

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

I. Meeting to Order

Chair Michael Weider called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM on Monday, December 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

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

18 budgets have been turned in, we're on track for having them all turned in on time.

At the last meeting there was a good discussion about the CIP. Copies will be made for everyone to look at more closely especially page 18 with the budget expense and encumbrances. Loan principal and loan interests, that's what was the warrant articles. It's getting down to the point where some of it will vanish as it's being moved into CIP. How it's used may be a question that wants to be raised by the budget committee. Also, are we getting what we pay for out of it? For example, the PD cruisers are breaking down and they are being replaced with new ones each year for \$60,000 a piece, that's why they are

being replaced each year. Also the community numbers are supposedly on the rise for the 2020 census but the school enrollment has gone down.

Chair Weider - If the school board is asking for \$12.7 million which is up 1.09% or \$137,000, enrollment is decreasing, no teacher contract yet which will be a separate warrant article, last year there was a surplus of 800 or 700 something thousand dollars, they're tracking for a surplus again, what is the rationale of this amount being budgeted?

Selectman D'Angelo, We're looking at \$350-400,000 returned to town which helps set off taxes, BOS wanted to put more money into the CIP so we didn't put as much into a fall back position into taxpayer return.

For the town side, IT had a couple of hiccups that are not all caught up yet. The salary pool has been disbursed. Overall it is a bottom line budget. The siding that was put onto the barn was a donation. Recreation reimbursement is not back yet. For the revenues, collected little under 50%. 48% has come in so far and it looks like it will be on target.

Selectman D'Angelo would like to revisit the idea of a starting salary rather than \$10 an hour. He'd like to have the town be up for the challenge of paying a reasonable rate for the part time under 20 hour per week positions.

Maybe having a town manager or administrator would allow some relief of hour commitment for others.

VIII. Committee Updates –

IX. Minutes –

November 20th minutes –

Mr. Shankey moves to accept the minutes of November 20th. Mr. Holmes seconds the motion. Mrs. Owens abstains. The motion carries.

XI. New Business -

Budget Committee proposed budget: \$903 was the budget last year, looking for an increase of 22% to \$1,108.

Dues and subscriptions for 7 copies of Town and City at \$25 each raise from \$150 to \$175.

Office Supplies - 8 copies of budget workbooks. It was \$200 last year, and the BC overspent a little so raise it to \$250.

Advertisement was raised to \$150.

Seminars - came up a bit short last year at \$400 so increased to \$500 to help it not go over again, especially in case the seminar cost goes up from \$90 each as it was this year. The seminar can be

quite meaningful as something new can always be learned. They cover challenges other towns are having with lots of legal review and interesting questions.

Mr. Shankey moves to accept the proposed budget for the Budget Committee. Dr. Owens seconds the motion. Selectman D'Angelo abstains, the rest of the BC in favor. The motion carries.

XII. Other Business-

XIII. Member Comments -

XIV. Public Comments –

XV. Next Meeting Date – January 22, 2018

XVI. Adjourn -

Mr. Shankey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion. All in favor, the Budget Committee meeting of December 18, 2017 adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah DeLisle, Recording Secretary