

I. Call to Order

The Chester Board of Finance held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Virginia Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

- Introduction and seating of members

Those members in attendance and seated were Virginia Carmany, Joyce Aley, David Cohen, Charlie Park, Jennifer Rannestad and Lori Ann Clymas (seated for B. Gorman). Others present included First Selectman Ed Meehan and Selectman Tom Englert.

II. Approval of February 20, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Motion by Park, second by Cohen, to approve February 20, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes as written. Voting in favor – Cohen, Park, Clymas, Carmany. Opposed – none. Abstained – Aley, Rannestad. Motion Carried.**

III. Reports

- Monthly Financials – no comments were offered.
- Consideration and approval of Bills and Transfers – no bills or transfers.
- Transfers – none.
- First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Meehan noted as of February the tax collection rate was 99.24%.

Addendums to Meeting -

1. Discussion of 2013-2014 Minimum Budget Requirement – Notice of Noncompliance from State Department of Education to Regional School District 4, dated 11-13-2013

First Selectman Meehan recommended going to Town Meeting in the later part of the fiscal year after adopting the Town Budget to allocate the \$42,000 to the Board of Education Budget. Parallel to that the town should engage its State Representatives in discussion and concern that the application of the State Statute doesn't fit the Town's situation with the Region 4 and local Elementary School Board structure and ask for a waiver. If a waiver doesn't work, then legislative changes should be requested. Meehan noted he has discussed this matter with both First Selectmen's from Deep River and Essex. First Selectman Smith is President of the Council of Small Towns and has noted this is occurring around the State. Some districts are just putting money in to avoid the double penalty and then will regroup after the budgets are in place. Meehan noted there is a legislator in Madison leading the charge in Hartford. He also noted some towns are putting money into the local

Education Capital Budget with the knowledge that it won't get spent. He explained the local education budget is drawn out of the General Fund. Meehan also noted the Elementary School Budget is projected to go down by \$61,000 based on enrollments and retirements.

Selectman Englert noted his recommendation would be to approve the \$41,000 and if it doesn't get spent, it will come back. He noted the waivers are year to year. The key would be to have the law changed or modified to take into account that enrollments are declining. Its happening across the State.

Discussion ensued regarding the Minimum Budget Requirement as well as Attorney Roy's response to Dr. Levy.

First Selectman Meehan noted the \$41,000 would have to be requested by Dr. Levy. Tentatively a Town Meeting could be scheduled for June 3rd. A meeting should be scheduled with the legislators the second week of May.

2. Request for a Board of Finance Representative to North Quarter Park Master Plan Committee

First Selectman Meehan noted a study committee is being established to do a Master Plan for North Quarter Park. Various boards and commissions have been invited to make appointments to this committee (Planning & Zoning, Library Board, Main Street Committee, at large, Board of Selectmen). He also noted Board of Finance should have a voice in study. It was suggested either Richard Nygard or Alex Strekel would be ideal but neither was at this meeting. First Selectman Meehan will contact them to see if they are interested.

3. Other – none.

IV. Audience of Citizens – none.

V. Adjournment

**Motion by Rannestad, second by Clymas, to adjourn. Voting in favor – Rannestad, Clymas, Park, Aley, Cohen, Carmany. Opposed – none.  
Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary