

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2008**

Present: Judy Idelkope, School Board Representative; Elliot Rowsey, John Koopman, Elaine Blake, CF&R Representative; Gary Winn, Chairman; Dave Thomas, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative; Steve Laskowski, John Zannotti, Fred Szmit, Warren Porter, Bill Bucknell (arrived at 7:10 PM), Dan Cotter (arrived at 7:50 PM), Selectmen's Representative; and Amy LaFontaine, Secretary.

Absent: Anita Lewis

1). **Spofford Fire and Rescue Precinct-** Judy moved to recommend Article 10. The motion was seconded by John Z and passed unanimously. Judy moved to recommend Article 11. The motion was seconded by Fred and passed unanimously. Contingency amount for completing construction has been spent. Article 13 does not have a dollar amount to it. Gary does not know if the Committee can discuss it. The Committee did not advise Dave to amend the article at the last meeting. Steve moved to recommend Article 13 as written. The motion was seconded by Judy. The motion passed by majority vote. Judy, Elliot and John Z were opposed.

2). Paperwork for the Town, Chesterfield and Spofford Fire Precincts was signed. The School Board is not meeting until Monday.

3). Steve moved to approve Jan 26th Town & Fire Precinct minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Judy and passed unanimously. Gary stated that he had talked to Merrill about the Fireland Wildfire Suppression Expendable Trust and that after the Wantastiquet Fire last year the cap on this fund may be higher than \$12,000. Judy moved to approve the January 29 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously. Judy moved to accept January 31st minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by John Z and passed unanimously.

4). **Discussion** – Gary stated that his opening comments at Town Meeting would include remarks about the economy and open up discussion for specific discussion at the Meeting. Steve stated that the Committee did not recommend quite a few warrant articles. Dan stated that the only one cut by the Committee that was going to the Meeting would be the fire cistern. The money removed from the library was the bonus from the 2006 & 2007. The Committee thought the staff was already highly compensated. Steve asked what the Committee wanted to do next year if there is another 6 to 7% increase next year? Does the Committee want to make recommendations to the Selectmen now to redirect thinking now before next year's budget process? Should all Town Buildings be under Government Buildings? Should we look at how we buy things, how we haul things, Life Expectancy of Vehicles, how we utilize employees, how we contract, how we don't contract? Fred stated that if you discount the impact of the TO Complex, this budget is up 10% over what was spent in 2007. Fuel went up \$1 per gallon this year.

Steve asked about the impact of combining the Fire Departments and combining the Transfer Station and Highway Garage? Dave suggested telling the Selectmen that the Committee will be looking for no more than 3% next year. John Z suggested writing a letter of recommendation to the Selectmen asking them to look at combining the maintenance of all Town Buildings, combining the Fire Departments and combining Transfer Station and Highway Garage. Fred stated that the Recycling Center was designed from scratch in 9 months by a 6 person Committee with approximately \$120,000 from insurance. The individuals involved donated about an hour or 2 per week. The Town should be utilizing its resources. John K suggested meeting jointly with the Selectmen. Gary suggested having a meeting after elections to get input from next years Committee.

5). Other –

A). Judy stated that there was legislature in the State that would adversely affect the School. She urged members of the Committee to contact their local representatives. There are 3 bills that would have a negative impact on collective bargaining. HB1469 removes the number of personnel from managerial policy to negotiation. You are committed to a certain number of people in the building for a certain number of years. . It also reduces the number required to form a bargaining unit to 3. The second allows teachers to continue getting raises without a contract. The third forces binding arbitration. The School Board would like to avoid arbitration.

B). Gary asked if someone would be available at the school meeting to state the Budget Committee's position? It needs to be stated that the Committee reviewed the budget and found it reasonable. The only issue for discussion was the \$5,000 for the SAU withdrawal Committee that the Budget Committee did not recommend. Gary is the Moderator for the school and will not be able to speak to the Budget Committee.

C). Anita will not be running for Budget Committee next year. Tracy Bayard is running.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary