

## Chichester Board of Selectmen

### Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday December 13, 2022

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

**Members of the Advisory Budget Committee:** Don Peterman, Kathy Doult, Tara Blaney.

**Call to Order:** Mr. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

#### **Budget Workshop-**

Mrs. Pinard stated that CIP is not currently in the budget and the numbers will be added in January.

She stated that revenues are down partly due to transfers not being made out of the capital reserves and trust funds. There are also other decreases such as motor vehicles. Timber was also reduced, but she stated that there is one large cut on King Road for 32 acres for this year.

Mrs. Pinard stated that rooms and meals did increase.

The 8% proposed wage increase is in the budget.

The assessing amount is in the budget but there is still a \$14,000 leftover balance to be paid out of general assessing or the Board could choose to put it forward as a warrant article.

Mrs. Pinard stated that there are several increases this year such as, health insurance with a 5.2% increase, workers compensation and property and liability. The legal amount was also high.

Mr. Peterman questioned if heat and electricity needed to be increased as it seems low, and rates are set to go up in December.

Mrs. Pinard stated she was waiting for the next billing cycle to see changes before she increased the numbers.

Mr. Bouchard questioned a budget item justification for highway trucks that was added.

Mrs. Pinard stated that she believed it was for a safety net, but they would have to ask Mr. Sykes

Mrs. Blaney asked about the part time officer line and why it went up.

Mrs. Pinard stated that there is now a permanent part-timer, working 26 hours per week to provide 24/7 coverage.

Mr. Millette asked about the fund set up to offset costs while putting new employees through the academy.

Mrs. Pinard stated that Chief Wright could ask to use those funds to offset payroll.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Cemetery Trustees added \$5,000.00 to remove trees from the cemeteries. They asked to add a new line for tree removal. The trustees stated that the Road Agent told them it was not in his budget. This could be a warrant article as well.

Mr. Millette stated that if they are on town property then the \$5,000 should be added to the highway line and not the Cemetery.

Mr. Millette asked about IT.

Mrs. Pinard stated that she has reached out to several IT companies for bids. She stated she will have some information soon. She did meet with Block 5 which went really well, and the Police Dept. was impressed with him as well.

Mr. Millette stated that the Highway truck increased \$16,000 without the additions.

Proposed wage increases for all Town employees with benefits is roughly \$108,052.00

Mrs. Pinard stated that revenue is down roughly \$40,000 actual to proposed. She stated that it should be offset by year end and be flat.

Mrs. Blaney asked when the wage increases would be decided.

Ms. Doult stated that she had heard that there would be pushback from the residents.

Mr. Millette stated that in his opinion the Town can cut other places in the budget that doesn't affect the employees. Mr. Bouchard agreed.

Mr. Peterman stated that employees are important and the way you treat employees is important for retention.

Next meeting: December 14, 2023- Library, Planning Board, Parks & Rec, and Police Department.

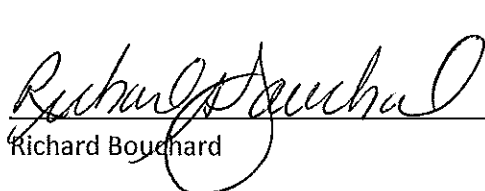
Next week December 20, 2023- Fire & Highway.

**Adjournment:** Being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bouchard and seconded by Mr. Millette to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. Roll call vote. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

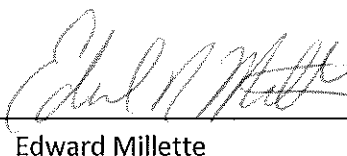
Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Jobin

Administrative Assistant



Richard Bouchard



Edward Millette

Stephen MacCleery