

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 24, 2026**

Present: George Goulet, Chairman; Alex Winn, Vice-Chairman; Burt Riendeau, Sandra Jaskolski, John Schreiber, Karen Denzler, Leslie Frank, Rick Cooper, Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct Representative; Tammy Bischof, Spofford Fire District Representative; Bruce Soltys, Schoolboard Representative; Judy Idelkope, Selectboard Representative

Absent: Bob Sutherland and Brad Roscoe

Chairman Goulet reconvened the meeting at 11:34 AM

TOWN –

Executive/General Government – Projected Revenue \$263,561 Proposed Budget \$295,625 up \$18,626 or 6.72%.

The Selectmen's Administrative Salary up \$3,550 due to COLA and a Step.

Elections, Regs, Vital Stats – Projected Revenue \$817,600 Proposed Budget \$102,756 down \$3,148 or 2.97%

The Deputy Town Clerk \$20,730 spent in 2025. Budget 2025 was \$22,976 and Budget 2026 is \$22,598.

Financial Administration – Projected Revenue \$31,100 Proposed Budget \$106,040 up \$5,678 or 5.66%

Legal Expense – Proposed Budget \$55,000 up \$5,000 or 10%

Personnel Administration – Proposed Budget \$860,173 up \$202,984 or 30.89%

Planning Board – Projected Revenue \$1,500 Proposed Budget \$6,401 up \$500 or 8.47%

Zoning Board – Projected Revenue \$900 Proposed Budget \$1,752 a \$1 increase or .06%

General Government Buildings – Projected Revenue \$2,500 Proposed Budget \$200,773 up \$50,599 or 47.01%

Cemeteries – Projected Revenue \$1,500 Proposed Budget \$66,671 up \$2,466 or 3.84%.

General Insurance – Proposed Budget \$94,683 up \$528 or .56%

SWRPC Regional Association – Proposed Budget \$4,465 up \$526 or 13.35%

Police – Projected Revenue \$350 Proposed Budget \$737,998 up \$14,328 or 1.98%

Ambulance – Proposed Budget \$111,615 up \$32,889 or 41.78%.

The increase is due to City of Keene this year.

Code Enforcement – Proposed Revenue \$25,000 Proposed Budget \$81,527 down \$33,436 or 29.08%

OEM/Emergency Management – Proposed Budget \$5,072 down \$1,338 or 20.87%

Forest Fires – Projected Revenue \$2,500 Level Funded at \$6,000.

Selectman Gary Winn advised the Committee to reduce the line to \$1,000 and increase Warrant Article 23 from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Highway – Projected Revenue \$3,700 Proposed Budget \$1,023,951 up \$141,432 or 16.03%.
The Road Agent is retiring.

The Salary increase change from retiring Road Agent to Department of Public Works Director.

Street Lighting – Proposed Budget \$10,000 down \$18,000 or 64.29%

Solid Waste – Projected Revenue \$26,000 Proposed Budget \$359,629 up \$13,815 or 3.99%

Health Officer – Proposed Budget \$4,416 down \$2,109 or 32.32%

Animal Control – Level Funded \$1,650

Parks & Rec – Projected Revenue \$160,400 Proposed Budget \$222,025 up \$45,834 or 26.10%.

There is a trailer proposed to be put in the location of the Cottage as a cooling station and paperwork storage for summer. There is a beach assistant proposed for evenings and weekends at the Beach to reduce the Director's hours during the summer. The Director will be creating and implementing programs over the winter.

Parks & Rec brought in \$74,852 for Daily Admission at Ware's Grove; \$14,022 for Concessions and \$67,000 for the Rec Program.

Library – Proposed Budget \$257,137 up \$34,243 up 15.36%.

The Library is proposing to create a full-time position from a part-time position. There is growth in all programs at the Library.

Patriotic Purposes – Level Funded \$1,255

Conservation Commission – Proposed Budget \$7,995 up \$56 or .71%.

The Secretary Salary was under-expended in 2024 and increased for 2026.

Economic Development Committee – Projected Revenue \$425 Proposed Budget \$6,660 up \$2,792 or 72.18%.

Linda Sedlewicz spoke to the grant for the Electrosonics site. The Grant application is due next week. Work will not begin before 2027. The fencing may need to be paid for again at the end of 2026.

Debt Service – Projected Revenue \$120,260 Proposed Budget \$279,900 down \$3,863 or 1.36%

Total Operating Budget - \$4,936,169 up \$509,045 or 11.5%

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the already established Office of Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000 to be added to the already established IT Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,360 to purchase four new laptops, five desktops, SharePoint Migration, Network storage, and a Town Office Firewall, PD Firewall renewal and associated costs for installation and authorize the withdrawal of the sum of \$21,360 from the IT Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$370,000 for the purpose of resurfacing of paved roads and maintenance of gravel Town roads, or act in any way related thereto, said appropriation to be partially offset by the Highway Block Grant funds from the State of New Hampshire in the amount of \$159,937. If the grant is not fully received, the remainder to be raised through taxation along with the \$210,063 that will be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

\$ 60,000 for gravel roads
\$ 70,000 for chip sealing
\$240,000 for paving

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,000 to be added to the already established Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$48,500 to purchase a new boom mower and associated equipment for the Highway Department and authorize the withdrawal of the sum \$48,500 from the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the already established Roadways Construction/Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the already established Culverts & Guardrails Expendable Trust Fund or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,400 to be added to the already established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,000 fifth year of the full cyclical revaluation and authorize the withdrawal of the sum of \$58,000 from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the already established Town Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to be added to the already established Town Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$294,500 and authorize the withdrawal of the sum of \$294,500 from the Town Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, to support the following, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

2 Front Library Windows	14,000
Back Wall of Town Hall	7,500
Fence Enclosure around Dumpster at Town Building	4,000
Carpets in Code Enforcement Office	4,000
Reverse Osmosis System for Town Hall	5,000
2 New Flagpoles - Town Office & Town Hall	10,000
HVAC - Town Office Building Phase 1	250,000
TOTAL	294,500

The flagpoles were not repainted last year. This is for maintenance items. This is first installment for HVAC system. The proposal is for mini-splits in sealed rooms. The quote is \$55/ square foot. The system is 20 years old. More accurate costs will be available after this year.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the already established Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$74,340 to purchase a new police cruiser and associated equipment and installation and authorize the withdrawal of the sum of \$74,340 from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required).

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,500 to be added to the already established Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,640 to purchase eight ballistic level III helmets and authorize the withdrawal of the sum of \$4,640 from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,700 for a handheld radar unit and installation and authorize the withdrawal of the sum of \$2,700 from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

Police Chief stated that he would like to withdraw this article for this year.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,700 for a portable radio and authorize the withdrawal of the sum of \$6,700 from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

Lance would like to amend the article to \$7,540.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 to replace base station radio and authorize the withdrawal of the \$12,000 from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for that purpose, or act in any way related thereto. (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the already established Parks and Rec Pickup Truck Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to be added to the already established Parks and Rec 4x4 All-Terrain Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to be added to the already established Parks and Rec Activities Enhancements Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be added to the already established Wildland Fire Suppression Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

Amended to \$5,000

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,500 to be added to the already established Cemetery Truck Replacement Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be added to the already established Cemetery Mower Replacement Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$750 to be added to the already established General Cemetery Care Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to be added to the already established ROW (Right-of-Way) Survey Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the already established Transfer Station Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,000 to purchase a new container for compactor, installation, and associated equipment for the Transfer Station and authorize the withdrawal of the sum \$22,000 from the Transfer Station Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority Vote Required)

Intent to bale aluminum instead of cardboard to increase revenue. There is a lot of labor to bale cardboard.

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be added to the already established Library Legal Expense Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$20,000.00 to be added to the already established Town Hall Water System Expendable Trust Fund, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,100 to purchase Map 4A Lot 20 (parcel consisting of 9.77 +/- acres located on the westerly side of Route 63 and Spofford Lake and spanning from the end of Old County Road to Route 63) from the State of New Hampshire, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

Land belonging to the State for the purpose of relocating Route 63. Old County Road to Route 63. First Refusal to the Town. Opportunity to control water runoff issues solely for purpose of protection. It was suggested to work with Conservation Commission.

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to make repairs to River Road Boat Ramp, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

The Spofford Boat Ramp was paid for by grant and private donor. The approach to the River Boart Ramp is deteriorating. The majority of the Cost is DES Permitting and a Survey. Replace Asphalt and Rip Rap. The Town is responsible for the maintenance.

ARTICLE 39: To see if the town will vote to establish a Library HVAC Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing and upgrading the HVAC system and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

This is a new system not a repair to the existing system. There is a quote for Air Conditioning is \$47,000. The boiler also needs to be replaced soon. The Town owns the building. It was asked to make it an Expendable Trust Fund with Selectboard as agents to expend or to make an HVAC expendable Trust Fund for all Town owned buildings.

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 for the demolition and removal of Wares Grove Cottage and, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (c). (Majority Vote Required)

No Asbestos was found but Lead Paint has been found so remediation is necessary. The Parks & Rec Director was required to live in the house.

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,640 to support the following, or act in any way related thereto. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (d). (Majority Vote Required)

Home Health, Meals on Wheels	8,226
Monadnock Family Services / Mental Health	4,730
Community Kitchen	3,197
The Gathering Place	1,000
Chesterfield Senior Meals	2,500
Monadnock Child Advocacy Center	1,100
Big Brothers Big Sisters	400
MCVP Crisis & Prevention Center	950
Hundred Nights Inc	2,700
CASA	750
Community Volunteer Transportation	100
Southwestern Community Services	<u>4,014</u>
TOTAL	\$29,640

ARTICLE 42: To vote on the following modification of the Optional Total and Permanent Service-Connected Disabled Property Tax Credit, under the provision of RSA 72:35: Shall we modify the tax credit from \$2,000 to \$2,500, effective April 1, 2026. This modification is due to House Bill 99 that took effect July 13, 2025, that does not allow the Standards

Veterans' Tax Credit (72:28) in the amount of \$500 to be combined with the Optional Total and Permanent Service-Connected Disabled Property Tax Credit. If this warrant article passes, no net fiscal harm occurs to disabled veterans as a result of HB 99. (Majority Vote Required).

Spofford Fire District –

Article 5: \$328,300 General Government an increase of 7.35%.

Administrative expenses up 27%. Diesel fuel up 56.67%. Small Equipment up 233.33%. HVAC needs to be replaced. Replacement parts can't be found. Mutual Aid \$45,000 for Spofford went up significantly for both Chesterfield & Spofford. The amount is based on valuation.

The bond principal will increase for the next 4 years. Overall the Budget is down 3%.

Article 6: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000 to be added to the Heavy Equipment CRF previously established

Article 7: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,000 to be added to the Small Equipment CRF previously established

Article 8: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Spofford Water Hole Expendable Trust previously established

Article 9: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Catastrophic Emergency Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

The balance in the fund is over \$80,000, but Boiler and mini-splits have been replaced this year.

Article 10: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be added to the Spofford Fire Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

Article 11: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Personal Protective Equipment CRF previously established

Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Precinct –

Article 4: To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$178,800 for the following purposes, or act in any way related thereto.

The increase to the budget is 1.88%. Funds needed to be added to the Non-Capital Reserve Fund to replace the roof at the Center Station. There is only \$25,000 in the fund.

Article 5: To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,500 to be added to the already established Heavy Equipment CRF

Article 6: To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000 to be added to the already established Small Equipment CRF

Article 7: To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the already established Building Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund

Article 8: To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the already established Fire Pond Expendable Trust Fund

Article 9: To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Chesterfield Firefighting Equipment Replacement Expendable Trust Fund

Article 10: To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of 2 sets of Personal Protective Equipment for Firefighters and further to authorize the withdrawal of \$10,000 from the Small Equipment CRF. This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:10 I(d)

Deliberations will be held on January 27th and February 3rd.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:17 PM by Rick Cooper. The motion was seconded by Burt and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary