

**Chester Budget Committee  
February 6, 2017  
Approved Minutes**

**I. Meeting to Order**

Chairman Weider called the meeting of the Chester Budget Committee to order at 7:02 pm on Monday, February 6, 2017.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Weider led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Attendance**

Members (by Roll Call)

Rhonda Lamphere, Vice-Chair  
Stephen D'Angelo  
Chuck Heuer  
Brian Shankey  
Becky Owens  
Selectman Richard Trask  
Chairman Michael Weider

Absent:

Michael Romick, Vice-Chair Chester School Board

Members of the Chester School District Present:

SAU Superintendent Dr. Darrell Lockwood  
Chester Academy Principal Leslie Leahy  
Royal Richardson, Chairman, Chester School Board  
Sheryl Rich, Chester Academy Business Administrator  
Jana Ruiz, Chester Academy SPED Director  
Valerie Weider  
Sarah Ungaro  
Maria Veale

Members of the Public Present – None

Members of the Media/Press Present - None

#### **IV. Announcements by the Chair – Welcome**

Chairman Weider announced that this evening the Budget Committee would hold a Public Hearing on the Chester School District's 2017-2018 Warrant and Annual Budget and invited the School Board and Administration to the table.

Chairman Weider postponed the BOS and School Board Updates, and review of the Minutes until the end of the meeting.

#### **V. Public Comment – none.**

#### **VI. Open Public Hearing on Chester School District's 2017-2018**

Chairman Weider asked for a motion to go into Public Hearing on the Chester School District's Warrant and Annual Budget.

*Mr. Shankey made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the School District 2017-2018 Warrant and Budget Articles, to review budgetary or cost items and vote on those tonight and move forward the warrant articles, and to sign and send off MS27. Mr. Heuer seconded his motion. With 7 Votes in favor, by roll call: Vice-Chair Lamphere, Mr. D'Angelo, Mr. Heuer, Mr. Shankey, Ms. Owens, Selectman Trask and Chairman Weider, so moved:*

Chairman Weider read aloud the Chester School District 2017-2018 Warrant Articles:

Article 1: Acceptance of Reports – at School District Meeting

“To hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees or officers heretofore chosen.”

Article 2: Elect Officials – at School District Meeting, by Town Clerk

“To choose the following school district officers:

School Board Member – 3 year term

School Board Member – 3 year term

School District Treasurer – 3 year term

School District Clerk – 3 year term

School District Moderator – 3 year term”

Article 3: Budget for School – ***Voting***

“To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee’s recommended amount of Twelve Million, Five Hundred Eighty Three Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$12,583,910.00) for the support of the schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.” (***Majority vote required***)

Discussion:

Mr. Richardson, on behalf of the Chester School District, summarized that the proposed 2017-2018 Budget is the Budget that is being presented at the annual School District Meeting. The School concurs on a Budget of \$12,583,910.00, developed with the Budget Committee and recognized the Budget Committee for their insight. Thanks in part to the efforts of the Superintendent, SAU and staff, he continued, regular education is up by 2.54%, \$17,475; operation 10.74%, \$55,012 for HVAC; decreases for SPED are down, reduction to decreased enrollment; resource room costs at \$33,688 at Pinkerton; enrollment flatlined, some adjustments \$92,689; unreserved, \$136,266. Based on \$12,583,910, with a tax impact of .54 dollars per thousand for an average home valued at \$350,000.00, or \$189 for the year, or \$3.63 per week. Mr. Richardson on behalf of the Chester School District would encourage the public to vote “Yes” at the meeting.

Mr. D’Angelo motioned to move Article 3 forward. Mr. Shankey seconded his motion, with 7 voting in favor, and none opposed, so moved.

Article 4: Collective Bargaining Agreement Educational Support - ***Voting***

“To see if the Chester School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Chester School Board and the Chester Educational Support Personnel Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year 2017-2018	Estimated Increase	\$23,402.34
2018-2019	Estimated Increase	6,980.04
2019-2020	Estimated Increase	7,184.13

and to further raise and appropriate \$23,402.34 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.” (***Majority vote required***)

Discussion:

Vice-Chair Lamphere asked for clarification of the wording “current” on page 1, as it might misconstrue these funds were being added to the current year and recommended stating “for the first contract year” in its place, so that it would be better understood by the taxpayers.

Mr. D'Angelo added that the fiscal year starts in July. Superintendent Lockwood clarified that was pointed out down below, the Revenue Department rules on these things and they've approved it.

Vice-Chair Lamphere motioned to move Article 4 forward. Mr. Heuer seconded her motion, with 7 voting in favor, and none opposed, so moved.

#### Article 5: Special Meeting

"Shall the Chester School District, if Article 4 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 4 cost items only?"

#### Article 6: Unanticipated Funds

"Shall the Chester School District accept the provisions of RSA 198:20-b providing that any school district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the School Board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action, by the school district, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year?"

#### Article 7: Contribute to Educating Disabled Children Fund - *Voting*

"To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$25,000 to be added to the expendable trust fund known as the Educating Disabled Children Fund (established in March, 2008) and authorize the use of that amount from the June 30, 2017 fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1. No amount to be raised from taxation." (***Majority Vote Required***)

#### Discussion:

Mr. Richardson explained their position would allow the addition of money into the fund for SPED services, making that decision at the end of the year, if surplus was available.

Mr. Shankey asked about amending the name this year or next. Mr. Heuer ruled it was discussed and determined not to be practical at this time and he did not want to draw more attention to it than he was trying to repair. Superintendent Lockwood added that it would be required that the legislative body change the name at school district meeting.

Vice-Chair Lamphere motioned to accept Article 7. Selectman Trask seconded her motion, 7 voting in favor, and none opposed, so moved.

#### Article 8: Other Business

"To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting."

Chairman Weider offered that as we have no public that would like to speak, would anyone like to say anything before we close the Public Hearing.

Mr. Heuer stated that Mr. Shankey mentioned a couple of weeks ago that you guys did an incredible job this year. "It was great working with you and thank you so much." Mr. Richardson responded in kind, that again it was a very good collaborative effort, bringing this to a close pretty quickly, with good team work. Chairman Weider also expressed his thanks.

Vice-Chair Lamphere motioned to move forward the budget articles, with appropriations and to close the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Selectman Trask seconded her motion, all in favor, by roll call: Vice-Chair Lamphere, Mr. D'Angelo, Mr. Heuer, Mr. Shankey, Ms. Owens, Selectman Trask and Chairman Weider, so moved, at 7:20 pm.

At the request of Superintendent Lockwood, Selectman Trask motioned that the Chester Budget Committee move forward the Budget and Warrant Articles forwarded to the annual District Meeting. Vice-Chair Lamphere seconded his motion. With 7 voting in favor and none opposed, so moved.

Ms. Rich handed out five (5) copies of MS27 for signature by the Chester Budget Committee.

The members of the School District departed the meeting at 7:25 pm.

## **VII. BOS Update – Richard Trask**

Selectman Trask stated that there was one more meeting, then warrant articles, next Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fire Department**

- CIP
- Transports
- Fire Chief Salary decrease, full-time to part-time
- Staff – Chief, Deputy, (2) Lieutenants and (2) full-timers
- Duty Officer – On call, weekends, evenings, holidays.
- Meeting with Fire Department
  - Review budget highlights
  - Tour the Department
  - Overtime
  - EMT Training

### **Building Department**

Substantial increase of revenue to the Town from new building permits could be temporary.

## Hiring

The town has the authority to hire anybody they feel is needed to run the town. Some committee members voiced concerns about providing transparency and tradition through the offering of a warrant article so that the total cost of salary and benefits are not hidden.

Vice-Chair Lamphere called for a Point of Order to get the School District report finished.

## Recycling

The transfer station is generating revenue from recycling and those fees are shown in the revenues report.

## **VIII. School Board Update – Mike Romick**

### **IX. Other Committee Updates -**

### **X. Old Business**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**January 26, 2017** – Vice-Chair Lamphere motioned to accept the January 26, 2017 Minutes, amended as follows:

Line 89: substitute “a committee member”

Line 174: strike in its entirety

Ms. Owens seconded her motion. Selectman Trask abstained due to his absence from that meeting. With 6 voting in favor, so moved.

**January 30, 2017** – Selectman Trask motioned to accept the January 30, 2017 Minutes, amended as follows:

Line 211: substitute “asked”

Mr. Heuer seconded his motion. With Mr. Heuer and Mr. Shankey abstaining due to their absence from that meeting, 5 votes in favor, so moved.

### **XI. New Business**

### **XII. a. BC Calendar**

Chairman Weider announced that there would be no meeting next Monday on February 13, 2017.

## **b. Finalize & Submit School District Report**

Vice-Chair Lamphere asked Mr. Heuer if he could bring up the School District Report from the previous year on his computer and send it to all of the members. Selectman Trask displayed the report on the Meeting Room monitor. The Committee finalized the report as follows:

### **Report of the Chester Budget Committee's Review of the 2017-2018 Proposed School District Budget**

#### **To the Citizens of Chester:**

On February 6, 2017 a Public Hearing was held by the Chester Budget Committee to review the proposed budget. The purpose of the hearing was to answer any questions or concerns that the citizens of Chester had on the proposed and jointly recommended School District operating budget of \$12,583,910. While no members of the public attended the hearing, we are hopeful that all of Chester's citizens have a vested interest in the education of its children.

In arriving at the Budget Committee's recommended Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed school operating budget, the Committee considered the School District's existing obligations and associated costs, student population trends, staffing levels and class sizes, educational requirements, the return of a portion of the past year's school budget surplus, and the reduction in debt. Discretionary spending was looked at carefully, and after the initial meeting with the School Board, some adjustments were made. The proposed 2017-2018 operating budget reflects an increase in spending of \$199,472.00.

After several joint meetings with the School Board to discuss the proposed budget in detail, including both expenditures and anticipated revenues, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to **recommend** the proposed 2017-2018 operating budget in the amount of \$12,583,910. The tax impact, if passed without changes, will reflect an increase of \$0.54 per thousand dollars of assessed property value.

As always, we welcome your attendance and input at our Budget Committee meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Chester Budget Committee

Mike Weider, Chairman  
Chuck Heuer  
Brian Shankey  
Richard Trask, *ex-officio* Board of  
Selectmen

Rhonda Lamphere, Vice Chairman  
Stephen D'Angelo  
Becky Owens  
Mike Romick, *ex-officio*, School Board

Mr. D'Angelo motioned to accept the report, as written. Mr. Heuer seconded his motion. Mr. Heuer motioned to accept and forward the report to Sheryl Rich at the School District. Vice-Chair Lamphere seconded his motion, with 7 voting in favor, so moved.

Mr. Heuer forwarded a copy of the finalized letter at 8:29 pm.

## **XIII. Other Business –**

## **XIV. Member Comments –**

## **XV. Public Comments – none.**

**XVI. Next Meeting Date – February 20, 2017 @ 7:00 PM**

**XVII. Adjourn –**

Selectman Trask motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Heuer seconded his motion, all in favor, so moved. The meeting of the Chester Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:29 pm on Monday, February 6, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer,  
Recording Secretary