

Call to Order

- Introduction and seating of members

The Chester Board of Finance held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Members in attendance and seated were Virginia Carmany, Bob Gorman, Charlie Park, Richard Nygard (seated for J. Rannestad) and Alex Strekel (seated for J. Aley). Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

- Approval of Minutes from June 19, 2014

**Motion made and seconded to approve June 19, 2014 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved. Motion Carried.**

New Business

- End of Year 2013-2014 Budget Transfers

**Motion made and seconded to make transfers as outlined on Memo from Peter Evankow, Accounting Manager, to Virginia Carmany, Board of Finance Chairman, dated August 20, 2014 (copy attached to these Minutes) for Building Department, Inland Wetlands, Park & Recreation Commission, Library, Chester Hose Company, Fire Marshal, Police Protection, Safety Services, Engineering Contingency and Legal Contingency. Unanimously Approved. Motion Carried.**

**Motion made and seconded to make Highway Department transfers as outlined on Memo from Peter Evankow, Accounting Manager, to Virginia Carmany, Board of Finance Chairman, dated August 20, 2014 (copy attached to these Minutes). Discussion followed. First Selectman Meehan reviewed the transfers. He noted one highway department member was out on long term disability and took vacation time and sick leave. In November the Town hired a new Highway Department crew member to replace that individual. There were also some extra hours when Bruce Sypher acted as Temporary Acting Highway Foreman. The other big item were the winter storms. The Outside Contractor account was twice as much as was budgeted. Meehan suggested during upcoming budget discussions, a 4<sup>th</sup> Highway Department crew member be considered on a year round basis. Perhaps that would reduce the Outside Contractor line item. First Selectman Meehan also explained funds were spent for Highway Equipment Maintenance to purchase a new rider lawnmower which enabled the Town to take back 2 accounts from Outside Contractors. This will pay for itself in 2 years. Meehan noted the Town has 23-24 miles of road and its hard to cover everything with only 3 crew members. **Unanimously Approved. Motion Carried.****

## Reports

- Monthly Financials

First Selectman Meehan noted on the revenue side \$278,000 was estimated and actual was \$338,000. On the expense side it was estimated \$24,300 would be under spent and actual was \$136,707.

- Consideration and Approval of Bills - none.

- First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Meehan gave a status update on the Main Street Project. He noted the engineer has been authorized to complete the 70% plans for Phase 1. These will be discussed at the Main Street Project Committee meeting next week. These plans are still subject to change. The sidewalk width has been reduced to 4 feet. There may also be other changes based on the area around the Post Office and the culvert replacement. The engineer will be making some recommendations. The Wetlands Permit was issued this past Monday.

First Selectman Meehan noted the North Quarter Park study has wrapped up and been merged with the Library Study. The Library Building Committee is ready to submit the Grant application end of next week for \$1 million. Brief was held regarding Library square footage. Meehan reviewed the Grant application process. It was noted the Grant application is based on State Library Standards.

There was much discussion regarding a recent Board of Ed meeting relative to school issues, including demographics, etc. Chairman Carmany noted additional data was supposed to be forthcoming but has not been received yet.

## Old Business

- Review of Expenditures from Contingency Accounts

Chairman Carmany inquired about Legal and Engineering Contingency Accounts. First Selectman Meehan noted most of the Legal Contingency amounts pertain to Zoning, Wetlands and Assessor Court cases. He noted the Engineering Contingency pertains to a review by the Town Engineer for the Main Street Project application before the Wetlands Agency. Chairman Carmany noted in the past the Board of Finance saw the contingency account invoices and asked that be done again.

- Other

In response to a question, First Selectman Meehan gave a status update regarding Aaron Manor. He noted Aaron Manor is still in the process of doing engineering work for WPCA and dealing with DEEP regarding their Consent Order. It has also been suggested perhaps

the Town might help with a Farmers Home Administration Loan for the area from High Street to Water Street. This would allow maybe a \$6 or \$7 million expansion of Aaron Manor's facility to do renovations and independent care rooms as well as modernization of that facility. Meehan noted he hasn't heard from Aaron Manor since meeting with them in April. Meehan reiterated Aaron Manor has to deal with DEEP and the Consent Order. They want to invest in the Town and in the process request a tax deferral.

In response to a question, First Selectman Meehan noted the contents of 33 Liberty Street has been removed. The auctions concluded in the Spring and the new owners have secured the building. Brief discussion followed on what might happen to the building in the future.

Audience of Citizens - none.

Adjournment

**Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Unanimously Approved. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary