

**Town of Chester
PACT Committee Meeting
Sunday, February 26th, 2017
Rangeway Meeting Room
Approved Minutes**

I Preliminaries

Call the Meeting to Order
Roll Call
Chairman's Additions or Deletions
Public Comment (10 Minutes)
Old Business
New Business
Roundtable
Meeting Adjournment

1.1 Call to Order

Joe Castricone, Chairman, called this meeting of the PACT Committee to order at 8:00am.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present:

Joseph S. Castricone, Chairman
Bob Grimm
Karl Knudsen, Secretary
Richard J. LeBlanc, Treasurer
Terry Traynor

Members Absent:

Dick Trask, Selectman Liaison

Others Present:

None

1.3 Additions or Deletions

None.

1.4 Public Comment

None.

II Old Business

2.1 Approval of Minutes

Chairman Castricone informed the Recording Secretary that Committee members present approved the minutes of February 15th, 2017 as written.

III New Business

3.1 2017/2018 Budget and Warrant Article

Today's meeting was called by Chairman Castricone to determine how to proceed via Warrant Article (WA) since the proposed 2017/2018 PACT Budget had been cut to one dollar (\$1) recently by the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

Chairman Castricone presented the Committee with four (4) possible WA scenarios, with the total to replace the amount in last year's WA, which reads: "Special Warrant Article. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seven thousand, three hundred eighty-three dollars (\$7,383) for the purpose of providing public, education and governmental access television in the Town of Chester. Said funds to be withdrawn from the Special Revenue Fund established as the "PACT" Fund (Warrant Article #28, 2003), separate from the General Fund and is funded by Comcast subscribers in the Town of Chester. If passed, this article will have no tax impact."

Scenario 1: PACT pays for LiveView and on-demand with Castus @ \$8,500 for 2 years plus all the equipment PACT is looking to obtain; **\$18,827.11**

Scenario 2: Same as above except eliminating Shure mixer from the School, lights, and curtains; **\$16,325.75**

Scenario 3: Same as what is in use now, **\$14,292.00**

Scenario 4: PACT pays for on-demand, same equipment as in Scenario 3; **\$11,904**

Mr. LeBlanc thought it was unfortunate for the BOS to back out now, considering that they had already agreed to pay for on-demand initially last year when it was introduced. The expense of \$4,250 only amounts to a fraction of a penny on the tax rate and is something that has the potential to benefit everyone in Town.

Chairman Castricone reminded that the budget cut was not set in stone; there was still time between now and May for the funding request to be restored. Chairman Castricone reminded of the importance of long-term planning since only \$16,000 income is received of franchise fees annually.

Secretary Knudsen wondered how the \$1 budget will affect the Emergency Broadcast project still in the works; Chairman Castricone confirmed that if the Grant is not awarded, there will be no forward movement. If LiveView becomes discontinued, the usefulness of Emergency Broadcasting will be questionable at best.

The Committee discussed which Scenario would best suit PACT's needs. Perhaps they should proceed with Scenario 1 minus the Shure Mixer for a total Warrant Article requesting \$17k and change. Chairman Castricone felt that the WA may as well propose the full Scenario 1 amount of \$18,827.11; should the BOS restore the \$4,250 by May, then that will be deducted from the WA request.

Mr. LeBlanc moved to proceed with Scenario 1 for a Warrant Article totaling \$18,827.11; Mr. Traynor seconded the motion. The vote was five (5) in favor with Mr. Trask absent; so moved.

3.2 LiveView

Chairman Castricone asked the Committee how they wished to proceed with LiveView; should it be kept or discontinued? Secretary Knudsen wondered if this was a decision that must be made today; as it is not, the topic was tabled.

IV Roundtable

In the spirit of forward thinking, Chairman Castricone reiterated PACT's request to hiring a Part-Time employee sooner or later (perhaps next year). It was also mentioned that Mr. Trask has proven to be a very effective BOS Liaison.

V Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting of the PACT Committee is to be determined.

Mr. LeBlanc moved to adjourn the meeting; the vote was five (5) in favor with Mr. Trask absent, so moved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Rose Wilson, Recording Secretary