

**Town of Chelsea  
Budget Review Committee Meeting  
March 26, 2013  
Chelsea Town Office**

1. Meeting called to order by Craig Hitchings at 5:15PM.
2. The following were present: Craig Hitchings, Mark Perry, Carol Belanger, Rick Danforth, Joe Mills, and Scott Tilton. Jeremy Hiltz was not present.
3. Approval of January 16, 2013 minutes. Rick made the motion, Mark seconded, all approved.
4. Craig and Rick attended all select board meeting in the past few months to hear the discussion of the budget.
5. Craig suggested all members express their goal as a member.
  - Joe – Goal to reduce budget in order to reduce the mil-rate.
  - Carol – Goal to reduce budget. Reduce and increase lines as seen fit and not an overall percentage cut.
  - Mark – Goal to reduce budget and mil-rate. Concern about the Governor’s budget proposal and the impact it will have on the Town.
  - Rick – Goal to have good discussions regarding administration and roads. Hopes to stay on accounts major lines. Concerned about the RSU budget and what those numbers will do to the Town.
  - Craig – Not to micro manage. Focus on what is known of the budget, not the unknown.
6. Scott stated the purpose of the committee is to review the budget and see if things can be done different to save money.
7. Scott discussed the budget he proposed to the select board. Scott’s budget request for 2013-2014 is \$1,199,359; Select board’s recommendation is \$968,840. Scott’s proposal reflects no change of funding from the State, an increase in revenue of \$27,193, an increase of 1.7 percent to salaries for the cost of living and increase of hours (25 to 28) for the Clerk.
8. As the first meeting to discuss the budget, members were in agreement to have an open discussion about each line. Scott went over each line item and expressed his views and the board of selectman views. Some general discussion and views were discussed on the following: Administration Salaries, Assessor’s Stipend, BOS’s Stipends, Summer Roads, Fire Dept, and Donations/Contributions.

9. Scott will be checking with other local towns regarding the budget of the Fire Dept. and Stipends. Will also invite the Fire Chief to next meeting.
10. Members are to come to next meeting with their proposal for the budget.
11. Next meeting April 2, 5:00PM
12. Meeting adjourn at 7:51PM