

**Town of Chester  
Budget Committee  
Approved Minutes  
May 8, 2017**

**I. Meeting to Order**

Vice Chair Rhonda Lamphere called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, May 8, 2017.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**III. Attendance**

Chuck Heuer  
Becky Owens  
Stephen D'Angelo  
Selectman Richard Trask

Absent:

Chair Michael Weider  
Brian Shankey  
Mike Romick, Vice Chair Chester School Board

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

**V. Public Comment –**

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

Selectman Trask shared that there would be a change to the warrant article removing funds from the CIP. At least \$10,000 will be removed from the FD request as they are getting better prices. However, the phone and wiring will need to add \$10,000 so it will not be much of a monetary change, but it is a change within the article.

The PD resignations have been accepted, but the positions have not been filled at this time. An auxiliary officer who does not get paid has been hired.

Raymond is building 177 condos 2 miles off of our town line. This will cause a significant increase in at least 500 more cars a day. There would be some impact on the sheriff services from town to support.

## **VII. School Board Update –**

A representative was not present.

## **VIII. Other Committee Updates –**

**None**

## **IX. Minutes –**

Vice Chair Lamphere – March 27, 2017

159 – Selectman Trask – the benefits have been changed, only 1 full time person

282- Last year the BC attended the BOS department meeting presentations. It helped to make things

Selectman Trask moves to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Heuer seconds the motion. The motion carries.

April 3, 2017 – change the date

Lines 56, 57 add used vehicle for \$40,000

Lines 61 – fix to dollar sign and money

Line 80 – amendment of decreasing the highway class a plow truck and sander

Selectman Trask moves to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. D'Angelo seconds the motion. Vice Chair Lamphere abstains. The motion carries.

April 10, 2017 –

Line 67, 68 – BOS would make financial decisions. The BOS would oversee the spending of the town administrator.

Line 74 – 4 yes, 2 no, no abstentions, 2 absent

Line 84 – reevalutaion

Selectman Trask moves to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Owens seconds the motion. Vice Chair Lamphere abstains, the motion carries.

## **X. Old Business**

## **XI. New Business -**

### **Prep for town meeting**

Vice Chair Lamphere- we are going to town meeting in agreement on the budget. Nothing to be added for an amendment.

Mr. Heuer would like it known to the people how much work went into reaching this agreement. Especially that we began with a 12% increase and got it down to a 5% increase.

Selectman Trask shared that the BOS does not feel they should share anything at the town meeting as we are going in in agreement.

Vice Chair Lamphere will speak with Chair Weider to discuss how a statement like this could be worded, and the best way to share the information of the challenges and compromises.

Warrant articles 7, 8, 9, 10 – all supported by Selectmen and Budget Committee

Article 11 – Selectmen voted for it, BC all but those absent agreed and if something is said that is needed to be addressed, then it can be at that time

Article 12 – an amendment may come through to change the percentage, and if so, it will be decided at that time. There needs to be a separate sheet that due to statute must be secret ballot.

Article 13 – Town administrator Mr. D'Angelo shared that he has already been questioned about this, and what he is trying to ensure others understand is that having a full time administrator for the school budget makes it easier to keep track.

Vice Chair Lamphere – there is no one in HR for all of those hired to go to with questions or concerns. This article needs to be secret ballot because when personnel are involved; people are hesitant to simply raising their hand even if they are in support the position.

Article 14 – Rec Director Position –

Vice Chair Lamphere -Whenever an employee has gone to full time, we've always had to budget for family plan insurance.

Selectman Trask shared that the figure includes the ten hour increase, the cost of not taking the insurance, and the retirement benefits.

Article 15, 16 – coming out of special funding

Article 17 – winter maintenance –

Vice Chair Lamphere believes if the road agent needs more money for winter maintenance; it should be in the budget. This money is supposed to be for emergencies.

Article 18 – 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary – they do meet regularly, and they have started to sell daffodil bulbs as a fundraiser. They also have a contest going on right now to create their logo. It's a ways out, but they are actively discussing plans and ideas.

Article 19- Veterans property tax – statutory

The BC then discussed the plans for Saturday including how to give input or answer questions as a BC member, or as a community member.

**XII. Other Business-**

Selectman Trask – 3 spots are available on BC. Anyone can be written in as there is no one running.

**XIII. Member Comments -**

**XIV. Public Comments – none.**

**XV. Next Meeting Date – Monday June 19, 2017.**

**XVI. Adjourn -**

Selectman Trask moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Heuer seconded the motion. All in favor, the Budget Committee meeting of May 3, 2017 adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah DeLisle, Recording Secretary