

Chesterfield Budget Committee Selectmen's Working Meeting

February 9, 2021

Via Zoom

In attendance were Gary Winn, Fran Shippee, Alissa Thompson, and Jim Barey.

The board met during a scheduled Budget Committee meeting. Chairman Steve Laskowski called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Laskowski opened discussion on House Bill 1129 and how it affects the town meeting and voting.

Brad Roscoe stated he spoke with the Attorney General and Secretary of State; they suggested Roscoe speak with the DRA and ask what goes on the ballot. Roscoe stated essentially it will be the Board of Selectmen recommendation and the Budget committee's recommendation. Roscoe spoke with John Ratigan who said whatever makes DRA happy should be the right thing to do. Roscoe suggested doing three columns on ballot.

Winn stated he believes Brad's thought process is reasonable. Winn confirmed that for the purposes of the hearings and town meeting, should they meet in person, the budget committee's budget is the one presented. Winn continued, stating in the hearing process, from a workshop he attended last weekend; it is recommended that budgets be presented by those who normally represent them. Winn stated the Operating budget is typically moved by budget committee, and the Board of Selectmen looks to the Budget committee to present their budget on the first article. Winn suggested at the first day's meeting: the first people recognized should be the Budget committee to present the operating budget. At that time, the Board of Selectmen can state their point of view. Winn noted that the warrant is open for input from the public at that time and strongly recommended that the public can start weighing in. Roscoe asked about two separate budgets. Winn responded that the lines on the paper could conceivably be one column when completed. Shippee asked if there were two columns last year. Roscoe stated yes there were. Shippee asked if there are two columns normally. Roscoe responded that yes, that is standard.

Winn asked about publishing the warrant on the website as going forth to voting and if that would be the time to have the three columns but only one column on the actual ballot. Roscoe answered that is correct.

Shippee asked if there were only two options over defunding the ordinance. Laskowski responded no, the committee was concerned about that increase across the line item and heavily affecting taxpayers. Shippee suggested the options of letting the Board of Selectmen handle regulation work and include volunteers. Laskowski stated the net effect is that they still get funding for the line item. Roscoe stated he believes that the Board of Selectmen should see what the tenor of the public's thoughts are regarding the line item.

Winn stated that the Board of Selectmen are expected to weigh the opinions heard and perform to the desires of the public input. Winn continued, stating the board would have to wait until Wednesday for voting. If a budget is offered that is unsatisfactory, there will not be an operating budget following voting on Tuesday. Winn noted that the only other course of action would be to call another meeting. Judy Idelkope stated if the Board of Selectmen does not have an operating budget, it would not be the at the fault of the Budget committee; the cuts were not that large. Shippee asked if they should just wait and see what is suggested. Roscoe stated that is all that can be done. Shippee asked if the public will vote on one of the columns, or if they are just informational. Roscoe stated there can be three columns on the website and only one on the ballot. Shippee noted that the Board of Selectmen have responsibility to present the budget to the public in the best light.

Winn stated there will be hard copy of the budgets available as well as access by telephone. Winn stated, speaking to the record retention program in the Town Clerk's office, he believes there is only maintenance to deal with at this point.

Winn asked Thompson if she found anything out about the Capital Maintenance Expenditure line. Thompson responded no. Winn explained an insurance claim has been put in on the Police Department flooding. Winn stated he is suggesting anti-freezing the current system and putting in alarms to detect leaks. Winn noted this will not be an inexpensive venture; he is not sure the use of the Capital Maintenance Expenditure money can be changed; at the very least they may be looking at the Expendable Trust money; he wants to make the Budget committee aware of his thought process and has not gone before the board. Dan Cotter asked where the air heat exchangers are located. Winn explained they are in the attic and how they froze.

Gary Winn moved to adjourn the Selectmen's working meeting at 8:19PM. The motion was seconded by Fran Shippee and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Barey
Board of Selectmen Secretary

Approved by:

Jeanny Aldrich, Chairman

Date

Fran Shippee
Fran Shippee

3/10/2021
Date

Gary Winn
Gary Winn

3/7/2021
Date