

#### Call to Order

- Introduction and seating of members

The Chester Board of Finance held a special meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Those in attendance were Virginia Carmany, David Cohen, Joyce Aley, Jennifer Rannestad, Richard Nygard (seated for R. Gorman) and Alex Strekel (seated for C. Park). Lori Ann Clymas, non-seated alternate, was also present as was First Selectman Ed Meehan. Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

- Approval of Minutes – December 19, 2013

**Motion made and seconded to approve December 19, 2013 Minutes as written. Voting in favor – Cohen, Aley, Rannestad, Nygard, Strekel, Carmany. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

#### New Business

- Continued discussion regarding Annual Report Dedication

The Annual Report Dedication was reviewed further and edited.

- Approval of 2014 Suspense List from Tax Collector

The 2014 Suspense List from the Tax Collector was reviewed. **Motion made and seconded to approve the 2014 Suspense List as provided by the Tax Collector. Voting in favor - Cohen, Aley, Rannestad, Nygard, Strekel, Carmany. Opposed – none. Motion Carried.**

- Schedule for 2014/15 Full Year Budget Preparation

First Selectman Meehan reviewed the 2014/15 Budget Preparation Schedule noting the format was similar to last year. All Department budgets are due back to the Selectmen by February 7th. The budget will be submitted to the BOF on February 20th. The goal is to have the first full review by March 20th and a second review by March 26th, including regional organizations requesting funding. The Chester Board of Ed votes on their budget on March 27th and will come before the BOS/BOF on April 1st for their presentation. First Selectman Meehan noted between February and end of March he is planning on attending the Chester BOE workshops. Selectman Englert will attend Region 4 workshops. Meehan urged any BOF members to attend workshops if available to do so. It is proposed to hold the budget public hearing on May 1st and a Town Meeting on May 22nd. He noted the May 1st date may have to be adjusted at a later date due to conflicts in schedules. Copies of the budget schedule will be sent to everyone.

- Discussion regarding Chester Elementary School MBR Status

There was further discussion regarding the MBR issue and where it goes from here. First Selectman Meehan noted it is not a simple process. Restoration of the funds would have to be approved at a Town Meeting. There was further discussion relative

to asking our legislators to revisit this statute and get some clarification. Chairman Carmany noted the legislature needs to understand its not "one size fits all."

- Other – none.

#### Reports

- Monthly Financials

There were no comments regarding monthly financials.

- Consideration and Approval of Bills and Transfers – none.

- First Selectman's Report

In response to Chairman Carmany's questions from last month, First Selectman Meehan noted the Capital Non-Recurring is carrying \$373,620 approved at Town Meeting and that has not been transferred over to the Operating Budget yet. It will be done by the end of February. With regard to specific Capital Projects, First Selectman Meehan reviewed those projects and balances if any. He also reviewed road projects in detail. It was also noted there are a lot of sidewalks that need repair. Meehan noted there is a balance in the Capital Fund of \$1,215,000.

It was noted the Library has not asked for any Capital appropriation to date.

There was discussion as to whether there has been any consideration for a garage for the police cruisers. First Selectman Meehan noted that may be something to think about for the future. The best location would probably be at the Town Garage. Meehan suggested starting funding for such a project now if it is felt a garage for police cruisers is necessary.

Chairman Carmany noted Tax Collection is good at 64.16 percent. The question was asked if the Tax Suspense List could be published.

First Selectman Meehan briefly reviewed the Community Meeting held last Saturday for the Library Expansion (underground version). The Library Board will probably meet with the Church to get permission to have the borings done. It was noted the Library Expansion will probably cost about \$3 million. Funding including grants was briefly reviewed. It was noted there would have to be an off site library location during construction as well as a disruption to Church parking. The Church would have to deed the parking lot to the Town and the Town would lease it back to the Church for parking.

First Selectman Meehan briefly reviewed the Main Street Project. He noted there will be a public information meeting on January 29th and if necessary another one on February 5th. The big issue at the moment is the sidewalk and crosswalk at School

Lane as well as the retaining wall in front of Chesterfield's. He noted the privacy hedge in front of 137 Main is a safety hazard and within the Town right-of-way. The Town is working with the property owners to mitigate removal of the hedge. First Selectman Meehan noted the Town hasn't heard yet from the State regarding the STEAP Grant. Another issue on Main Street is drainage and repair/replacement of catch basins.

Business

- Other – none.

Audience of Citizens – none.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

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 "Respectfully submitted," text.

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary