

**Town of Chester Budget Committee Public Hearing
September 12, 2022
Approved Minutes
7:00 PM**

Budget Committee members present:

Michael Weider
Jack Cannon
Kathy Guilmette
Ephraim Dobbins
Charlotte Lister
Sabrina Harris, Chester School Board Liaison
Selectmen Liaison Steve D'Angelo (joined at 7:05 PM)

Budget Committee members absent:

Michelle Dupras
Ron McKinnon

Guests present:

Chester PACT

I. Meeting to Order

Chairman Weider called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. Attendance

III. Announcements by the Chair – Welcome

IV. Public Comment

V. BOS Update – Steve D'Angelo

Selectman D'Angelo had no update from the Board of Selectmen.

VI. School Board Update – Sabrina Harris

Ms. Harris reported that the School completed a number of projects that were scheduled to occur over the summer. Only two bathrooms were remodeled due to increased costs. Chair Weider asked how the third bathroom remodel will be funded. Ms. Harris said the School CIP planning is beginning and she will have more information as that process continues.

The initial enrollment numbers received from Pinkerton Academy are higher than estimated, with an increase of 21 students from September 2021. They will have better numbers as students who have moved are registered in new towns.

The School Unreserved Fund Balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$394,425, which was an increase from the estimated \$335,000. Chair Weider added that the surplus returned to the Town was reduced.

VII. Other Committee Updates

VIII. Minutes

- a. January 31, 2022**
- b. February 7, 2022**
- c. April 11, 2022**

Mr. Dobbins moved to accept the minutes of January 31, 2022 as written. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The vote passed 4-0-3.

Mr. Dobbins moved to accept the minutes of February 7, 2022 as written. Mr. Cannon seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The vote passed 4-0-3.

Mr. Dobbins moved to accept the minutes of April 11, 2022 as written. Ms. Lister seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The vote passed 4-0-2.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

a. 2022 Budget and Finance Workshop

Chair Weider reported the 2022 Budget and Finance Workshop will be held virtually on Tuesday, September 20. The Budget Committee will pay the fee for anyone interested in attending.

b. CIP Update

Chair Weider reported that last fiscal year's CIP has been finalized. All impact fees have been reevaluated and reviewed. Total impact fees for a single-family home have increased to \$8,785. Any new subdivisions will see these increased fees.

The Planning Board is working with department heads on updating the CIP tables. Long-range projects will continue to be included in the CIP as working items but not included in the working table. The Committee discussed anticipated draws from the CIP, including a fire truck for the Fire Department and roadwork.

c. Review SAU and Town current financials and revenues

Chair Weider noted the School is beginning their budgeting process and the Budget Committee needs to discuss the direction they want to see the School and Town budget take. He noted that revenues were underestimated last year, so the Committee needs to keep this in mind when forecasting this year to tighten up the budgets. It is too early to review expenditures for this fiscal year. Regarding the expenditure reports for improvements (general funds and improvement funds), projects approved under previous warrant articles need to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

The Committee discussed the budget process for this year, noting the potential impact of inflation and the decrease in housing starts. They would like to have the warrant articles finalized before Town Meeting this year.

XI. Member Comments

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XII. Public Comments

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XIII. Next Meeting Date - October 17, 2022

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XIV. Adjourn

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*A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken, all were in favor.
The motion passed unanimously.*

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110 Respectfully submitted,
Beth Haggeli, Recording Secretary