

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday December 7, 2021

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

Budget Members Present: Tom Houle, Don Peterman, Doug Hall, Tara Blaney, Stephen McCleery (late arrival)

Members of the public: Chief Clarke, Corporal Wright, Carolee Davison, Kathy Hosmer Douth, Tom Downey, Caroline Pynes, Zach Boyijian, Robert Mann, Tom Jameson, Ewen MacKinnon, Mary Castelli, and other members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:11pm

Budget-

Mr. Houle asked to have the floor first. He stated that he has spent a lot of time doing research and has met with all Departments in the Town including the School Board. He stated that he has been trying to think outside the box and look for alternate ways to reduce the budget without cutting services or creatively adding income. An example of this would be creating an ordinance for mandatory Police details on Town roads for construction. This was discussed at length including how it would affect Town payroll/retirement. Many details would need to be worked out to put this in place. Mr. Houle stated that the BCEP is struggling as well with their budget and needs alternate sources of income.

Mr. Houle asked Mr. Weir about Road Advisory Committee Minutes. He stated he tried to look up what roads have been picked but no minutes since August 2020 have been turned in.

Mr. Weir stated that he will submit the RAC minutes to the Selectmen's office so they can be posted.

CIP-

Mr. Hall stated that the CIP process was supposed to begin in June and felt it was too late to start now.

The Boards reviewed the CIP sheets and made some alterations and removed some columns to make them easier to read.

Mr. Millette stated that deposits should be removed from the CIP spread sheet.

Library-

Members of the Library Trustees presented the budget for the library with very little changes. The Boards reviewed the budget and had no additional questions.

Parks and Recreation-

Mr. Boyijian went through the proposed budget and offered explanation on any increases, including rotten signs that need replacing and tree cutting due to safety concerns.

Mr. Boyijian also presented a proposal for a small tractor that would fit in the snack shack bay to maintain the trails and parks. There was some discussion on how much use the tractor would get and if it was truly needed.

Police Department-

Chief Clarke presented the PD budget and went through the few lines that have changed. Some increases to expect are, increased cost of ammo, support services, Merrimack County Attorney's fees, and computer software.

Pay increases-

Mr. Hall asked what the Board will propose for wage increases and if they had thought about retention bonuses.

Mr. Millette stated that COLA is 5.9% and both Boards need to evaluate. He stated that the Boards shouldn't say that COLA is good one year, when its 1.9% but its not good when its 5.9%. He stated as a small business owner, he has had to make substantial adjustments with pay.

Mr. Peterman, who is also a business owner, stated that he has had to increase the pay for his employees substantially as well.

Mrs. Pinard did the math, and for all employees to receive a 6% increase, it would be a \$57,000.00 total. This will be used as a place holder until a decision is made.

Abatelements-

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to abate the following:

Map 4 Lot 156 sub 70RV in the amount of \$146.00

Map 4 Lot 156 sub 84RV in the amount of \$240.00

Map 4 Lot 156 sub 42RV in the amount of \$240.00

Roll call vote, Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

NH Trail Dawgs Yearly Approval-

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to approve the agreement for the NH Trail Dawgs trail agreement for 2022. Roll call vote, Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

General Assistance Guideline Approval-

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to approve the General Assistance Guidelines recommended by the Welfare Office, Donna Stockman. Roll call vote, Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, 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 9:38 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir