

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2009**

Present: Gary Winn, Chairman; John Zannotti, John Koopman, Fred Szmit, Warren Porter, Bayard Tracy, Dan Cotter, Selectboard Representative; Bill Bucknell, Elliot Rowsey, Judy Idelkope, School Board Representative.

Absent: Steve Laskowski, Elaine Levlocke, CF&R Representative and Mike Wiggin, Spofford Fire Precinct Representative

Judy moved to approve the February 12th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by John Z and passed unanimously. John Z requested some back-up to reflect that Chesterfield did get the lowest increases and the best concessions of contracts negotiated this year.

Dan stated that the Selectboard would be amending Article 24 to \$43,500. There is no financial risk to attempting the Clean Solutions System first. The hope is that the leach field will come back. The system was designed by Steve Pro. Bayard stated that he was concerned about using tax money for a service that is used by a small number of taxpayers. There is a charge to use the beach \$3.00 per person and 55 and over are free. The Season Pass is \$60. John Z asked for a chance to bring Parks & Rec back to revenue neutral before generating revenue for the Town and providing additional Parks & Rec services that the Town is looking for. There could have been a fund started when the system was installed for the eventual replacement. Saving was overlooked by many Boards of Selectmen and Budget Committees. The sewer pumps have burned out often, 5 times since 2002. There is no way to know if the pump was struck by lightning or was running 24/7 and shorted out. The current toilets use 3.8 gallons per flush. It would cost about \$1,000 to replace the 4 toilets to ones that use 1.5 gallons per flush. This would reduce the amount of time that the pumps are running. John Z is very concerned that the State will close the beach if the Warrant Article is not approved at Town Meeting. Bill moved to support the amendment to \$43,500. The motion was seconded by Bayard and passed unanimously.

Article 9 for the replacement of the Old Chesterfield Road Fire Pond Culvert is the one that the Budget Committee would like to change the funding source to the Roadways Construction/Reconstruction. The Selectboard is going to support the Budget Committee's recommendation.

Article 10 is the \$25,000 contribution to Roadways Construction/Reconstruction. The Budget Committee did not recommend it. The Selectboard is still recommending it, because money is being withdrawn from it. They feel that it should be replaced.

The Selectboard will be voting to amend Article 4 to a 5% COLA. The Employee handbook states the way and the time that COLA will be determined. The Selectboard expects the employee to follow the handbook so they are doing the same. Dan stated that when you don't agree with the numbers is not the time to change the policy. Fred stated that a few years ago the merit and COLA system was rewritten and it was not voted on at Town Meeting. Fred stated

that the Town is relatively secure from layoffs.. Warren stated that we still don't know how the stimulus package will be distributed from the State. Judy stated that the school had been told that the State was going to use it to fund adequacy aid. Dan stated that the State is balancing 90% of the budget by not sending aid to the Towns. Registrations will be down.

Gary will be giving a report in Article 2. Gary will also be responding to the amendment from the Selectboard about the 5% COLA. John Z requested stating at Town Meeting that the Committee does not have any facts about where stimulus money will be going.

The Committee discussed Article 13 for the purchase of a Generator for the Town Office Building. The Committee does not recommend this article. If the article is defeated at Town Meeting and a grant is obtained can the Town purchase the generator? Dan stated that if the article is voted down there should be an amendment to make it a dollar so that money can be spent for that purpose if the grant is obtained.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary