

**Town of Chester  
Budget Hearing Process  
Budget Committee  
Approved Minutes  
January 23, 2018**

**I. Meeting to Order**

Chair Michael Weider called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**III. Attendance**

Budget Committee Members:

Chair Michael Weider  
Vice Chair Lamphere  
Brian Shankey  
Brennan Holmes  
Chuck Heuer

Liaisons:

Selectman Stephen D'Angelo  
Mike Romick - School Board

Absent:

Becky Owens

Invited Guests:

Royal Richardson  
Dr. Darrell Lockwood  
Sheryl Rich  
Sarah Ungaro  
Valerie Weider  
Karen LaCroix  
Jana Ruiz  
Ann Gaffney

**IV. Announcements by the Chair -**

**V. Public Comment –**

## **VI. BOS Update – Selectman Stephen D’Angelo**

## **VIII. Committee Updates –**

## **IX. Minutes –**

### **XI. New Business -**

#### **a. School Board - Budget Review**

After the discussion last night, risk level needs were addressed and there are some items that can be pushed out at this time.

The new bottom line budget is \$12,657,198 with a variance of \$49,886.

\$37,066 reduction from previously was when a family shared they were moving and not attending Pinkerton savings of \$12,066 and savings of \$25,000 for special ed

Mr. Shankey – are any of these reductions going to hurt student success?

School Board – No, all of these items have acceptable levels of risk to remove from the current budget without seeming to show a negative impact on students. Some items can be moved to every other year or upcoming year’s budgets instead.

2013 - \$17.23 tax rate for just the school budget, 2018 - \$17.19

Dr. Lockwood spoke with an individual in town, provided the information for a water tank inspection company in Kentucky. They were able to get in touch, but the estimator is on the road. At this time, it’s at least \$1695 to put a camera into tank, they don’t know if the tank needs to emptied, if a truck is needed, etc. When more information is provided, then that portion can be removed. Also, the town has not shared if they will be providing half of the costs as well. Tri State Fire services were the ones that brought up concerns about following protocol. The FD chief has shared that the water tank inspections need to take place regularly.

Selectman D’Angelo is the liaison to the fire department and will look into what is required.

Enterprise City is no longer an opportunity so the dollars and transportation were able to be removed from the budget. Project Respect also ceases to take place.

Mr. Heuer made a motion to conduct a straw poll vote on supporting the school board budget. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion. Straw vote to accept the proposed 18/19 school board budget of \$12,657,198 with a variance of \$49,886 or an increase of .4% – formally voting at the public hearing, 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstain, 1 absent.

The creation of the director for student affairs position has nothing to do with the new assistant principal; it is something that has been in discussion for the past 3 years.

Mr. Shankey - Do any smaller communities have full time superintendents that cover some of the curriculum?

Dr. Lockwood shared that he currently works 145 days without benefits. If there were a full time superintendent, that would change to 130 days at 8 hours a day counting hours, not able to attend meetings too. The reason that is regulated is trying to fix full time police chiefs and superintendents switching to part time and sitting in the same chair.

Discussion on the CEA contract –

2 speech positions are open. Currently, they are contracted out, but they had to be put into the budget as a Master 15 and one at a Master 4 to hire within that dollar amount, because there will be no additional dollars added.

Performance incentive - 4 goals – 2 are based on student scores, and 2 are discussed, year 1 1% of the teacher salary is at risk, year 2 1.5%, year 3 2%, year 4 2.5% Paid out as a bonus, not as an increase of a wage that will be compounded.

In Dr. Lockwood's tenure, they have an average of 1-2 teachers that have left a year to other districts and positions. None have retired in that time, but the next two or three years should have more retirement happening.

We always give more conservative amounts for the surplus; it can certainly go up if anything.

Don't officially support or deny the contract until the public hearing is it worth doing a straw poll?

Mike Romick made a motion to take a straw poll vote on supporting or not supporting the contract at this time. Mr. Heuer seconded the motion. 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions, 1 absent

Chair Weider shared that in 2016 the state teacher average was \$57,522 and the same time period in Chester it was \$50,619. They are working to raise that average to be closer overall. If we support the process that was created to align the payouts, then we are supporting this to bring it to the legislative body.

School Board – if it were not recommended by the BC then it could also be voted down by the legislative board which would require going back to the past contract and begin renegotiation over.

School Board – It has been stated that the school board has money in the CIP this is not the case. The town has money in the CIP fund, the school board does not have available access to that, it requires a warrant article. The school board only draws down from impact fees; they're only

eligible for collecting impact fees on the items in the CIP. No portion of the annual funding of the town warrant goes to the school.

Looking at the warrant article, Vice Chair Lamphere would like to remove the up to \$25,000 for special education. \$105,973 is currently in the fund.

School Board - If they add to the special ed fund, then money can be moved from there by the board. If it is in the retention fund instead, then it takes more steps to move the money, BC approval, etc.

The impact fees for new houses are \$6900, they are divided between the police, fire, recreation, library, education.

School Board – Please read through the kindergarten question as the school board would like input from the BC of what they should share with the legislative body.

Chair Weider – Why are we asking a small group instead of asking the town? Not as a warrant article, but as a straw poll to get an idea of where more people stand than simply those 30 or so that have been elected.

Vice Chair Lamphere - School started collecting impact fees September 28, 2016: 16 houses have been built and \$1,047 for 15 of them but one was at \$571 for whatever reason.

Total amount collected for each home in impact fees is \$6927: recreation is \$1001, traffic is \$2730, police \$415, fire \$441, library \$503, school \$1142 municipal buildings \$695.

### **XIII. Member Comments –**

### **XIV. Public Comments –**

### **XV. Next Meeting Date – January 29, 2018**

### **XVI. Adjourn -**

Mr. Holmes made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Lamphere seconded the motion. All in favor, the Budget Committee meeting of January 23, 2018 adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah DeLisle, Recording Secretary