

**Town of Chester
Budget Committee Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2020
Virtual Meeting
Approved Minutes**

I. Meeting to Order

Under the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, the meeting was conducted electronically and broadcast on Channel 20, and shown live on the Town's cable TV streaming service at <http://www.vod.chesterctv.com>, and internet at <https://zoom.us/j/92697843243>.

Note: This recording secretary was unable to connect to the virtual meeting until the meeting had been underway for approximately 12 minutes.

II. Attendance (virtually)

Mike Weider, Chairperson
Rhonda Lamphere, Vice-Chair
Ephraim Dobbins
Kathy Guilmette
Dana Theokas, School Board Liaison

a. Member Comments

III. Announcements by the Chair

IV. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

V. BOS Update – Liaison Steph Landau

Selectman Landau was not on the virtual meeting.

VI. School Board Update – Liaison Dana Theokas

Per Chair Weider, funding of Kindergarten was discussed.

VII. Other Committee Updates – None

VIII. Minutes –

- a. February 24th, 2020**
- b. March 9th, 2020**

46 *Per Chair Weider's review, the minutes for March 9, 2020 were reviewed and approved. He*
47 *said that February 24, 2020, were not approved.*
48

49 **IX. Old Business –**
50

51
52 **X. New Business –**

53 **a. Minutes**

54 **b. Town Meeting Prep and Warrant Articles**
55

56 *(This recording secretary joined the meeting when Chair Weider was speaking about Town tax bills.)*
57

58 Vice Chair Lamphere asked the Committee if they were comfortable leaving the warrant articles as they
59 are; she asked that with everything going on and all the people affected does the Committee want to
60 "leave all this money in the budget."
61

62 Mr. Dobbins addressed Vice Chair Lamphere's question saying that they must determine, given what
63 they now know with the current economic impact, compared to last year's budget, do they want to
64 spend the same, more, or less, rather than go line by line through the operating budget.
65

66 Vice Chair Lamphere asked how they would do this in four days.
67

68 Chair Weider said that at the Town Meeting when they present the budget to the legislative body, they
69 can present the three different options of the budget, noting what each option would look like.
70

71 The Committee discussed Highway funding.
72

73 Chair Weider said that they can present last year's budget to the legislative body as an example of the
74 way to keep the rate at a zero increase from last year. He noted that this is a way to give the Public
75 some scenarios of what they can do. Chair Weider noted that what specifically comes out of the budget
76 is determined by the Board of Selectmen.
77

78 The Committee continued to discuss preparations for the Town Meeting.
79

80 Mr. Dobbins pointed out that some of the Committee's actions will be determined by "reading the
81 Parking lot."
82

83 The Committee continued to discuss preparations for the various scenarios at the Town Meeting.
84

85 Chair Weider noted that the Budget Committee will be meeting (virtually) with the BOS on Thursday,
86 June 18, 2020.
87

88 **XI. Member Comments**
89

90 None.

91

92 **XII. Public Comments**

93

94 None.

95

96 **XIII. Next Meeting Date - TBD**

97

98 **XIV. Adjourn**

99

100 The meeting was ended at approximately 8:00 pm.

101

102 Respectfully submitted,

103 C. Molly Qualters,

104 Recording Secretary