

Chester Boards of Selectmen/Finance
Special Meeting, May 6, 2015
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1. Roll Call

The Chester Boards of Selectmen and Finance held a Special Meeting on May 6, 2015 immediately following the Budget Public Hearing at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Ed Meehan, Larry Sypher and Tom Englert were present for the Board of Selectmen. Virginia Carmany, Bob Gorman, Charlie Park, Jennifer Rannestad, Lori Ann Clymas (seated for D. Cohen) and Rick Nygard (seated for J. Aley) were present for the Board of Finance. Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order.

2. Review and Discussion of Proposed 2015-16 Budget Public Comments

Chairman Carmany noted the Board of Finance tries to smooth year to year so there are no big spikes or dips. In this particular year instead of taking Capital and spreading it out into future years, it brought the costs into the current year as there is a surplus now and that will avoid spikes going forward.

3. Discussion of Proposed Regionalization Plan - Region 4 and Draft Interlocal agreement (3-25-25) to Share Financial Benefits

It was noted even if regionalization passes, the Chester Elementary School will still remain as an elementary school and not available for a new library. Putting the library into the school building would create school security issues.

First Selectman Meehan noted the current plan is unfairly treating Chester. He indicated the Town Attorney has concerns the plan may not be legal. The legal interpretation is that the towns are bound by the ADM process. There is very little savings in regionalization, but there is savings in declining enrollment.

First Selectman Meehan personally felt there is an issue in giving up an elementary school. If there is no elementary school or neighborhood school, property values are impacted. That is a defect in this regional plan.

There was discussion as to whose responsibility it would be for capital items and capital maintenance under regionalization.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding regionalization, whether or not the plan is legal, how budgets would be handled, property value impacts, educational benefits, would there be local boards and/or regional boards, etc. One question is how to maintain local control and involvement and still be regionalized. It was also noted if school closure is ever to be considered, the process for doing so needs to be clearly defined.

It was noted regionalization should be on its own merits.

The Boards of Finance and Selectmen agreed the process should be slowed down and the present form of the agreement was not acceptable. Chairman Carmany noted Superintendent Levy should be notified that the Chester Boards of Finance and Selectmen do not support this plan.

Upcoming meetings - Board of Finance on May 21st and Special BOF Meeting on May 28th after the Town Meeting.

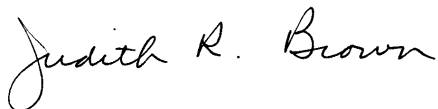
4. Audience of Citizens - none.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Clymas, second by Gorman, to adjourn.

Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary