

Chester Board of Finance
Special Meeting, May 28, 2015
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1. Call to Order

The Chester Board of Finance held a special meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2015, immediately following the Town Meeting of the same date at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:54 PM.

2. Seating of Members

Members present and seated were Virginia Carmany, Bob Gorman, Charlie Park, Dave Cohen, Lori Ann Clymas seated for J. Rannestad and Rick Nygard (seated for J. Aley. First Selectman Ed Meehan and Selectmen Larry Sypher and Tom Englert were also present.

3. New Business

A. Establish the Mil Rate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Motion by Clymas, second by Gorman, to establish a mil rate for fiscal year 2015-2016 at 25.32. Unanimously approved.

B. Discussion of Regional School District No. 4 Plan to Add Grades Pre-K through 6

Chairman Carmany noted there is a meeting on Monday, June 1st, regarding the Intermunicipal Agreement. She distributed spreadsheets showing proposed budgets for Chester, Deep River and Essex with updated numbers. These numbers were reviewed in detail. The second page compared numbers looking at non-regionalization vs. regionalization methodology. The third page showed specifics for all 3 towns.

A statement that was going to be brought to the meeting on Monday was reviewed in detail. First Selectman Meehan thanked Chairman Carmany for going through the numbers and laying out the methodology to see what the savings would be for Chester over a 5 year period as well as the positives and negatives.

First Selectman Meehan noted he personally did not feel the Board of Selectmen could support this methodology that results in an unfair distribution of what might be saved and what was supposed to be more equal and fair shared. Its the reverse of what was discussed when first talked about.

First Selectman Meehan also noted there is the legality of the

Intermunicipal Agreement. Chester's Town Attorney had concerns. He feels the ADM Statutes take precedence over the Interlocal Agreement.

First Selectman Meehan reiterated the first concern is legal and the second concern is methodology.

Chairman Carmany noted the BOF agreed at its last meeting to put together a statement for submission at the June 1st meeting.

It was noted if Chester doesn't vote for this, the whole thing fails.

First Selectman Meehan felt the process had been too rushed and requested it be slowed down so people could understand its implications.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding several aspects of the plan. Consolidation of schools has a lot of impacts. There is still a lot of unknowns and the Town should do its due diligence before regionalizing. Declining enrollment was reviewed. How would property values be impacted?

Dave Cohen suggested this be tabled for long term discussions. Lori Ann Clymas agreed this needs a lot of work and the purpose is to put the questions out there.

Changes were proposed to the statement for Monday's meeting.

Motion by Clymas, second by Cohen, to make the following changes to the statement -

1. Move the second paragraph to the first paragraph.
2. Move the first paragraph to the second paragraph and remove the Board of Selectmen.

Unanimously approved.

Motion made and seconded to approve the document as revised. Unanimously approved.

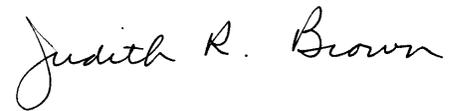
4. Audience of Citizens - none.

5. Adjournment

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Motion by Cohen, second by Gorman, to adjourn.

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 text "Respectfully submitted,".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary