

**Town of Chester
Budget Committee
Approved Minutes
April 30, 2018**

I. Meeting to Order

Vice Chair Lamphere called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM on Monday, April 30, 2018.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Lamphere led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Attendance

Budget Committee Members:
Vice Chair Rhonda Lamphere
Chair Michael Weider
Chuck Heuer
Becky Owens
Christina Gelinias
Brennan Holmes
Brian Shankey

Liaisons:
Kim Peterson School Board

Absent:
Selectman Stephen D'Angelo
Mike Romick School Board

Member Comments –

Mr. Shankey requested a moment of silence in honor of the loss of Wesley Belisle; his mother works at Chester Academy.

IV. Announcements by the Chair – none

V. Public Comment – none

VI. BOS Update – none

VII. School Board Update- no update, next school board meeting is Wednesday May 2, 2018

VIII. Other Committee Updates –

IX. Minutes –

1. April 19, 2018

Mr. Heuer made a motion to accept the minutes of April 19, 2018. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion. 4 abstentions, the motion carries.

2. April 23, 2018

Line 55 – Castricone instead of Mastricone

Mr. Holmes made a motion to accept the minutes with changes. Dr. Owens seconded the motion. One abstention, the motion carries.

X. Old Business –

XI. New Business –

Supplemental Schedule

Finance workshop limit of appropriations –

Vice Chair Lamphere read:

32:18 Limitation of Appropriations. –

In any municipality electing this subdivision, or any district wholly within a town electing this subdivision, the total amount appropriated at any annual meeting shall not exceed by more than 10 percent the total amount recommended by the budget committee for such meeting. In official ballot referendum municipalities, the recommendation of the budget committee made for the first session of the meeting shall be used for determining the 10 percent limitation. These totals shall include appropriations contained in special warrant articles. Money may be raised and appropriated for purposes included in the budget or in the warrant and not recommended by the budget committee, but not to an amount which would increase the total appropriations by more than the 10 percent allowed under this paragraph. The 10 percent increase allowable under this paragraph shall be computed on the total amount recommended by the budget committee less that part of any appropriation item which constitutes fixed charges. Fixed charges shall include appropriations for:

I. Bonds, and all interest and principal payments thereon.

II. Notes, except tax anticipation notes, and all interest and principal payments thereon.

III. Mandatory assessments imposed on towns by the county, state or federal governments.

Vice Chair Lamphere - Calculation done today, going through all the budget numbers, debt, interest and calculation, the number \$22,183 of the bond interest wasn't included.

Mr. Holmes – If the bond doesn't get approved, does it make the \$2 million inaccessible for other appropriations?

Vice Chair Lamphere – Yes, whatever happens with the bond, it cannot increase or decrease the appropriations. We've haven't had too many years that we haven't recommended our warrant articles, but in year in which we don't recommend too many, we keep a tally during town meeting and when we hit this total number that could be approved, we tell the people. "This is the total appropriation, we will continue to vote, but DRA will disallow these." This year it won't have an effect, even if everything passes.

Mrs. Peterson – When I added lines 7, 8, and 12 the total was \$9,505,512

Mr. Shankey - It appears that the \$115,000 was added in, not subtracted out.

Vice Chair Lamphere will speak to this to see what can be done after it being sent out.

Warrant Article

Mr. Heuer – Sometimes I get the feeling that unless you went to the planning board public hearing, there isn't enough information written out for solid understanding. Some are somewhat obvious, but what the actual impact is, could be much different.

Vice Chair Lamphere – Next is the bond article, once the warrant is called, the voting is open for an hour with a paper ballot. The moderator may choose to go on to other articles at this time.

Mrs. Peterson – The article numbers that were received on the flyer at home did not match up, were there some mistakes?

Vice Chair Lamphere – Apparently, the printer ran short 75 copies and when they made them up, they printed the wrong file which may have led to some confusion.

Mrs. Peterson – When I saw that some of the article numbers aren't correct, I discarded it.

Mr. Heuer – There were a few other mistakes it seems as well with the dates too.

Chair Weider – Our budget is what we recommended and the selectmen have supported our budget so I don't think we'd speak against it. The next one would be the position for the town administrator, and we support that position so I do not believe we'd speak against it. The selectmen will give a presentation, when we share our input; it is typically done as a member of town, not as the BC. If something was said wrong, I may ask for clarity, but I wouldn't go out of the way to speak on something. Just like school district meeting, when we didn't support it because we didn't have time to digest the numbers, it's the same type of thing now for Crowley

Woods. My personal belief is that you don't look at a subdivision as a 7 year investment, it goes on. You can't just look at it as cost avoidance for seven years because at some point it would be a benefit to the town. Road improvements, taxes would still come in, properties would transfer from one family to the next, all of those things, some are short and some are long term, but you can't look at it as cost avoidance for seven years. Looking at my subdivision personally, there was a large bubble around 17 years ago, we had portables, everything, but even without children in the school system now, most of us in my subdivision are staying; remodeling inside and staying because we like the town. That's all I would personally speak to.

Mr. Heuer – The other good thing is the open land part. I don't like the one acre lots, but it will allow for 180 acres being a part of conservation including the black gum swamp. 60% of the open space development would be a blessing in the town. The problem was that there was no road from the development to Candia Road.

Chair Weider – There's no road from Chester at this time into that subdivision, but if any of these others start merging, planning shouldn't be looking at cost avoidance. On the planning side, we're looking at units. We're chartered to approve, and move them forward, make sure they comply with our ordinances and not to give variances, we want it to be engineered. If developments merged, then a road would soon be on its way. In the future, if everything were built out for housing, then there would be no spaces for community events, this could be a good space for a park having several of the areas put together. You got to look at it both ways today for things further on.

Vice Chair Lamphere – Two ways to get funding, you can go to NH bond bank, for sales which happen in the spring and fall, or to the commercial bank for the town which is TD Bank for notes. Which is why Chair Weider was saying that we don't know what the interest will be, we don't because we don't know the cost of the sale which determines the interest rate they're going to lend the money out at.

Chair Weider – The town of Chester is desirable to have in a bundled bond sale for the state as we have no debts. If there's anything you feel passionate about, now is the time to be able to share it. I'm not sure there will be a lot of controversy.

Vice Chair Lamphere – There are two different streams of thought, ones that think it's a good purchase to keep it open and others think that the money could be used for something different.

Chair Weider- The Capital Improvement Programs will be impacted, so if the \$1.5 million goes through, that will be money that does not go into the CIP for the next 10 years. The things that have been put into line, could end up becoming compromised at some point.

Mr. Heuer – It's a concern for those on fixed incomes and lower incomes, including the contract that has already been approved and will be increasing.

Budget –

Vice Chair Lamphere – With the BOS and the BC in agreement for the budget, there shouldn't be too much discussion unless we have a question at this time?

Mr. Heuer – If you feel strongly as a citizen about something, you can stand up and share your view as a citizen but not as a BC member.

Chair Weider – In the past, even though I haven't agreed with something, I've been encouraged to bite my tongue when I'm not in agreement with something the BC decided to move forward. If what I'm sharing and what I feel isn't coming across the BC table, then why would I try again on the floor?

Town Administrator –

Chair Weider – The BC and BOS agree on this as well so the BOS will speak to their points of why it's important.

Vice Chair Lamphere – Should people start to talk negatively about this, stating that the department heads are in control of themselves and don't need to be watched over, then I'll be ready to share about the needs that we have. It's time to have that support in place.

CIP-CIP/Projects-

Vice Chair Lamphere – There may be some discussion about the projects. Personally there are a few things in here I don't agree with, but if the BC is putting it forward, then I would not stand up to speak against it.

Mr. Heuer – I will be speaking briefly to share that we as a BC do not have the ability to recommend on a line by line basis, but the legislative body does have the ability to put a motion on the floor to change anything in there and change the specific amounts. Look at this \$70,000 for the design plan and we don't even have the study complete which was the \$15,000 last year. We're going ahead and doing plans but, we don't even have the support of the people yet to have however many millions put into a new police station. It's like putting the cart before the horse.

Winter Maintenance Fund

Vice Chair Lamphere – The \$105,000 is a cap, the amount will be amended to some number under \$105,000.

Mr. Shankey - Maybe there should be some sort of form with more specifics for information for the back information.

Vice Chair Lamphere – We usually sit up there together so questions can be answered by each other, and so we can go up to the podium to speak instead of waiting in the line.

Mr. Shankey – Clarifying question – if the committee has voted a certain way, and you want to talk against or the reverse, that’s a no-no?

Vice Chair Lamphere – It’s very confusing to the town if that happens because all they’re getting for information from what they’ve seen in the town report and what is shared at town meeting. They may not have a real good understanding of the process, then seeing that one of the BC members doesn’t agree, it can be confusing to them since they haven’t been looking at it since January like we have.

Mr. Heuer – If you do want to do it, make sure you state that you are speaking there as a citizen, not as a BC member.

Final BC meeting of the year will be Monday June 11th possibly.

XII. Member Comments

XIII. Public Comments

XIV. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday June 12 , 2018

XVI. Adjourn -

Mr. Holmes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Shankey seconded the motion. All in favor, the Budget Committee meeting of April 30, 2018 adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah DeLisle, Recording Secretary