

Chichester Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday February 4, 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 Russell Blaney, Bob Mann, Caroline Pynes, Kathy Hosmer Doult, Christine Millette, Richard and Sandra Millette, Stan Brehm, Tom Jameson, Tammy Jameson, Alan Quimby, Donna Chagnon, Chief Clarke, Zach Boyjian, Evelyn Pike, Malinda Weir, Girl Scout Troop 51640, Brittney O'Donnell, Allison McIntosh and other members of the public.

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

Girl Scouts-

The Chichester Girl Scouts came to ask if they could put signs that they created up in the park to earn an award. It states, "your pup is welcome at our park, please don't let them leave their mark".

Mr. Weir made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to allow the Girl Scouts to put up two signs at carpenter park. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

The Girls Scouts also asked if they could have a cookie drive through February 21, 2020 4-7pm at Town Hall with the same set up as last year. The Board agreed.

Public Hearing for Budget-

Mr. Bouchard opened the public hearing.

Mr. McKinnon began going through the budget line by line.

Mrs. Chagnon asked what is 'other funds'.

Mrs. Pinard stated that it is matching dollar amounts from grants.

Mr. Mann asked about a wage study and if everyone is getting the same salary?

Mr. Bouchard stated that the Police had a state wage study and the Boards also used the comp study from last year. These two studies were used to determine positions salaries which varies.

Mrs. Millette asked where that put the wages now.

Mr. Bouchard stated that he felt it put the Police Department in the median range and other positions closer to where they need to be.

Mr. MacCleery stated that he thought the increases from last year put them in the median.

Mr. Bouchard stated that it just helped push them towards the median and for certain positions it was going to take more to get them there.

Chief Clarke explained the effects of losing an officer and putting someone else through the academy which is extremely expensive versus what it cost paying for salary increases.

Mrs. Pike asked about the reason they only gave the Town Clerk the 1.6 % raise.

Mr. Bouchard stated it was because of the compensation study showing that the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector is in the median salary range.

Mrs. Chagnon asked if the stipend position of Treasurer had an increase built in.

The Board answered the stipend positions do not.

Mr. Mann asked what is going on with the ambulance service.

Mr. Weir stated that fire and ambulance used to be budgeted separately but it made more sense to realign the budget to reflect what is happening.

Mr. Mann asked if the department was running its own ambulance service and billing for services. Is it a wash?

Mr. Millette stated that it's not a wash, but they never have to use tax money to purchase an ambulance. Mr. Millette stated that they try to bill fair for residents. The Department uses a third-party billing service. He stated that you will never see a CIP deposit for an ambulance so if we didn't have this money, we would have to use tax dollars to purchase one. Currently there are two people on twelve hours a day per diem and the volunteers cover over night. Last year the department had more income generated because Epsom was short so it won't be as high this year and will level out.

Mr. Mann asked about per diems being approved and 2019 being the first full year with this service.

Mr. Millette stated that it was the first full year in service and the department is doing great and had three code saves just in this Town alone last year. It's been excellent for care and service. The members still cover volunteer coverage, but the Town would need to double the budget to get 24-hour coverage. He stated that the Town is very lucky to have the group of people we do for per diems and volunteers. This transition is working so far.

Mr. Mann asked if the road reconstruction had already been bid for this year.

The Board stated that it has been bid for Bear Hill Road and awarded.

Mr. Hall stated that there needs to be an audit of the spreadsheet over the summer as he has found errors and the Town has been using the same one for years.

New total operating budget is \$2,735,065.00

increase of 7.27% with a dollar amount of \$185,384.00

Warrant articles

#22

Mrs. O Donnell asked how this warrant article will impact the ambulance replacement and stated that there is a lot of uncertainty that she's uncomfortable with and felt like this would be a discussion better suited for a year or two.

Mr. Weir stated that it would go into the General fund to offset taxes.

Mr. Bouchard stated that they needed to start the conversation because it often takes several years to get things through at Town Meeting.

#23

Mr. Mann stated that this warrant article is prescriptive wording right out of the statue. He also added a good description in the voters' guide. He stated that the point of this effort is to conserve open space.

Mr. Boyjian stated that this warrant article provides us the ability to partner with five rivers which has expertise, which will help with getting grants, and the Town gets the benefit of the land being reserved and the accessibility. The stewardship falls onto the organization and not the Town.

Mr. Mann stated that if this doesn't pass then the Town will have to hold the easement. They would like to add wording to make it clearer.

Mr. Weir stated that as it is written, it's hard to support and suggested adding wording.

Mr. Hall warned there could be trouble if you touch wording regarding the RSA and suggested changing the explanation instead.

Closed public hearing at 8:11pm

The Boards voted on the recommendation of the following warrant articles:

Warrant article	Board of Selectmen	Budget Committee
#10	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 4-1
#11	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 4-1
#12	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 5-0
#13	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 5-0
#14	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 3-2
#15	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 5-0
#16	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 5-0
#17	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 5-0
#18	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 5-0
#19	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 4-1
#20	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 5-0
#21	Unanimous Yes Vote	Yes 4-1

#22	Unanimous Yes Vote	No financial impact-no vote for Budget Committee
#23	Unanimous Yes Vote	No financial impact-no vote for Budget Committee
#24	Unanimous Yes Vote	No financial impact-no vote for Budget Committee

Mr. Millette made a motion and Mr. Weir seconded to appoint Mrs. Pinard and Ms. Barnouski pro tems for the election on February 10, 2020. Millette, aye. Weir, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Bouchard asked the Budget Committee to please sit up front at Town Meeting to answer the public's questions on the budget and warrant articles.

Adjournment:

Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bouchard and seconded by Mr. Millette to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Not approved until signed

Kristy Barnouski, Administrative Assistant

Richard Bouchard

Edward Millette

Jason Weir