

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2008**

Present: Gary Winn, Chairman; John Zannotti, John Koopman, Bayard Tracy, Elliot Rowsey, Elaine Levlocke, CF&R Representative; Bill Bucknell, Rick Carrier, Town Administrator; Amy LaFontaine, Secretary; Warren Porter (arrived at 8:12 PM).

Absent: Dan Cotter, Selectboard Representative; Mike Wiggin, Spofford Precinct Representative; Steve Laskowski and Judy Idelkope, School Board Representative.

Minutes – John Z moved to approve November 25th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by John K. John K stated that he believed that ½ of the inventory circulating was actually an impressive number. The Employee pays \$11.70 per month for a family plan. *[Note: minutes corrected on February 12, 2009 reflecting the employee pays \$130 per month for a family plan].* Health Insurance costs the Town \$500 for a single, \$950 for a couple and \$1300 for a family. Insurance is through the Local Government Trust. The motion passed unanimously.

Questions – OEM clarified miscellaneous. The miscellaneous line is used for the inkjet printers, mileage, postage, etc.. If the item can be justified to Vermont Yankee it is paid for out of RERP.

Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct - The final balances on the capital reserve accounts won't be available until the end of the year. Deb presented the balances at the end of last year. The Heavy Equipment CRF * asterisked items were purchased by the Fire & Rescue Association. T- Purchased by the Town and *T purchased jointly. The heart represents a gift. The Fire Precinct does not usually purchase new Heavy Equipment with the exception of the engines, which have a 30-year life expectancy. The Administrative Supplies line was combined with Legal, Supplies and Administrative Expenses. This means that both Precincts are using the line item for the same purpose. The audit expense has been reduced because Local Government Center can do a review for a cheaper price. The warrant article for \$75,000 to replace the cab & chassis on the Rescue Truck included the cost to relocate the Rescue body onto the new cab & chassis. There is a new warrant article for \$5,000 because the DRA changed one of the forms to reduce the amount of our fund by \$13,664 dollars to reduce taxes. The precinct did not have the money in the budget to return to taxes. The Selectmen agreed to loan the Precinct \$5,000. The warrant article is necessary to pay it back.

The Commissioners reduced the contribution to Small Equipment to \$8,000. Deb stated that in 2002 there were no expenditures from SECRF. In 2003, \$11,220 expended. In 2004, \$1,007 expended. In 2005, \$8,411 expended. In 2006, \$5,397 expended. In 2007, \$11,999 expended and in 2008 zero was expended. Steve had stated previously that the Precinct spent \$20,000 to \$21,000 from small equipment annually. This is not the case. Gary suggested since the balance in the fund will be over \$53,000 on January 1st based on the historic expenditures from this account the \$8,000 contribution could be reduced further. The Fire Precinct had 22 SCBA's donated from Brattleboro last year. These would have been purchased out of SECRF. Next year radios and pagers will need to be replaced out of Small Equipment. John Z stated that the budget increased \$6,000. The increase in propane, oil and fuel accounts for \$5,500 of the increase. Actually, this was a very tight budget.

Library – The bonus line is for all staff except Jane. She will be eligible for the bonus again in 2010. The maintenance line is to have the electrical evaluation for \$700 and fixed if necessary. The routine maintenance includes furnace contract, lights, ballasts replaced as needed and maintenance of the grounds. Only revenue is from the Trust Fund. In 2008, \$1,250 was received. They are trying to reduce costs by reducing Internet and website charges, lowering the thermostat when the library is closed and purchasing media for less. The retirement contribution will increase July 1, 2009. The Committee still has some questions on the budget. The library is requesting a \$6,000 warrant article to paint 3 sides of the library. The balance in the fund is \$21,000.

Highway – Bart has revised the resurfacing list of roads. His original list was determined in August. The roads are on a 5-year plan. The roads proposed for 2009 should have been on the list in 2004. The budget does not include costs to have materials trucked into the highway garage. Bart is proposing \$5,500 to have a Fire Alarm system installed and monitored by SWR Mutual Aid. The annual monitoring is \$250. Gary wondered if the monitoring is enough if a truck in the garage catches fire, by the time an alarm is tripped and authorities arrive it might be too late.

General Government Buildings – Town Offices, Town Hall, Friedsam Building, and Old Town office Building. Repairs were made on the Town Hall Cupola last year for much less than the estimate. The old Town Office may go away next year under one of the possible options.

Miscellaneous – Ambulance – the Committee felt this was not unreasonable.
Welfare – Rick stated that one person could apply and spend this budget quickly.
General Insurance – Workman's Comp went up General Insurance went down. The difference between the two was a wash.

Proposed Warrant Articles

Misc Health & Agencies – They are required to serve Chesterfield, West Chesterfield and Spofford residents. John K. stated he wished the Town could give more. Warren stated that he did not believe charitable giving belonged in the tax bill.

Meeting Schedule – The School will be presented on January 13th and January 20th if needed. The Public Hearing will be January 31st. The Town and Fire Precincts will be at 1 PM and the School at 4 PM. Deliberations for the Town will be February 3rd and the School will be February 4th at 7 PM.

Tax Rate – Rick explained that 3.67 million of expenses subtract 1.64 million of Revenues. Roughly 2.03 million divided by 553,269,025 of property valuation. \$2,041,848 divided by \$552,269,025 times 1,000 equals \$3.63. The BOS historically has given back between 100 and 300 thousand to reduce taxes. Real numbers are not available until late September early October. \$250,000 is the average return.

John Z moved to adjourn at 9:13 PM. The motion was seconded by Bill and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary