

Chichester Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday February 8, 2022

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

Budget Committee Members- Tom Houle, Stephen MacCleery, Don Peterman, Tara Blaney and Doug Hall.

Members of the public: Donna Chagnon, Zach Boyjijian, Richard and Sandra Millette, Cpl. Wright, Chief Clarke, Chief Quimby, Paul Sanborn, Kathy Doult, Craig Sykes, Mardy Friary, Carolyn Pynes, Heather Chivaras, Russ Blaney, Stan Brehm, Mary Castelli

Call to Order: Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

Mr. MacKinnon, the moderator, went through the budget line by line.

Income/Revenue-

There were no questions or comments from the public regarding Income.

Total income and revenue, \$2,161,490.00.

Expenses-

Mr. Boyjijian stated that he believed that line 4901 was missing budget numbers for land improvements for last year. Mrs. Pinard stated that she will input those numbers.

Mr. Boyjijian asked where the numbers are for 2022 projects for conservation school trails.

Mrs. Pinard stated that it will be a wash. she stated that it will be added it to income for grants and will add a line under capital outlay for recreation trails.

Warrant Articles-

Mr. Sanborn stated that he believed the name for the Rescue Truck Capital Reserve Fund was incorrect. Mrs. Pinard stated that was the title from the Trustee's report. Mr. Sanborn will do some research and provide Mrs. Pinard with an update.

With no further questions, Mr. MacKinnon closed the public hearing.

Discussion on budget-

Mr. Hall stated that he is still undecided on how to vote this evening.

Mr. Weir stated that a 1.8 million dollar increase over 5 years is untenable. He stated that looking at each item it's not bad, but no services have increased. Inflation has only increased this years budget, not the previous years budget. He stated that this increase is not sustainable.

Mr. Hall stated that he is undecided, not because the items are not needed but because of the high increase. He can afford the increase, but not everyone can. it's the aggregate concern.

Mr. Millette stated that the \$2.2 million dollar budget from 5 years ago, going to today's \$3.1 million dollar budget is a \$800,000 increase not \$1.8 million. He stated that what Mr. Weir alludes to, has to do with Capital Reserve Projects. Numbers can be swayed depending how you present them. The average increase is \$200,000 per year and that's not unreasonable or unexpected.

Mrs. Pinard stated that we also increased the Fire Department for services, adding per diem shifts to cover the days which Epsom and Loudon were previously covering.

Mr. Peterman stated that the public gave no pushback, which leads him to believe that everyone is comfortable with the budget.

Mr. Bouchard stated that he believes the Town needs to generate more revenue. He stated that the Town needs to develop Route 4 to offset the increases, so we don't need to cut services.

Warrant Article #12 Discussion-

Mrs. Blaney asked if it was possible to use the funds available to fix the current pumper.

Chief Quimby stated that it's a 24-year-old truck that is unreliable. It's not dependable and the Residents deserve better. He also stated that fund cannot be utilized for repairs.

Mr. Bouchard stated that he wouldn't want to risk the unreliability with safety equipment.

Mr. Hall stated that this warrant article gives him the most heartburn. He is going to vote no. It's not that he doesn't think the truck needs to be replaced, it's how and when.

Mr. Peterman stated that it sounds like this truck is unsalvageable. Putting it off another year, isn't going to do anything. A lease purchase might make sense.

Mr. Weir stated that makes zero sense, and it wouldn't be worth it to put off another year. The Town already put this money away, so the Town should utilize it.

Mr. Millette stated that in recent history the Fire Department requested an amount to save, and it was cut. If funds are cut, then you cannot follow a savings plan.

Mr. Weir stated that this truck is 4 years past the 20-year replacement, so the Town saved money by extending the replacement of this truck.

Warrant Article-Votes by Board of Selectmen and Advisory Budget Committee to recommend or not

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$ 3,031,078** to defray Town charges for the ensuing year. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed below. (Operating Budget) (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen **does** recommend this article **(3-0 vote)**. The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(3-2 vote) (Approximate Tax Impact \$ 5.27)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$16,000** to be deposited into each of the following Capital Reserve Funds; the amount of **\$16,000** is to be from general taxation. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen **does** recommend this article. **(3-0 vote)** The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(3-2 vote) (Approximate Tax Impact \$.05)**

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| a. Town Facilities Capital Reserve Fund | \$ 16,000 |
|---|-----------|

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$44,000** to be deposited into each of the following Expendable Trust Funds; the amount of **\$44,000** is to be from general taxation. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen **does** recommend this article. **(3-0 vote)** The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(3-2 vote) (Approximate Tax Impact \$.13)**

- | | |
|--|----------|
| a. Government Vehicle Maintenance | \$ 5,000 |
| b. Fire Radio & Associated Equipment Repair/Replacement | \$12,000 |
| c. FD Personal Protective Gear & Associated Repair/Replacement | \$12,000 |
| d. Police Department Training/Benefits | \$15,000 |

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$66,000** for the purpose of purchase, installation, and maintenance of Stryker Powerlift units for the 2 ambulances. The sum of **\$50,000** to be received from the ARPA SFRF Locality Equipment Grant (GOFFER). The remaining **\$16,000** withdrawn from the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Special Revenue Fund. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectman **does** recommend this article. **(3-0 vote)** The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(5-0 vote) (Approximate tax impact \$0.00)**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$98,000.00** for the purpose of purchasing and installing a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Breathing Air Compressor/Fill Station for the Fire/Rescue Department. The amount of **\$35,000** to come from the SCBA Capital Reserve Fund, the remaining **\$63,000** to come from general taxation. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectman **does** recommend this article. **(3-0 vote)** The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(5-0 vote) (Approximate tax impact \$.19)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,000** for the purpose of defraying the cost of running the ambulance service. The sum of **\$12,000** to be withdrawn from the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Special Revenue Fund. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectman **does** recommend this article. **(3-0 vote)** The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(5-0 vote) (Approximate tax impact \$0.00)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$39,000** for the purpose of purchasing a UTV rescue vehicle and enclosed trailer for the Fire/Rescue Department. The sum of **\$39,000** to be withdrawn from the Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectman **does** recommend this article. **(3-0 vote)** The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(5-0 vote) (Approximate tax impact \$0.00)**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$32,000** to replace 915 feet of damaged and rotted guardrail on Burnt Hill Road and Higgins Road. The sum of **\$32,000** will be raised by general taxation. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen **does** recommend this article. **(3-0 vote)** The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(5-0 vote) (Approximate tax impact \$0.10)**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$558,196** for the purpose of purchasing and outfitting a pumper truck to replace the 1998 E-One pumper truck for the Fire/Rescue Department. The sum of **\$498,196** to be withdrawn from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund and **\$60,000** to be raised by general taxation. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectman **does** recommend this article. **(3-0 vote)** The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(3-2 vote) (Approximate tax impact \$.18)**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$298,000** for the purpose of purchasing and outfitting a forestry vehicle for the Fire/Rescue Department. Ninety-Five percent (95%) of these funds **\$283,100** will come from Federal Grant Funding and Five percent (5%) of these funds **\$14,900** to come from the Forestry Truck Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectman **does** recommend this article. **(3-0 vote)** The Advisory Budget Committee **does** recommend this article. **(5-0 vote) (Approximate tax impact \$ 0.00)**

Upcoming dates:

Mr. Mackinnon stated that there will be a presentation by the school regarding school funding on February 16, 2022, at 6:00pm.

Mr. Mackinnon said the candidate's night will be February 23, 2022. Location to be determined

School Meeting is March 5, 2022, 9:00am at Chichester Central School.

Town Elections are March 8, 2022, 10:00am-7:00pm.

Town Meeting is March 12, 2022, at 10:00am.

There will be an open house at the Fire Department on March 7, 2022, at 6:00pm to ask any questions about the Fire Department Warrant Articles.

Other Business-

Mrs. Pinard reported that the Highway Department is down an employee.

Mrs. Pinard commended the Highway Dept for their hard work. She stated they worked the most recent storm with only two employees and one contractor.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is February 15, 2022.

Mr. Sykes discussed the option of bypassing the purchasing policy for the road reconstruction for 2022. He believed that the Town could have considerable savings by extending Busby's contract into 2022.

After some discussion, the Board was not comfortable with bypassing the purchasing policy and directed Mr. Sykes to send the project out to bid.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Millette and seconded by Mr. Bouchard to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. Weir, aye. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Jobin, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir