board Meeting will take place tomorrow on November 17th at 6:00pm. She stated she is hoping to see the first draft of the budget and initiatives.

Mr. Weir asked if the School Board would be requiring Covid vaccines anytime soon now that the vaccines are approved for school age children.

Mrs. Chivaras stated that she was not aware of any mandate and that the School Board takes guidance from Public Health.

Budget Discussion-

Mr. Houle asked Mr. Weir about his statement at the previous budget meeting regarding submitting a level budget and cutting services. He asked what services he would recommend cutting.

Mr. Weir stated that he didn't say level budget and just wanted to know the impact of the budget. He wants to see impacts and then he will decide.

Mr. Houle asked Mr. Weir, as a Selectmen, to come up with what the things that should be cut. He asked if he would recommend cutting Police services 1 day a week?

Mr. Weir stated, "possibly".

Mr. Millette stated that the Town's growth and assessment is great, and there will always be an impact on services where there is growth.

The Board discussed that cutting services would negatively impact the residents.

Zoning Complaint-

Mr. Millette received a zoning complaint from a resident regarding the sign at Rapid Refill, which is allegedly changing its message too quickly.

Mrs. Jobin stated that Mr. Hodge, the Building Inspector, had already been in touch with the property owner to discuss this matter as he had recently issued a sign permit and noticed it was not conforming with zoning guidelines. Mr. Hodge and Mrs. Jobin also met with the sign company that installed the new sign to discuss why it does not meet current zoning.

The Board had questions regarding the timeframe of the complaint and when Mrs. Jobin and the Mr. Hodge met with the property owner. The Board was concerned about violations not being brought before the Board before action was taken. Mrs. Jobin was not clear on dates at the time but believed they met with the sign company before the resident complaint was made. The Board will be updated on this matter at the next meeting.

Resident Concern-Lorne Boulet

Mr. Boulet came before the Board to discuss an agreement that he believed was made and approved between him, the previous Road Agent, James Plunkett, and the previous Board of Selectmen regarding his driveway and Perry Brook Road.

Mr. Boulet stated that his driveway has not been fixed like he was promised, and he wanted to get this taken care of before the Board takes over the Merrill Development roads.

Mrs. Pinard stated that she will research minutes and property files regarding any agreements that had been discussed and/or made.

Voting-

Mr. MacKinnon stated that he is pursuing using the school again for the election in March. He will report back to the Board after he has confirmation.

Next Meetings:

Budget on December 7 & 8, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant

Approved on 12/07/2021

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir