

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2008**

Present: Gary Winn, Chairman; Dan Cotter, Selectmen's Representative, John Zannotti, Fred Szmit, Warren Porter, Bayard Tracy, Elaine Levlocke, Chesterfield F&R Precinct Representative; Elliot Rowsey, Steve Laskowski, John Koopman and Bill Bucknell

Absent: Judy Idelkope, School Board Representative and Mike Wiggin, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative

1). Bill moved October 21st minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Fred and passed unanimously.

2). Police – The cost of the County Prosecutor is unknown at this time. The Committee commended the Police Chief for the presentation and administration of his budget. A patrol position is being reassigned to a full-time detective. Dan stated that patrols will remain the same because they have been short a person. The patrol personnel will no longer need to do detective duties. John Z asked about the effect of the welcome center on local police? The Welcome Center is on hold at this time and may not affect the 2009 Budget. The Police Department was shorthanded for 6 months in 2008.

3). Animal Control – This budget is used to enforce the registration of dogs. There was one dog that cost the Town \$1,200 a couple of years ago. Lester does not want to combine this budget with Police because over expenditure of his budget is cause for dismissal. Dan stated that they were considering installing a pen to hold a dog overnight.

4). Cemetery – John K wanted to know why they needed 900 gallons of gas? The mileage for a pick-up truck is in the range of 14 mpg. Friedsam is \$225 per lot. Fred did the math \$187,000 per acre.

5). Library – has not been to the Selectmen yet.

6). School – Bayard stated that 7% seems like an extremely big number given the economy. Enrollment is down. There is no contract at this time. Judy has asked the Committee for input. John K stated that SPED costs were kind of unknown at this time. The Town pays for SPED costs and are not reimbursed from the State until the following year. The State does not pay 100%. Gary stated that rearranging the bus schedule could save costs. Several buses make the same trip 2 to 3 times each day. The Committee will ask how many buses are contracted with the school. Bayard suggesting setting an amount that needs to be met. The School now has an HMO instead of a PPO. The plan is currently 85% paid. John K stated that it is important for the Committee to voice concerns.

7). Spofford FD – The Committee would like to see costs associated with keeping the old fire station, such as insurance and winterizing the old station. Dan asked about the revenue funds for the Benefit Associations? There are 4 Capital Reserve Funds – Waterholes, Small Equipment,

Heavy Equipment and Building. The Catastrophic Emergency Fund is for equipment lost in a fire not covered by insurance. Steve asked if the heavy equipment is going to be updated.

8). Chesterfield F&R Precinct- The Committee asked about the purpose of the audit? This was not a complete audit. It is a limited review that cost \$2,000. The standards for auditing were changed. The bill has not yet been paid. A new furnace was installed last year that replaced the kerosene heater. Propane was purchased for the 1st time this year. The Chesterfield and West Chesterfield Station merged in the memorable past. Fireman Phil is not affiliated with Chesterfield F&R Precinct. He solicits donations from local businesses. Payroll is not distributed until December. The Committee would like an explanation page and Warrant Articles.

9). Answers to Questions – The Board of Selectmen will not be together to discuss Committee requests until November 5th. Library, Personnel Administration, Government Buildings, OEM and Ambulance are the budgets remaining to be reviewed by the Committee. The Committee discussed the 5% COLA. Steve suggested eliminating COLA and Merit pay for all Part-Time employees. Dan disagreed because the pay for those jobs will not stay the same indefinitely. Social Security is increasing 5.8% effective January 1st. The School is recommending 2.75%. John K stated that Keene was using between 3% and 3.5% COLA. The wage and salary increases are a little skewed because of 53 pay weeks falling next year. John K asked about the improvements of working conditions because of the new building? John K moved to recommend 3% COLA for 2009 Budget Cycle. The motion was seconded by John Z and failed by majority vote. John Z, Fred, Bayard, Elliot and John K voted Yes. Steve, Dan, Warren, Elaine, Bill and Gary voted no.

Parks & Rec – John Z stated that the purpose of the above ground septic system is to prevent the need for any more expensive repairs. John Z stated that revenue from North Shore is not enough to pay for 2 people. A lifeguard is not required at North Shore this is a cost reduction.

The Selectmen have not looked at combining Transfer Station and Highway Garage. The question about the Transfer Station secretary duties being absorbed by the Department Heads has also not been addressed by the Board of Selectmen yet. Fred suggested having a fixed policy and \$ amount affiliated with the uniform policy. Steve suggested closing the Transfer Station and having door-to-door pick-up. Fred stated that the Recycling Center was the only service in Town that he really liked.

The Committee inquired as to the balance in the Conservation Fund, which is \$165,000.

Highway – The Committee analyzed the figures for having material delivered. If 9,500 yards of material is hauled out of the closest pit, which is 1,188 loads in the Town's 8-yard load, an 18-wheeler is only 594 Loads. If there is a 45 minute cycle 188 Loads is 891 hours @ 56/hour is \$49,896. An 18-wheeler for the same cycle would cost \$33,450. This would free up lots of time for road work.

10). The next meeting will be November 18th. Rick will also notice November 25th. Elliot moved to adjourn at 9:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Bill and passed unanimously by the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary