

Chichester Board of Selectmen

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday January 28, 2020

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

Advisory Budget Committee Members present: Tom Houle, Stephen MacCleery, Don Peterman, Doug Hall and Tara Blaney

Others Present: Chief Clarke, Donna Chagnon and other members of the public.

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

Warrant article review-

Mr. Millette stated that the Fire Department reviewed the warrant article regarding the ambulance fund and still had a hard time supporting it.

Mr. Weir stated that he can understand the Fire Department wanting to protect themselves.

Mr. Millette stated that Epsom puts a specific number into revenues to the town and the rest stays in the Fire Department account.

Mr. Millette stated that the income for the ambulance has changed over the past years as follows:

2017 \$35,000.

2018 \$60,000 and was only a ½ year with per diems

2019 \$118,000 first full year with per diems

Mr. Houle asked if the ambulance can be pushed another five years so that less money can be put into the ambulance fund.

Mr. Weir stated they are two separate questions. How much to put away and how long to push out ambulances.

Mr. Hall spoke about dedicated funds. Money should come in and the body should allocate money in legislature. Mr. Hall stated that he felt that the Town shouldn't pass a warrant article that spends money years out. He stated that it should be decided every budget season. Mr. Hall feels that it is taking away the ability to decide what's going into the fund and loses the control that the budget process would have.

Mr. Weir would like to decide every year what to recommend to the voters.

He asked what other special funds there are. he received the answer: Conservation, Fire, Special Detail and the Municipal transportation Fund.

Mr. Weir pointed out that this fund can be used for a lot more than just a new ambulance.

Mr. Houle spoke about being shot down at town meeting last year and 118,000 went into the fund this year. It was spoken about that a certain percentage would go in the fund because of the new service we provide. The Fire Department needs to be on board, or it won't go very far in the vote.

Mr. Millette stated that they pay \$16-\$19 for per diems and the department wants to have enough money to purchase new equipment to properly maintain the department and it's not fair to them not to be able to replace them.

Mr. Houle made a motion and Mrs. Blaney seconded to remove #21 from the warrant article. Motion passes.

Mr. Hall made a motion and Mr. Houle seconded to remove #22 from the warrant article. Motion passes.

Mr. Hall discussed that instead of rushing to get it on the warrant we should discuss it more and do it next year.

The consensus of the Board was to remove #21 & 22 off the warrant.

Mr. Millette stated that it was agreed to help offset the fire dept expenses, but the purpose of the conservation today has changed, and he is not on Board. He would like a dollar amount to set that would go to offset costs and the rest would go to the ambulance revenue fund. That's what he would be in favor of.

Mr. Bouchard asked if Mr. Millette has an issue with a set amount going into the revenue fund and the rest goes into Town revenue? Are you comfortable with that?

Mr. Millette is not comfortable with that. He is comfortable with a certain dollar amount going into general fund and the rest going into the special revenue fund.

Mr. Hall made a motion to remove article 20 to be removed. Motion fails.

Mr. Millette would like it to be a percent instead of a dollar amount and be something like an 80/20 split. For example, if there was \$70,000 in revenue, 56,000 would go into the special rev account and the \$18,000 would go into the general fund.

After discussion the consensus of the Board of Selectmen was to restrict 80% of the revenue to the special revenue fund and to move 20% to general fund to move forward to public hearing.

The Budget Committee voted on a 75/25 split.

Mr. Houle made a motion and Mr. MacCleery seconded to recommend a 75/25 split for the ambulance fund/general fund for the warrant article moving forward. **Motion fails.**

The Board had some discussion on warrant article #23. They decided to wait for the conservation commission to ask questions.

Mr. Weir stated that it seems very ambiguous and would like the warrant article to be more specific.

Mr. Hall stated that he came up with 4.99 tax impact which is lower than last year which should be applauded. Also, would like to discuss why the numbers are off in the budget. Mrs. Pinard stated the discrepancy come from exemptions. Mr. Hall would like auditors to look to see why the number is such a significant difference between what's projected and what comes in for taxes.

Mr. Bouchard discussed how they talked about revamping the Capital Improvement Program process. He thinks we should look at this after Town meeting and not wait until November to get started.

General Business-

PD-

Chief Clarke stated that the Department would like to trade in the current pistols to replace new ones. Total for pistols is \$5,716.00 minus the amount for trade in. 10 new pistols \$1491.60

New holsters \$1560. He stated that he would like to use the reserve fund.

Mr. Bouchard makes a motion and Mr. Weir seconds to expend up to \$2502.60 for the purchase of new pistols and magazines and holsters out of the police equipment capital reserve Fund. **Motion passes.**

Chief Clarke stated that Officer Arnonne gave his resignation effective February 15th. Asks the Board that they accept the resignation. He is moving out of the law enforcement field but will be staying on the Department part time.

Irving Carrero would like to come back as a full time Officer. Mr. Carrero left the Department to pursue a career at the Sheriff's office but would like to return. The Board agreed. Chief Clarke stated that he can start February 17, 2020.

Bob Mulligan gave his resignation. He is unable to make the commitment.

Planning Board-

Mr. Brehm stated that the first Technical Review Committee was held for Bobcat's expansion and they will be coming in for public hearing in March.

There is new proposed zoning which two public hearings have been held for. Mr. Brehm stated that there are eight changes, mostly clean ups to the ordinance, adding conditional use permits, clarifying the ADU ordinance and some changes to Junkyards.

There will be a public hearing on February 6, 2020 to adopt the first 5 chapters of master plan.

Flannel Tavern-

The new lessees of the former Parkers Restaurant came before the Board to propose an 80-seat restaurant and would like to add a full bar. They need two things; approval for a full liquor license and a letter stating that there will be no adverse effects for town.

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Bouchard seconded that the Town provides 23 Stacey LLC dba Flannel Tavern to the care of Carrie Williams a letter stated that the Town has no issue with the establishment having a full liquor license or live music and will create no adverse effects for the Town.

Warrant article explanation-

Mr. Weir thinks actual warrant articles should be removed to shorten it as they will already have those and feels it will make the document too long for people to read.

Mr. Weir asked Mr. Millette about the people living in Great Meadows Campground. Mr. Millette said he was told the property owner gave them an eviction notice.

Abateements

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

Map 4 Lot 156-84RV in the amount of \$239.00

Map 4 Lot 156-41RV in the amount of \$5.00

Motion passes.

The Board reviewed and signed a new written directive that have been reworded regarding stone use on gravel roads for Mr. Plunkett.

The Board also signed a new written directive for all Department Heads to give notice to the Town Administrator for time off/vacation.

Cemetery-

Linda fisher gave resignation as of March 10, 2020. Dave Pinckney is up this March and not running again which leaves only one alternative left, Donna Chagnon.

Martell Road Auction

Mrs. Pinard stated that Atlantic Traders is on vacation and she didn't receive a quote back from them yet.

One quote did come in from James R. St. Jean.

The Board was not happy with the quote and asked Mrs. Pinard to reach back out and tell him they are not interested in a minimum.

Discussion on Fleet Committee-

Mr. Bouchard stated that he is interested in revitalizing the fleet committee. He stated that there is a lot of money in equipment and would like someone to look at the overall maintenance. The fleets reflect the big numbers in budget, and he would be in favor of hiring a consulting firm to get an unbiased recommendation.

Mr. Millette and Mr. Weir were both on the fleet committee and agreed it was ugly.

Mr. Weir would be in favor of a professional coming in to recommend a maintenance schedule and ideas to prolong equipment as a consultant.

The Board agreed that extending the life by one year is hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Millete stated that it sounds like Mr. Bouchard was looking for a maintenance log or maintenance schedule from department heads.

Mrs. Pinard suggested that the Town call around to other Towns for who they use for a town mechanic.

Public Input-

Mr. Hall stated that he would like to see the Website more accurately updated. He stated that the members and minutes were not current with all Departments.

Mrs. Pinard and Ms. Barnouski will be working to update all Boards and Committees.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bouchard and seconded by Mr. Millette to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Not approved until signed

Kristy Barnouski, Administrative Assistant