

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 15, 2008**

Present: Anita Lewis, Elliot Rowsey, John Koopman, John Zannotti, Bill Bucknell, Elaine Blake, CF&R Representative; Dan Cotter, Selectboard Representative; Dave Thomas, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative, Judy Idelkope, School Board Representative; Gary Winn, Chairman (arrived at 7:35 PM) and Amy LaFontaine Secretary

Absent: Steve Laskowski, Warren Porter and Fred Szmit

Guests: Susan Wiles, Teacher; Tim Ruehr, School Administrator; Sharyn D'Eon, Principal; Becky Oja and Ege Cordell School Board Representatives.

1). Elliot moved to approve minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Bill and passed unanimously by the Committee.

**2). School Budget** – Judy began the presentation stating that the proposed 2008-2009 budget is \$8,039,839 a \$169,988 increase of 2.15%. 4 positions have been eliminated: 1 classroom teacher, 1 classroom aide, 1 inclusion aide and 1 library aide. They are budgeting for 374 students and 19 classrooms. They are restoring a special education teacher, which was eliminated last year. Personnel Costs, HS Tuition, SPED Transportation and SAU costs account for nearly \$228,000 budget decrease. Increase of SPED OOD Placement account for \$392,000, which accounts for almost all of the budget increase. The budget presented is July 2008-June 2009. They are just entering the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of last year's budget.

The Nurse's office and Speech Services experienced compensation decreases due to staff changes. Judy stated that they have not been able to find a suitable candidate for the assistant principal position and there is a need to hire one. Sharyn stated that the decrease in print media is a result of 2<sup>nd</sup> half purchase of math book texts last year. No new furniture will be purchased this year. Tuition to KHS is \$8,961 per student. There are 173 budgeted and 172 currently. Sharyn stated that enrollment is increasing for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Families are moving in to Town with older children. SPED OOD Placements have account for \$580,000. Sharyn stated that preschool costs have gone down. HS SPED costs down to \$15,575 per student. TNT (Teens in Trouble) 1 student has increased. Sharyn is having a SPED program audit done by an outside source. Tim stated that the SPED costs will be reimbursed in about a year from the state except for about \$55,000. He stated that the difficulty is paying for it until the money comes in. Typically this money has been borrowed, but that has reached the point where it is not cost effective any more.

Referees have received an increase from \$5 per hour to \$35 per game because of the cost of fuel. The truant officer receives \$1 per year. NWEA testing has increased \$802. This is a computerized test that is nationally normed and tells the school where students fall within 24 hours. Health has a significant decrease because of a salary and benefits savings. The Psychologist and Speech Pathologist are not part of the union so their contract guidelines are reviewed annually. These positions are hard to fill nationally. The increase in Psychology supplies are due to tests that are tri-carbon and open up to a graph. The Speech Pathologist

asked for a Tympanometer to help her evaluate students faster. The Tympanometer measures the level of fluid in the ear, which can reveal a potential ear infection. Travel Reimbursement for Staff Support has been completely spent already this year. A library aide position is being eliminated because of a decrease in enrollment. Print Media has increased a little bit because of shipping costs. Technology expenses have been moved out to a separate account. Gail's specialty is the Library who is tech savvy. Librarian teaches technology K-5. The technology teacher is actually based in the middle school.

Sharyn is going to submit for her own grants as there is a change in the SAU grant process. She will probably obtain about \$100,000 in grants. The school clerk and moderator will each receive a \$50 increase. Audit expenses are going up because of a change in standards, which will increase the hours required to complete the audit. They are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> of a 5-year contract with the auditor, which allows the auditor to bill for increase in hours. The contract with Teachers and Support staff is up for negotiation. \$15,000 was spent in the prior negotiation year. SAU costs have gone down because they have signed a 20-year expense only lease for the existing building. The formula rate is based on 1/2 # students and 1/2 state equalized property valuation. Tim will get the formula and the rate that we used to have. The SAU budget is up, but they had a surplus applied to the budget last year.

The Principal's Office employs 5 people, including the principal, assistant principal, secretary, 20-hour utility person (currently working in the health office), and receptionist. The copier has been moved to the Technology account. The new furnace is oil. The hot water no longer comes off the boiler and is fueled by propane. 1<sup>st</sup> Student has bought out Laidlaw. The surcharge for fuel is being implemented. Sharyn is proposing to use a handyman instead of subcontractor costing about \$5400 annually for approximately 2 hours per day. Disposal costs have increased primarily for recycling. She may go out to bid for a cheaper price. The Budget for Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Soap and Garbage Bags is almost spent for this year. The main hallway needs to be painted. A boys room needs to be redone. The floors need to be replaced in 4 classrooms. There is a warrant article to replace the last section of windows. A pipe has been freezing in one of the boys rooms. They have been leaving the inside door open at night. Carpets need to be cleaned.

The proposed budget for the new Technology account is \$78,552. The account is for funding copier maintenances, purchase of USB drives, keyboards, mice, etc. \$22,000 is proposed for Software. The State is requiring a digitized portfolio for each student. There is a web-based program proposed to track health, attendance and grades for access by teachers, parents and students. The school has put a lab together using grants. \$25,000 is proposed to replace laptops.

Warrant article for school include the window replaced and a \$30,000 contribution to Capital Reserve Fund. The balance in the capital reserve is \$82,414. \$70,000 will be withdrawn. There will be \$87,000 plus interest at the end of the fiscal year. There will be more Federal money this year. The Transfer line accounts to the taxpayers for spending Federal money, the lunch program and reserve funds. Gary stated that a catastrophic student could cost taxpayers \$55,000 out of pocket. The reimbursement for SPED money will not be reimbursed until 2009/2010 fiscal year. The \$188,000 being reimbursed this year is from last year. Tim stated that health premiums represented a 5.5% increase this year, and dental 2.6%. The Committee studying withdrawal from the SAU is requesting a \$6,000, worst case, warrant article to continue the study. The Budget Committee deliberations for the school will be Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> @ 7PM.

3). Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct – Deb submitted a package with the Heavy Equipment Schedule last reviewed in 2005 and Capital Reserve Fund Balances.

4). Spofford Fire Precinct – Dave presented the changes to the warrant articles. The contribution to Heavy Equipment is going up to \$26,000 in 2008 from \$24,000. Small Equipment is going up to \$9,700 from \$9,200. There is a withdrawal from Small Equipment for \$3,500. This is a scheduled withdrawal. The Precinct is requesting \$35,000 interest transferred to the building fund, because costs to build have increased. They are also requesting an additional \$25,000 in interest from this year. There is also a warrant article for \$2,500 to fund a study committee for the Old Fire Station. This is the same amount request by the Town to fund a committee for the old Town Office. Dave presented the schedule for the Large Equipment Capital Reserve. The precinct has put money into the boat and are hopeful that it will now last until 2012. The boat is a pontoon boat that was purchased used. Dave stated that the small equipment now is specialized to individuals.

5). If the meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> is cancelled the next meeting will be the public hearing January 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the School. The Town will be discussed at 3 PM followed by the Fire Precincts. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine  
Secretary