

**Town of Chester
Budget Committee
Approved Minutes
March 26, 2018**

I. Meeting to Order

Chair Michael Weider called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM on Monday, March 26, 2018.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Weider led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Attendance

Budget Committee Members:

Chair Michael Weider

Vice Chair Lamphere

Chuck Heuer

Becky Owens

Brennan Holmes

Christina Gelinas

Liaisons:

Selectman Stephen D'Angelo

Absent:

Brian Shankey

Mike Romick School Board

IV. Announcements by the Chair –

V. Member Comments-

VI. Public Comment –

VII. BOS Update – Selectman Stephen D'Angelo

VIII. School Board Update

IX. Other Committee Updates –

X. Minutes –

February 12th Line 99 – not \$100,000, should be \$100,000,000

Chair Weider made a motion to accept with amendments, seconded by Mr. Holmes. All in favor.

March 19th – Line 72 herding not hurting

March 19th – Selectman D'Angelo made a motion to accept with amendments, Mr. Heuer seconded the motion. All in favor.

February 5th – reopened by Vice Chair Lamphere seconded by Mr. Heuer.

line 56 into consideration

line 70 Change Mr. Richardson into chairmen

Line 73 1010 should be dollars... it is misleading for the people. We

Line 74 Know, not now

Line 77 chairman

Line 97 chairman

Line 111 - \$45,858 take out extra space and \$63,640 space

Line 116 prior to Medicare age

Line 118 chairman

Line 138 Fawcett

Line 145 – Fremont

Line 145/6 replace with: increase and change contract. W

Line 198 take out 1:38

Line 255 secret ballot

Line 289 closing

Selectman D'Angelo made a motion to accept the amendments, Mr. Heuer seconded the motion. All in favor, one abstention.

XI. Old Business –

Selectman D'Angelo requested PACT come stop by to answer some questions on their warrant article. \$35,303 was the dollar figure, the breakdown was sent out Friday.

Chair Weider – Item #5 what's the hourly rate and how many hours are you talking?

Joe Castricone – 20 hours a week and the rate is negotiable. We don't want to publicize the rate, because that could hurt negotiation. This is not to take the jobs of the volunteers. It's to do the jobs that those volunteers don't want to do, such as the filing and documentation. It will also allow there to be coverage when necessary such as for the school meeting.

Chair Weider – Was there consensus from the BOS about this position?

Joe Castricone - 3 in favor, one opposed, and one absent. The concern was that the position would go to full time as a town employee instead of remaining part time.

Chair Weider – This has been brought forth in the past as a full time position. Funding was coming from PACT, it wasn't passed as there was a large cost with the franchise fees. Every time there's a cost associated, people using Comcast are now paying that initial cost. Is there a job description?

Joe Castricone- The narrative is the job description. It would be overseen by the PACT committee which is overseen by the BOS.

Terry Traynor –A million little things that happen throughout the day, tiny little things such as running out of ink, or having a mouse break that needs to be replaced. If the television station goes away, so does this position. It's already in the budget for what we have.

Joe Castricone– 3 years ago pulled out \$65,000 to update all of the VHS to digital and equipment. In 2016, we increased the town budget, but decreased PACT budget to go to live and on demand. That was \$4,600.

Selectman D'Angelo – BOS voted to increase the percentage from 1% to 2% that the PACT could use and that's where the \$35,000 came from.

Joe Castricone- \$17,000 for franchise fees is what they take in from Comcast per year, now they can take in \$35,000. It's been 1% for 20 years.

Chair Weider – The revolving account has \$46,000 currently. If you didn't spend the money in there, whatever was left over and not used, would then go and sit in the account rather than drawing it down from what is currently in there.

Joe Castricone– There are 3 stations, that draw from the money but they do not draw equally. 78% of content comes from this one room; channel 21 is 24/25%, so we have to decide where the money is put. If the school is going to broadcast anywhere other than the library, they'd have to have two cameras set up, as that equipment is not there all the time. PACT has 5 members of the committee and has 8 volunteers. 2 of them are for the live program on Wednesday night 7-8pm; it's a talk show about entertainment. It's live on cable, the internet, and Facebook. The volunteers are there for fun, someone paid would be able to do the paperwork, learning and training on the equipment so when they are sent out with a \$6,000 camera, and it comes back as such. It also allows for visitors at given times during the week.

Terry Traynor– we're trying to increase programs. Actors and stunt people don't want to handle scheduling, or load in, or chasing down equipment. In order to build on this channel, anyone excited about it, if they have to fill out a bunch of forms, they won't be as excited and therefore it won't grow. We don't need a ton of people, but we need someone devoted to be able to get the job done.

Mr. Heuer – As a volunteer, I will be abstaining from any votes in regard to this. The volunteers do so much and the programming is great. It's an unfair burden on particular volunteers because of the hours they put in. The router was down the other day, and that brought the channel down but they had to wait until someone could come in and know what to do to fix things.

Joe Castricone– This weekend was the business fair that was sponsored by the Democratic Party. It took two of us, three hours recording it, and we have about 10 hours of editing. A 40 minute program can take 40 hours to produce. We also have thousands of hours of videotape. No volunteer wants to sit there and watch the old files to put onto the computer. We even found the original tape of Ms. Church giving us the land. We have many historical archives of significance that need to be updated before the videotapes go bad.

Chair Weider – According to this list, 8 of the items are from the school.

Joe Castricone – The equipment that was requested was \$6,000, they came up with their own plan and we weren't consulted.

Mrs. Gelinas – How many people are watching these?

Joe Castricone– About 1500 people are subscribers, we can see how many connect on demand, but not how many are watching it through cable.

Terry Traynor – We're trying to increase viewership and livestream.

Vice Chair Lamphere – Loves Comcast, watched a lot of stuff on their regular stations. I like the cable, I like the evening TV. I also like to be able to have the local TV to watch events that are going on. To watch a show on a local channel, do you think that people are interested?

Joe Castricone- 272 people on Facebook watched the program live last week.

Dr. Owens – Do you advertise?

Terry Traynor – We're learning as we go that a lot of things can go wrong on a live show, but we're starting to gain the ability to advertise more.

Joe Castricone– A lot of the equipment that we're trying to replace was donated to us by other towns that felt bad because we have a \$7,000 budget. Bedford TV has taken PACT under their wing. They replaced their studio lights with LED which cost about \$80,000. If they had sold their old lights on the market it would have been about \$19,000, they sold them to us for \$2,800.

Mr. Heuer – Bedford is trying to help us and be nice to us, not that we're comparing ourselves to them.

Joe Castricone – The items that are the list here came from the committee and what we've been told we need to replace. Unfortunately, the biggest thing on here is the \$22,000 for the part timer, but I think we'll get a lot more out of him than that.

Mr. Holmes – Sandown has another part timer, does Raymond or Auburn?

Joe Castricone– Hampstead has a full timer, Derry had two full timers, Auburn doesn't have a program.

XII. New Business –

Budget – April 9, 2018 is the public hearing.

Chair Weider - GGB projects, continue to grow these things and continue to look for things to put into it. These came from someone that we don't know if he's running or not running. We had change in a couple of lines in the PD budget, we had some clarity on the PD warrant article, copies of the contract now so we can add that back in but we don't have the budget worksheet updated.

Vice Chair Lamphere – Last year a needs survey was funded for the PD. The RFP is just being written now so why are we raising another \$70,000?

Chair Weider – The CIP drew down the \$17,000 with the intent that the next year they would do the survey. We on the planning board don't know the schedule side, it's done with BOS and the departments. I believe it should be pushed out, maybe April get the RFP out, maybe May or June get it back and if it came back in time before town meeting, would it really be a good needs analysis that would be ready to share. BOS would have to decide how they want to vote on it, planning board would have to go through the process too.

Mr. Heuer – We can vote yes or no on the CIP as a whole, but we don't have line item non-recommendation. But we could say, we don't support it as a whole, but if you changed this and this, we would support it.

Vice Chair Lamphere – The money was appropriated for a space needs assessment study for \$15,000 for the needs of the PD but the RFP hasn't even been presented to the BOS. Why should we raise another \$70,000 without even having this done yet?

Selectman D'Angelo – Sometimes deals or property comes up and it's too good of a deal to pass up.

Chair Weider – This originated with a sally port as the discussion point. The planning board asked the chief at that time, it's an ongoing discussion of safety. Would it make sense to abut it to the fire department building as we already have that in place? The only thing we bring forward is the budget warrant itself. From there it's recommendations with why we did or didn't support.

Selectman Trask – Makes the recommendation to push back the zero turn lawn mower to save \$20,000 out of that warrant article. Take the floor mat and netting amount down to \$10,000. The NPR would like at least the netting to protect the walls from baseballs. \$6,700 from the garage doors take that off. Keep the \$33,000 for finishing of the field at Wason Pond. We're not in

compliance with the requirements at the PD that if you have a victim and an arrested suspect, they should not be entering through the same door.

Vice Chair Lamphere – BOS has to review it. The RFP has to go out, with bidders having a week ½ to two weeks. The bids don't always come back apples to apples, then it takes a little bit of time for the BOS to go through them. It's hard to believe this would be done by town meeting. Selectman Trask – Best case scenario is that they'll come back and say we don't have to do anything. They could say that we'll need to build a sally port to outfit the current building to get it up to compliance or they may say that we need a new building altogether. This sally port has been in the CIP for three years. There is no penalty yet, no fines, but there is a risk of exposing the victims.

Chair Weider - As soon as it's pulled out and is specifically earmarked for something, what if something more crucial comes up. Four years ago, why haven't we looked at the option for putting onto the fire department

Mr. Heuer – You're looking to get approval for the next step before having the first part vetted.

Vice Chair Lamphere – Money was raised years ago for mosquito spraying, we raised money for outstanding citizen honors at the hall. We keep raising this money and then have it sit.

Selectman Trask - Recommending to be kicked out down to \$840,081. Looking for \$60,000 and we dropped out \$20,000. Let's get an idea of where the committee sits.

Dr. Owens – Wasn't the grading and reseeding done before?
Yes, but it needs to be done to complete the field.

Selectman Trask – If we knock highway down to \$35,000, then we'd be around (\$81,270)

Mr. Heuer – It would be great to see the five year plan for rec.

Chair Weider – Rec has a healthy amount right now, and they're taking in more as they go.

Selectman Trask – Not really supposed to put yoga money into buying soccer goals. \$10,000 is in there for the fair. The one account tracks how much is for each. There are lots of senior activities; there are lots of programs for kids. We got picked by the Southern NH activities to support

Mr. Heuer – Quoting Aaron, he wants a cruiser every year because he doesn't want a bunch of them all failing at the same time.

Selectman D'Angelo – Just got a brand new cruiser, do we really need a new one now? Take the cruiser out, and leave the highway costs.

Chair Weider – Masterplan made in 2006 talked about the same items that we are discussing tonight. These lovely things were brought up as a plan and never happened because there was no funding.

April 2nd – finalize the plan

April 9th – Public Hearing

Selectman D'Angelo – the opportunity to utilize the trustees is something that we hope to still do this summer. It is possible that someone will be hired to be responsible for them.

Chair Weider – 2014 Crown Vic that would retire, leave the \$600 but drop the \$2400. We as a committee asked for information to back up the \$10,000 ranger we have to decide if we agree and want to support it.

Vice Chair Lamphere – How did the increase go from 4.7% to 4.32% after the increases? Also why are the payments going up with the quint, and the plow truck and the interest goes down?

Mr. Holmes – The columns don't line up and run consistently, so the percentage could easily be different.

Vice Chair Lamphere explained her issues with her email chain about the radios, since the whole communication network is changing.

XIII. Member Comments

XIV. Public Comments

XV. Next Meeting Date – April 2, 2018

XVI. Adjourn -

Selectman D'Angelo made a motion to adjourn. Chair Weider seconded the motion. All in favor, the Budget Committee meeting of March 26, 2018 adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah DeLisle, Recording Secretary