

Chester Board of Finance
Regular Meeting, August 20, 2015
Page 1 of 5

Call to Order

The Chester Board of Finance held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2015, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Introduction and seating of members

Those members present and seated were Virginia Carmany, Bob Gorman, Charlie Park and Rick Nygard (seated for J. Rannestad). Lori Ann Clymas arrived during discussion of Transfers and was seated for Dave Cohen.

Approval of Minutes from July 16, 2015

Motion by Gorman, second by Park, to approve July 16, 2015 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved.

Reports

Monthly Financials

Chairman Carmany noted the monthly financials were actually year end financials. It was noted all bills have now been submitted and paid for the fiscal year.

Consideration and Approval of Bills and Transfers - Year End Transfers

Motion by Gorman, second by Park, to approve Transfers as noted on attached memo from Peter Evankow, Accounting Manager, to Virginia Carmany, Board of Finance Chairman dated August 18, 2015. Discussion on various items as follows -

Assessor - First Selectman Meehan noted this referred to a request from the Assessor for additional funds to do Personal Property Audits.

Economic Development - First Selectman Meehan noted this was for the 2 gateway signs.

Highway - First Selectman Meehan noted this referred to Winter Maintenance in the amount of \$146,748. Meehan reviewed various items such as equipment maintenance and repairs, sand/salt, outside contractors, etc. Some towns got reimbursed funds from the Federal Government, but Chester and a lot of other Middlesex towns were just on the edge of receiving anything.

Chester Hose Company - First Selectman Meehan noted this refers to Payroll and reflects the increase in the call outs and runs by Ambulance personnel. On the positive side, the Ambulance call outs will probably bring in an additional \$20,000.

Sanitation and Engineering Contingency - First Selectman Meehan noted this referred to the Town's involvement with the Main Street Bridge Project and the requirement that the Water Pollution Control Authority needed to design adjustments to its system under the Bridge. Jacobson's office did that work and \$19,541 has been billed to the State D.O.T. for reimbursement this year.

Legal Contingency - First Selectman Meehan noted this reflects an overage because of the Chester Village West reval appeal. The other big legal item in the amount of \$7,900 for various legal fees to Attorneys Bennet and Royston were for property at 59 Winthrop Road having to do with a tax sale and zoning issues. There is also another lawsuit in Federal Court for 29 Liberty Street which the town's insurance company is covering.

Vote on above motion - Unanimously Approved.

First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Meehan reported on the following -

Chester Village West - he noted the town did not prevail in the Court case. The revaluation was dropped from \$20 million to \$9.5 million. It was noted Chester Village West will get an adjustment in last year's taxes. The town has to pay back \$109,000. An adjustment has been worked out with the Tax Collector for this year. There are a couple other appeals pending for residential properties. Meehan noted what happened with Chester Village West was that the wrong methodology was used in the revaluation process. It was done based on comparable sales market value and there is no comparable market value in Chester.

Meehan noted the Town is still expecting a \$50,000 LOCIP Grant applied for back in April. The money hasn't been presented to the Bond Commission yet for release to the Towns because of the State fiscal situation.

Monies either received or expected - \$19,500 for the Main Street Bridge reimbursement; Connecticut Water Company \$15,000

reimbursement; CIRMA \$4,400 rebate for having a good year two years ago regarding claims. Meehan reviewed 2 claims regarding broken water line and septic backup at the Elementary School.

Main Street Bridge Project - currently in the utility phase. Eversource has finished resetting the poles and wire transfers. The Center system has been rebuilt. Once the bridge is completed the pole in front of 6 Main will be removed. Comcast and Fibertech are now working in the Center. Frontier will next do their work in September/October. Arborio (bridge contractor) from Cromwell has been awarded the project at \$4.5 million (\$1.5 million over the budget). They already have a field office in town. All utilities will be taken care of. The time frame now is the bridge will be closed January 10th to May 22nd. Most of the bridge is built off site and dropped into place. This is an incentive performance contract where there are enhancements if they finish ahead of schedule. If they don't finish on time, the contractor gets penalized. Meehan noted there has been good communication with everyone to date.

Main East Project is about 40% complete. The most difficult part of the culvert has been accomplished. That had to be coordinated with the water main and sanitary gravity sewer. There may be excess cost for the backfill material for the trenches. A lot of the material taken out cannot be used on the new plastic pipe. There was also some bad material at Laurel Hill Cemetery which was swamp like. The project is moving along pretty good. All the underground work in Laurel Hill Cemetery for the electrical conduits for lighting has been finished. Relative to this, the contractor was asked to put together bid prices for work from School Lane to Middlesex Avenue. Everything should then be done from Laurel Hill Cemetery to Middlesex Avenue. Meehan noted there will be some credits and excess costs but those aren't known yet. There was some discussion regarding curbs, sidewalks, etc.

Pratt Street - will be reclaimed and new drainage some time in September.

20 Water Street - work was done in the kitchen and stone work in front.

Recommendations have been requested from contractors to eliminate heat loss in the Town Hall. Meehan briefly reviewed the issue of heat loss in the Town Hall building.

New Business

Consideration and approval to release Capital Improvement Funds and send to Town Meeting for consideration:

1. Fire - Chester Hose Company - Equipment Replacement \$45,000
Motion by Gorman, second by Nygard, to approve release of \$45,000 from Capital Improvement Funds for Equipment Replacement for the Chester Hose Company. Unanimously Approved.

2. School - Chester Elementary - HVAC Replacement \$45,000
Motion by Clymas, second by Gorman, to approve \$45,000 from Capital Improvement Funds for HVAC Replacement for Chester Elementary. Unanimously Approved.

3. Police - Mobile Radio Replacement \$10,000
Motion by Gorman, second by Clymas, to approve \$10,000 from Capital Improvement Funds for Mobile Radio Replacement for Police. Unanimously Approved.

4. Resident State Trooper Program - Renewal of Two Year Contract 2015-17

First Selectman Meehan noted this does not have to be approved by the Board of Finance. It goes to Town Meeting for approval. He explained the towns that have Resident State Troopers are charged 85% of the cost which includes salary and fringe benefits. The total annual cost will be \$155,749 and 85% is \$132,387. That is an increase from \$109,000 which the Town currently pays at 70%. In addition to the 15% assessment, there have been contract negotiations with the State Police and the Union which resulted in increases and there are a couple of step increases as well. It was noted \$40,000 has been put in the contingency for this increase. Brief discussion ensued regarding regionalization of police coverage.

Audience of Citizens - none.

Adjournment

Motion by Park, second by Gorman, to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith R. Brown

Chester Board of Finance
Regular Meeting, August 20, 2015
Page 5 of 5

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary

attachment - Memo from Peter Evankow, Accounting Manager, to Virginia Carmany, Board of Finance Chairman, dated August 18, 2015 regarding Fiscal Year 14/15 Transfers