

**Town of Chester
Budget Committee
Approved Minutes
September 18, 2017**

I. Meeting to Order

Chair Michael Weider called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM on Monday, September 18, 2017.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Michael Weider led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Attendance

Chair Michael Weider
Selectman Stephen D'Angelo
Brian Shankey
Becky Owens
Brennan Holmes
Kim Peterson - school board representative

Absent:
Vice Chair Rhonda Lamphere
Chuck Heuer

Mike Romick, Vice Chair Chester School Board

IV. Announcements by the Chair -

V. Public Comment –
None

VI. BOS Update – Selectman Stephen D'Angelo

Many invoices are coming up and they will be reviewed with a more critical eye.

From the emergency management meeting, the superintendent is looking into putting an addition onto the school in the next few years. Selectman D'Angelo would like to put a committee together possibly including UNH students to research the increase of population through the years to help determine future growth potential not simply for the school, but for other town resources as well. The fire department is already struggling to get people to volunteer; what will happen if more are needed? The volunteers that they

currently have work in a number of different areas and therefore may not be able to arrive quickly if necessary. Therefore he is concerned about the growth of the town, not just the school population. He does not feel a selectman is necessarily needed on this committee, but it would be good to have a BC member or two.

This discussion was continued in the New Business portion of the meeting.

VII. School Board Update –

Quantitative vs qualitative report - most of this information can be found in Sheryl's report see attached. The pre-audit number is \$510,000 compared to the original \$136,266. The post audit number will be close, but may not be exact.

Prior initiatives have all been completed - The circuit setters were installed, so teachers are now able to adjust the heat in their classroom. The parking lots was resealed, security cameras were installed, vacuums were purchased. The reach in fridge broke, and a new one was purchased for \$2,200. It was replaced because the prior one was too old to fix.

Current initiatives- Karen LeCroix was the assistant principal and is now the principal, Ann Gaffney is the new assistant principal.

Goals and initiatives for the school board:

1. Student empowerment - seek input from the students on what should be improved
2. Chrome books - grades 5-8 have them, and they are rolling out grades 1-4
3. Working on fixing some bus glitches - possible areas where it's too long, or too narrow to walk safely.
 - a. Derry has a contract in which they receive new buses every few years, so Chester was able to receive their old buses which were in much better condition than the previous ones.
 - b. None of our buses are going to the Northwood area.
4. The last thing is a schedule for the BC. - At the next meeting there will be a 1st draft of 3 dates created, but they must work for all of the calendars.

VIII. Other Committee Updates –

IX. Minutes –

June 19th minutes –

Chair Weider made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Holmes seconds the motion.

Line 106 - change Selectman Trask to Selectman D'Angelo

Two changes from Kim - about cost of heating, change antifreeze to antifreeze disposal. Also, the school budget is being audited, not the school board.

Chair Weider made a motion to accept the minutes of June 19th as amended. Mr. Holmes seconded. 6 in favor, Mr. Shankey abstained, the motion carries.

XI. New Business -

a. Annual NHMA Budget and Finance Workshop - Review

If anyone is interested, there is still information available

b. 2017-2018 Budget Calendar

1. March 13th - school district meeting - earlier to try to have more time to get the report published

c. Future Needs Planning (Facilities, Services and Roads)

1. Master Plan (adopted 12/9/15)

The vision of the town, what they would like to see. The planning board updates the master plan, and it can be found on the town website. It's 300 pages, but it goes through all of the departments, the growth of the community, as well as the services.

2. CIP (adopted 4/27/16, updated 1/11/2017)

Capital Projects that are brought to the planning board. Updated yearly, based upon the requests of departments. Working document that can be amended by the legislative body at any time. Then the town votes on it. It's what the town feels they can handle.

d. Wason Pond Advisory Committee

c. The planning board received a request from the school board about conducting this study to determine growth and needs for the town. They decided that Southern NH Planning may be a better way to go as they are a public/private company that are funded through block grants and certain state funding, but this is their main focus.

Right now there's an initiative in the state with the upcoming 2020 census. The state is pushing hard to have communities be beginning conversations that the 2020 census will be coming and how important the information is for people to be filling it out as it is used to determine trends and information for the future.

What has been sent out recently, is a snapshot of the census. It's a pre that is sent out to certain profiles that may answer. The federal side will send out census gatherers.

In November, the assessors will be sending out a survey from the town that is used to help best provide for the town. Chester collects more in penalties than they do in people taking the time to provide the five minutes of information. Perhaps if it were available online it could be printed out? The law says it has to be mailed.

School size, currently at around 500 students, in the past, the highest enrollment was 693. The current developments and move ins have not had an impact on the school yet. However, this may not necessarily be the case for the future. Right now, at least another 100 students could be absorbed without reconfiguring of classes. At his time, there's no need in the "near" future for expansion.

Mrs. Peterson - There is no immediate need, but beyond one year, we need to look and assess what the potential need may be.

Selectman D'Angelo - This is why it's so important to assess the possible need for impact. As of right now, there's at least room for 35% growth at the school.

Chair Weider - Whatever happens in the next five years, we don't know. Looking at the tools that we have on the planning side, it does not appear to be the case but it depends on the economy as well.

Selectman D'Angelo - I'm not sure if the 93 project will be complete in the next few years, but it will be a pipeline through these small towns. We don't know what the impact will be on our resources. We didn't get any money from the state to help us with discovering the impact the traffic will have on the town. We should have been involved and had representation in discussions to share what could happen to our community.

Mr. Holmes - Change in infrastructure as well with the updating of Manchester. People will be looking for a Bedford alternative which could have an impact too.

Chair Weider - There are lots of concerns of what can be done to pieces of land, and what development can be completed. When numbers are mentioned, some premature emotions can become involved and we need to remain clear and informed of what is taking place.

As for the quality of the roads, there isn't enough in the impact fees to fix all of the roads. They have to be in the forecast, as it wasn't planned ahead. Things are in place now to try to maintain what we have, and some roads are being put into the CIP. Some roads were made close to wetlands and they need to be redone because no one anticipated those roads would be travelled the way they are. At that time, roads weren't built to certain specs either. Now there are standards to help with the building of roads. Some were built as paths, now with other houses, the roads are being used more as a bypass which creates problems with the deterioration.

Selectman D'Angelo - Getting input and feedback from various groups on putting this plan together could be extremely helpful. If we have students take part in this, by this time next year, we should have a plan.

Chair Weider - There is a grant available right now through Southern NH Planning of Rockingham County. Perhaps we could apply for the grant, not sure it cuts the mustard but it's worth a try.

Derry and Londonderry made a lot of money from the state because of the 93 project, but they are impacted a great deal. They are responsible for the clearing of accidents, tanker spills etc. which they do not make back in taxes.

d. Wason Pond Advisory Commission - the committee is made up of representatives for conservation, recreation, a budget committee member, and townspeople. Some of these committees/commissions have been operating without authorization. Some we cannot find dates even for the last appointment. BOS are getting in contact with members of different committees to ensure accurate information. Board of assessors, and ZBA - constantly involved with legal action could be a problem if no one has been appointed by the BOS.

Wason Pond Committee is in need of an advisor from the Budget Committee. The recreation side is mostly from the beach forward. After inspecting the trails, there are no maps, no signs, GPS doesn't work there, and the bridges need repairing. The committee would advise the BOS of what they need, they're like overseers. Mr. Shankey would be interested in learning more depending on the meeting dates and times.

a. We don't have the budget schedule yet but Chair Weider would like a whole calendar /schedule at one time, not bit by bit.

In addition to this, Selectman D'Angelo wants to advocate having things expressed in more detail, not having anything buried in the budget that is difficult to find.

Chair Weider - I have handed out the list of departments. Look at the list, what are you interested in being a liaison to help with? Please look into this before the next meeting.

XII. Other Business-

How's the full time recreation director position going? There was a bump in the road in July with kids. In time it'll get better. The town fair seemed to go well. The town budgeted 15k they spent 27k. It's a revolving account they always go over, but it's covered by fees for the most part. The town pays \$15,000, in support to offset the costs for kids. If they increased their budget, then they wouldn't have to reimburse the town the difference of the \$15,000.

Chair Weider sent the July and August reports out. An encumbrance for the town side had a surplus of \$154,000, encumbered \$40,000, remainder of \$114,000 when taxes are set, we don't know what they're going to do yet.

Selectman D'Angelo - We encumbered some of the money for things we had talked about doing in the future, but we went ahead. Some of the funds were encumbered to repair the quint. There was a mad dash to get a pumper, which should be here probably after the first of the year. As well as some insanity this past week to sign off on getting another police car, but that's this year's budget.

XIII. Member Comments -

XIV. Public Comments –

XV. Next Meeting Date – October 16, 2017

XVI. Adjourn -

Mr. Shankey made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Owens seconded the motion. All in favor, the Budget Committee meeting of September 18, 2017 adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah DeLisle, Recording Secretary