

**Town of Chester  
Budget Committee  
Approved Minutes  
March 20, 2017**

**I. Meeting to Order**

Chair Michael Weider called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on Monday, March 20, 2017.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Weider led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Attendance**

Vice Chair Rhonda Lamphere  
Chuck Heuer  
Becky Owens  
Stephen D'Angelo  
Selectman Richard Trask

Absent:

Brian Shankey  
Mike Romick, Vice Chair Chester School Board

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

**V. Public Comment –**

There were no members of the public or media/news present at the meeting.

**VI. BOS Update – Selectman Richard Trask**

Selectman Trask had no updates to provide.

**VII. School Board Update –**

A representative was not present.

**VIII. Other Committee Updates –**

**None**

## **IX. Minutes -**

Chair Weider moved to accept the minutes of March 13, 2017 as written. Mr. Heuer seconds.

Spring Hill Farm – the costs are to have the farm run as a farm.

Mr. Heuer - We are getting some revenue, not asking for additional tax dollars correct?

45% goes back into the general fund and \$3,000 of that goes toward fixing government buildings. Such as lights repaired, no specific projects keyed up, but a line is needed for painting etc.

The income from Spring Hill is in revenues. Appropriation less revenues, that's how much would have to be raised in taxes.

Forecasting \$10,000 in revenue, \$5500 is sent back, \$4500 stays on town side, \$3000 comes back out for repairs, \$1500 goes into offsetting any additional expenditure.

Line 214 – The Spring Hill money is being split between the town and the trust. Throughout – Vice Chair not Vicechair

Mr. Heuer moved to accept the minutes of March 13, 2017 with amendments, Mr. D'Angelo seconds the motion. 3 in favor, 3 abstain, the motion carries.

## **X. Old Business**

### **Budget and warrant articles review**

Chair Weider had been asked to provide some info on spending and contracting. That was sent out to everyone, the information was provided from Joanne. If buying another piece of equipment, shouldn't we be offsetting the budget with contractors, maintenance, fuel return lines? The answer is yes.

Rhonda- the cost of contracting vs. cost of owning does not seem worth owning especially if plow truck is only used 3 months of the year.

Budget with 15% increase, with no justification and being asked for a new vehicle, with no other decreases in any other lines.

The BC will attend the BOS meeting on Thursday March 30, 2017.

Warrant articles should be received by BC Thursday March 23, 2017 to be reviewed. Most of the spending is coming from CIP.

300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary not CIP, regular taxation

PACT – not CIP

Reevaluations – not CIP

Well – not CIP

Winter Road – not CIP

Em. Ramp – not CIP

Police – not CIP

Rec Director – not CIP

DPW – not CIP

Roads - CIP

Phones – CIP

Tractor – CIP

Library Windows – CIP

\$848, 473 coming from the CIP already funded

\$2,465,573 – is not all tax impact, since the CIP comes out and the Roadblock Grant comes out as well

Road agent – his budget request is \$759,000 and BOS moved forward with highway department \$692,000. They made a change, the loader and backhoe were taken out, and the truck was added in. Why weren't there other decreases such as in fuel and winter maintenance?

If a DPW is hired, highway, general buildings, grounds, transfer station all under him/her, shouldn't we wait on any big purchases to see what he/she wants to do before buying these materials they may not deem necessary?

Is the tractor necessary? New water cannon needs to be moved around, the tractor may be able to help.

Vice Chair Lamphere - Is it better to see what the new DPW felt the needs were before buying anything?

Selectman Trask – Possibly.

Fire Department bottom line is currently \$315, 951

Selectman Trask wants to raise 6k in overtime to 10k, any additional would be put into the call line. There is a \$4,000 equipment line that will allow the FD to purchase equipment that is needed that are not in the CIP.

Phones and computers are being done at the same time. It should save approximately 5,000 to 6,000 a year depending on the vendor that is chosen. Is there still a deal with Granite State? FD and PD require landlines

Mr. Heuer – years ago he crunched numbers, they were spending 26k on phone bills alone – are there any other possibilities?

Selectman Trask has created an IT group to do research and determine the best fit and cost for the technology. Fire Chief, Police Chief, Finance Director and Town Clerk, and Andrew Haddock are in this group.

Mr. Heuer – is there anyone with IT experience on this committee? Yes- a member of the public that happened to be involved in IT was a part and gave his input and is on the committee as well.

Mr. D'Angelo – How will the upcoming Federal government cuts impact us?

Selectman Trask -The governor made a pledge to put more money into towns to fix roads and bridges. He allocated additional funding in his budget to put more money into the hands of the towns to fix them. The 10 year plan for our region, Southern NH planning program it's important that we have involvement Janet Boyden, and Andrew are on the distribution list.

Selectman Trask is the liaison for the 193 4A exit. Participated in this meeting, it will double the traffic on roads through Chester, 8,000 more cars a day. It's already on the red list for accidents; do you have a plan for what's going to happen? Selectman Trask asked that Chester not be left off the list because this is a huge decision coming through the center of Chester. Will Chester's HWD receive more money to assist with this increase because traffic between 121 and Tsienneto Road will be impacted?

It will have a traffic light with a double turn left lane to bypass avoiding Pinkerton and comes out on Tsienneto Road.

Highway block grant 12% of previous years dot fiscal budget take that number and disperse it between class 4 and class 5 roads miles of class 4 and 5 roads X number of residents, formula how to disperse out the value of the grant.

We increase every year out to 2020 with more residents, based on increase in population and funding, especially from work on 93.

Mr. D'Angelo – who will be in charge during the overlap between DPW and road agent?

Chair Weider - It may not take very long to get someone up and running.

The intent seems to be road agent will transition for that year into what's going on and the history part of it. Contracts he has in place, understanding employees, as well as what's leased vs owned. Then the road agent plans to resign. The legislative body has funded a change in methodology. We're no longer going to elect, we're going to appoint a person with the funded money to do this. That's how it will run from that point forward. The legislative body has determined this by funding the line, that's the intent. The BC sent forward the budget to the BOS last year as "we may have supported this if we had an understanding of what this really meant." They put together a report and sent it back to BC to have something to discuss. There's a process between town meeting and someone being hired to determine what that position is going to look like. The BOS may need to determine how will we consolidate and what will come together under this position? My understanding is that highway, maintenance side of recreation, transfer station, building maintenance, roofs, and propane could all come together under this position. Rather than the BOS having to drive these choices, the new person will be.

Since they can't spend dollars before July 1, 2017 the start of the fiscal year, the hope is to have a DPW hired and trained before winter so as to ensure snow removal process etc. is all set.

Mr. D'Angelo - We want to make sure that there isn't conflict during the overlap between DPW and road agent.

Selectman Trask - Mike Olson may not officially work the full two years, but there's no certainty of what he may decide.

Mr. D'Angelo -Will the removal of the road agent position be in the warrant article? Selectman Trask believes that it will be, but is not positive.

Chair Weider's Bottom Line for budget – bring highway department back to what it was last year because there was no explanation. Accept the budget otherwise. Bottom line of budget - \$80,000

Vice Chair is accept bottom line- \$78,000

Mr. D'Angelo is concerned about adding police, how will that impact future budgets?

Selectman Trask -The additional cruiser is CIP but who knows what will happen from here on out.

Police Department is paid higher for details but still a percentage, it would be better for part timers to take details to not have to pay retirement but that can't be requested.

Mr. D'Angelo -What's the protocol for trainings of new hires from the academy?

Selectman Trask - Probation for one year with a mentor and then after the year, they're on their own.

Mr. D'Angelo - Is there any training after that?

Selectman Trask - Some classes and seminars on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Heuer – legal fees of \$80,000 do we still have a lot of legal issues?

Selectman Trask – still some big issues.

BC budget – Seminars line is supposed to be \$400, \$120 should be for advertising

Mr. Heuer - Is there a new source of revenue to help pay for these new hires?  
There are changes from part time to full time positions. The numbers will be updated once that information is received.

Selectman Trask -The revenue is keeping pace. The building inspectors' position was projected at \$70,000 last year, he's going to bring in closer to \$130,000. There's no guarantee that will continue. MS1 added 76 new houses and April 1<sup>st</sup> a bunch more will be coming. More cars, more taxes, more accidents, more traffic, more police calls, etc. Southern NH Planning Commission projected population from 10 years ago Chester would be at 5,000 residents, current is actually 5250. 93 4A will be finished within 5 years, projecting a significant increase in population in next 5-7 years. 200 building lots have already been approved, 100 more in process.

Mr. Heuer – will those new people have a net increase in tax dollars? Assessing department is estimating a 10-12 million dollar increase in town value.

Mr. Heuer - As we go into this year, we've got an additional burden, new people on board that will receive their pay partially out of taxes. However, this depends on revenues coming in, and what property values will be from year to year.

**XI. New Business -**

**XII. Other Business**

**XIII. Member Comments -**

**XIV. Public Comments – none.**

**XV. Next Meeting Date – March 27, 2017 @ 7:00 PM**

**XVI. Adjourn -**

Selectman Trask moves to adjourn. Chuck seconds. All in favor, so moved. The Budget Committee meeting of March 20, 2017 adjourned at 8:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah DeLisle, Recording Secretary