

**Town of Chester
Budget Committee
Approved Minutes
April 10, 2017**

I. Meeting to Order

Chair Michael Weider called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 10, 2017.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Weider led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Attendance

Brian Shankey
Chuck Heuer
Becky Owens
Stephen D'Angelo
Selectman Richard Trask

Absent:

Vice Chair Rhonda Lamphere
Mike Romick, Vice Chair Chester School Board

IV. Announcements by the Chair – Welcome

Chair Weider moved to move the minutes and other discussion to after the public hearing. Mr. D'Angelo seconded, no discussion, all in favor, so moved.

V. Public Comment –

Chair Weider moved to open the public hearing, Selectman Trask seconded the motion. No discussion, all in favor, so moved.

Began the discussion with the warrant articles.

Lauren Peithmann of 57 Jennifer Drive came forward to speak in favor about the library budget. The library puts on numerous events and support for the kids of the town. The cost of museum passes have gone up, and she wanted to be sure the BC was aware of the positive impact the library has on the town.

Article 7 CIP BOS 5-0-0 BC 6-0-2 (absent) No comments were made.

Article 8 \$768,473 from the CIP BOS 5-0-0 BC 6-0-2 (absent) No
comments were made.

Article 9 \$139,263.83 highway block grant goes back into CIP.
BOS 5-0-0 BC 6-0-2 (absent) No comments were made.

Article 10 \$250k BOS 5-0-0 BC 6-0-2 (absent) No comments were made.

Kevin Kistler of 157 Smith Road

Articles 11 and 12 had no vote because there is no money associated.

Article 13 town administrator full time, \$125,000 wages and benefits BOS 1 yes, 3 no, 1
abstention. Mr. Shankey moved to open discussion before voting. Mr. Heuer seconded
the motion.

Selectman Trask would like to use an outside company to determine needs and hire a
town administrator.

Mr. Heuer would like an unbiased person that is in no way affiliated with the town.

Chair Weider – BOS would make financial decisions. The BOS would oversee the
spending of the town administrator. This was petitioned from the public, signed by
members of the town.

BC vote – 5 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention, 1 absent. No public comment.

Article 14 Rec. Director going from PT to FT. BOS 3-1-1-0

BC vote 4 yes, 2 no, no abstentions, 2 absent

Article 15 and 16 Selectman Trask moves to not vote on anything coming out of any
revolving accounts. Mr. Heuer seconded the motion. No discussion, all in favor, so
moved.

Article 17 – winter maintenance \$85,000 to \$105,000

BOS 5-0-0 BC 6-0-2 (absent) No comments were made.

Article 18 – reevaluation BOS 4-0-1 abstention BC 6-0-2 absent No comments.

Article 19 – PACT \$18,827.18 Mr. D'Angelo moves to vote on this article, Mr. Heuer
seconds the motion. All in favor, six to recommend.

Article 20- \$5,000 for the 300th anniversary, 1722 was the year, so the same amount will
be funded for the next 5 years. BOS 5-0-0 BC 6-0-2 absent

Article 21 – Veterans’ tax credit is a one-time thing. Mr. D’Angelo moves to vote on it, Selectman Trask seconds the motion. All in favor, so moved.

Chair Weider moved to forward the budget as a recommendation. Selectman Trask seconded the motion. All in favor, so moved.

Chair Weider moved to close the public hearing. Selectman Trask seconded the motion.

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 moves to move the minutes to the next meeting, seconded by Selectman Trask. All in favor, so moved.

X. Old Business

XI. New Business -

XII. Other Business-

XIII. Member Comments -

XIV. Public Comments – none.

XV. Next Meeting Date – Monday April 17, 2017 at 7:00pm.

XVI. Adjourn -

Selectman Trask moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. D’Angelo seconded the motion. All in favor, the Budget Committee meeting of April 10, 2017 adjourned at 7:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah DeLisle, Recording Secretary

Mr. Shankey - It's similar to the relationship of a non-profit with the executive director as the chief professional. They still have to answer to the board, there is a dialogue. But a lot of the day-to-day functions that are currently being completed by a number of people would fall under the umbrella of that one person. Theoretically, there could be a rule book for policies and procedures for the authority and scope that they do have. The DPW would make us more efficient as a town. Then we could be having someone that can pull the strings, work with the department heads, and be a leader with the board of selectman. There are potentially areas where the DPW could pull things together for efficiencies sake.

Mr. D'Angelo – This warrant article was brought forward a few years ago after having such success with a person at the school, operating the day to day. The school had a 12-13 million dollar budget and having the school board basically using that person as a sounding board to put that budget together. Anticipate money, look for money that they might be able to get and run their budget that has made it significantly more easy and productive. I would hope if we had a town administrator, it would ease the day to day basis and help to assist town departments to put together budgets. Basically have someone there that's going to advocate for those budgets to the town selectman so that they would understand and be able to do the documentation that would justify putting those budgets together which makes life easier for everyone. We know that this town is going to have another growth spurt for the next two or three years, maybe more, so that option has to be considered too.