

**Town of Chester
Budget Committee
Approved Minutes
January 29, 2018**

I. Meeting to Order

Chair Michael Weider called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM on Monday, January 22, 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

Becky Owens

Liasions:

Selectman Stephen D'Angelo

Absent:

Mike Romick School Board

IV. Announcements by the Chair -

V. Public Comment –

VI. BOS Update – Selectman Stephen D'Angelo

1. Budget is pretty flat. Nothing extraordinary has been taking place. We'll probably be coming to a conclusion in the next two weeks.
2. Winter maintenance is about half way through the budget at this time.
3. At this point, there does not seem to be any large warrant articles. The PD budget is up only about \$3,000. The FD is up about \$8,000 due to the physicals, but it cannot be reimbursed from the health insurance. Half this year will have theirs done, the other half will be done the following year. This is to create a baseline to see where they stand based upon the nature of their job and their exposure to help keep them safe.
4. Sidenote – the videos of meetings on the website are possibly not up to date.

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47 **VIII. Committee Updates –**
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49 **IX. Minutes –**

50 Mr Holmes made a motion to accept the minutes of January 8, 2018 as written.
51 Vice Chair Lamphere seconded the motion.

52
53 Mr. Shankey – From here forward, please have a separate section for invited
54 guests.

55
56 Selectman D’Angelo – Please add liaison sections for him and Mike Romick

57
58 Mr. Heuer – Line 45 – that not the

59
60 Mr. Shankey – Line 289 – add another 0

61
62 Mr. Heuer – line 240, CTV not CTB line 49 – Heuer

63
64 Dr. Owens – change to Mr./Mrs./Dr. for everyone

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66 Mr. Heuer made a motion to accept the minutes with amendments. Mr. Holmes
67 seconded the motion. All in favor.

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71 Mr. Heuer made a motion to accept the minutes of January 15’ 2018 minutes as
72 written. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion. All in favor.

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75 Mr. Heuer made a motion to accept the minutes of January 22, 2018 as written.
76 Dr. Owens seconded the motion.

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78 Vice Chair Lamphere – Please check spelling of Christina Gelinas

79
80 Mr. Heuer – line 133 committee, not board

81
82 Mr. Shankey made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Vice Chair
83 Lamphere seconded the motion. All in favor.

84
85 **XI. New Business -**

86 Mr. Heuer – The school is looking to build their own technology space. Chester TV is no
87 longer what it was 10 years, or even 3 years ago. As money is available, it’s being updated.
88 Whether everything is at the school, or everything is at the town, he would hate to see a
89 double expense if everything can be shared.
90

91 Chair Weider – The problem that there seems to be, based upon what has been shared at
92 the meeting is that they cannot show the school board, and the information being presented at
93 the same time for meetings.

94
95 Selectman D'Angelo – PACT they really want to get a half time person paid. They've
96 been documenting the time spent there to provide background for those that don't know what
97 goes on there.

98
99
100 Discussion of the School Board Budget -
101

102 Chair Weider – It makes no sense to talk about reductions since they are within the BC
103 request. It is important to be transparent about salary of \$60,000 and \$38,000 for benefits for
104 the new position of Director of Student Affairs that way the position is acknowledged, not
105 trying to hide it.

106
107
108 Discussion of the CEA –
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110 Chair Weider – The school board did a good job getting what they want into the contract,
111 and I understand what they're trying to do with the salaries and trying to retain the newer
112 teachers without losing the veteran teachers. I understand, but it's a big number for tax
113 impact for the town so I don't know how I would vote for it.

114
115 Selectman D'Angelo – I've done more research, concerned about the performance
116 incentive payment goes into the pension because it is based on the gross salary. So saying it
117 does not impact salary, is not the case. Not part of their annual salary, but it is part of the
118 gross salary.

119
120 Mr. Holmes – That could have an impact on the top three years with the total
121 remuneration if people were to retire that year.

122
123 Chair Weider – The ones that are going to retire, may not be the ones getting the 5%. The
124 two that were misaligned, will be lined up by the end. There is no continued liability from the
125 tax payers as we are not a large city like Portsmouth or Nashua.

126
127 Selectman D'Angelo – seems to be an extremely generous program. I would not have
128 expected this to be over 3%.

129
130 Mr. Heuer – The teachers on a comparative basis are lower on the totem pole than where
131 they should be. The payments in four years, will be where Auburn is today.

132
133 Mr. Shankey – Perhaps younger teachers with less experience would change districts
134 quickly for a couple thousand dollars more, but for the most part, they may stay because of
135 other considerations such as they have newer buildings, a good work environment etc.

Chair Weider – On department of education Average salary in NH - \$57,522, average salary in Chester - \$50,600 they're trying to bring up the lower end. Compared to similar towns, relevant in size and population through the DOE.

Mr. Shankey – As a tax base, it's a lot of money to absorb over four years, even comparing it to other towns. Full disclosure, I'm having some concerns voting yes on this.

Mr. Heuer – The \$700,000 was bad enough, this is a lot to take on.

Chair Weider – As mentioned before, we can't change the contract, we can only support it or not.

Vice Chair Lamphere – drew out cost of contract standalone on the whiteboard.

'18-'19 \$128,840 '19-'20 \$128,840+178,871 = \$307,711

'20-'21 \$128,840+\$178,841+\$180,255=\$487,966

'21-'22 \$128,840+\$178,871+\$180,255+\$181,638= \$669,604

Total of the 4 years: \$128,840+\$307,711+\$487,966+\$669,604= \$1,594,121

Vice Chair Lamphere - Warrant article has the individual increases for each of the four years, but it does not add it together, that has to be done on its own. This exercise is what "could" happen, it's projected. It depends on funding that happens, and what goes on for the state. Depending on possible bills, funding could change with homeschooling, etc.

Chair Weider – There has to be some sort of formula, something in place for numbers with the homeschooling and the funding and how it could impact revenue.

XIII. Member Comments –

Everyone please send your thoughts to Mr. Heuer for him to write the budget report information sheet for the public hearing.

XIV. Public Comments –

XV. Next Meeting Date – February 5, 2018

XVI. Adjourn -

Selectman D'Angelo made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Lamphere seconded the motion. All in favor, the Budget Committee meeting of January 29, 2018 adjourned at 9:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah DeLisle, Recording Secretary