

Chester Board of Finance
Regular Meeting, May 21, 2015
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Call to Order

Introduction and seating of members

The Chester Board of Finance held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2015, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Virginia Carmany, Bob Gorman, Charlie Park, Dave Cohen, Lori Ann Clymas seated for J. Aley and Rick Nygard seated for J. Rannestad. First Selectman Ed Meehan was also present. Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes April 16, 2015

Motion by Gorman, second by Clymas, to approve April 16, 2015 Minutes as written. Unanimously approved.

New Business

Review request from Selectmen to approve \$48K from Main Street Capital Line Item for The Main Street East Project to increase contingency from 5% to 10%, discuss and vote to send to Town Meeting

Motion by Clymas, second by Gorman, to approve the request from the Selectmen to move \$48K from Main Street Capital Line Item for The Main Street East Project to increase contingency from 5% to 10%, and to send to Town Meeting. Discussion followed. First Selectman Meehan noted the bid was not awarded to the lowest bidder. The second bidder was \$44,000 higher which reduced the contingency to 5%. He noted the most critical part of the project is the culvert area. The start date is June 1st with a preconstruction meeting on May 27th. There will also be milling from School Lane to Route 154. Quotes for the milling were obtained from Tilcon. It is also anticipated the Town may receive between \$10,000 and \$15,000 from the Connecticut Water Company. Ed Meehan reviewed the new hydrants. The sidewalk and curbing from Laurel Hill Cemetery to Maple Street will not be done during this project phase. This phase should be completed by the end of September. **Unanimously approved.**

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Appoint Auditor for FY 14-15

Motion by Gorman, second by Cohen, to appoint O'Connor Davies as auditors to continue for the 3rd year. Unanimously approved.

Note correction and change in Chester Elementary School budget of a reduction of \$81.00
Chairman Carmany noted there was a change in the Chester Elementary School Budget of a reduction in the amount of \$81.00.

To recommend to Town Meeting the release of funds from capital line item to computer replacement in the amount of \$30,000

Motion by Clymas, second by Gorman, to release \$30,000 from Capital for the IT Project for servers and computers and send to Town Meeting. This is the 3rd year of a 3 year lease agreement. Unanimously approved.

Reports

Monthly Financials - monthly financials were reviewed. Chairman Carmany noted tax collections on current property taxes were \$80,000 lower than budgeted. Back taxes were \$23,000 higher and Interest/Fees were \$15,000 higher. The net total is \$42,000 lower than budgeted. Lori Ann Clymas noted collections were at 99.62% as of April of this year. There was further discussion regarding collection of back taxes. It was noted there are a couple of tax appeals pending.

Consideration and Approval of Bills - none.

First Selectman' Report - none.

Old Business

Continue Discussions regarding Regionalization and Intermunicipal Agreement

Chairman Carmany noted she put together some notes and

spreadsheets. She indicated right now Chester would be giving up a lot of money. She further noted currently no one was in agreement to do the Intermunicipal Agreement including the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman Meehan noted the BOS currently were not comfortable with the agreement with the methodology and formula. He briefly reviewed his meeting yesterday with Selectmen Dick Smith from Deep River and Norm Needleman from Essex and the Superintendent of Schools. Meehan indicated with the current formula, Chester is being penalized for lower ADM numbers.

First Selectman Meehan noted there is still the legal question raised by Town Attorney, John Bennet. Ed noted he asked if an opinion could be obtained from the State Board of Education attorney but has not heard anything back yet.

Chairman Carmany noted the Intermunicipal Agreement will not be accepted by the Chester Boards of Selectmen and Finance. Bob Gorman reiterated he is not in favor of regionalization as it currently stands. Rick Nygard agreed. Gorman noted changes should be negotiated in the plan before talking about the Intermunicipal Agreement. Lori Ann Clymas agreed. It was agreed the plan should be worked on first.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding various points of regionalization and the Intermunicipal Agreement as prepared by Chairman Carmany.

It was agreed at the June 1st meeting, it should be communicated that the Intermunicipal Agreement is a problem and there are 5 or 6 issues with the plan.

Review draft full year 2015-16 Operating Budget, Revenue Budget and Capital Five year budget with Forecasted Fund Balance Allocation and suggested prefunded Capital Budget There was a brief review of the draft full year 2015-16 Operating Budget. Chairman Carmany noted if it is

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necessary to reduce the budget, it would have to come from the Operating Budget, Capital Budget or School Budget.

It was noted there will be a Special Meeting on May 28th immediately following the Town Meeting.

Audience of Citizens - none.

Adjournment

Motion by Park, second by Gorman, to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary