

Call to Order

- Introduction and seating of members

The Chester Board of Finance held its regular meeting on Monday, May 15, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Virginia Carmany, Jennifer Rannestad, Charlie Park, Joyce Aley, Bob Gorman and Lori Ann Clymas (seated for D. Cohen). Non-seated alternates were Rick Nygard and Alex Stempel. Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

- Approval of Minutes from April 30, 2014, April 15, 2014 and March 20, 2014

**Motion by Rannestad, second by Park, to approve April 30, 2014, April 15, 2014 and March 20, 2014 Minutes as written.**

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

New Business

Other - none.

Reports

- Monthly Financials

Chairman Carmany noted Monthly Financials look great. Tax collection on on target.

Chairman Carmany reviewed the following -

Town Office Operations - any reason why there is so much left in that account. First Selectman Meehan noted the HP Lease Buyout was completed back in March. The Town now owns the server and it will be replaced as soon as possible.

Service Contracts - the previous IT consultant cost was \$1750. The current IT consultant is \$1265. This may change once all the equipment is switched over.

First Selectman Meehan noted there is a savings in those accounts that will help stretch the 3 year IT plan.

Board of Finance Clerical shows nothing spent to date - recording secretary to submit invoice.

Street Lights - is there anything the E-Team can do to encourage people to turn off street lights. First Selectman Meehan noted the E-Team did a survey. The only responses came from people who don't want the lights turned off. The E-Team has been thinking of turning off some lights after 12:00 at night and switching over to LED's.

Meehan also noted the Town will be joining CCM in July and they have an aggressive street light program which Chester can then take advantage of.

Highway - Chairman Carmany noted she was concerned about how much that account is going to be overspent. Nothing has been spent from Winter Contingency, maybe there should be a transfer of funds. First Selectman Meehan noted he will talk to Peter about a transfer. All bills should probably be in by now. The big item in Highway is General Maintenance for Roads. There is \$14,000 there for catch basin cleaning that has not been scheduled yet. Street sweeping just finished.

- Consideration and Approval of Bills and Transfers - none.
- First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Meehan noted Revenue went up \$122,000 from unanticipated sources.

First Selectman Meehan reviewed the Region 4 vote - Chester 59 yes, 37 no. Deep River 69 yes, 159 no. Essex 191 yes, 60 no. Total was 319 yes and 256 no. Region 4 Budget in the amount of \$18,377,000 was approved.

First Selectman Meehan noted Chester Village West has a tax appeal pending in Court. CVW felt their tax assessment was too much. Meehan indicated the majority of business accounts went up.

First Selectman Meehan noted the IT project is going well. There will be a switch over on the Memorial Day weekend with training classes the following week. He thanked all town staff for their patience with the interruptions.

First Selectman Meehan noted a vendor for the Cedar Lake Snack Shack was obtained.

First Selectman Meehan noted the Tri Series will be coming back to Cedar Lake on Thursdays.

First Selectman Meehan noted the auditors have already been here reviewing town contracts.

First Selectman Meehan reviewed the progress of two new committees - North Quarter Park Master Plan Committee has hired Richter & Cegan as consultants to do a Master Plan. Library Building Committee RFQ for

an architect will be in Hartford Courant tomorrow, submittals due back by May 30<sup>th</sup> and interviews anticipated on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

First Selectman Meehan asked Chairman Carmany if she would like to have a Special Meeting following the Town Meeting Budget Vote. Carmany replied yes.

#### Business

- Next Steps for Chester Elementary School MBR Status Issue

There was much discussion regarding the MBR status. First Selectman Meehan noted he has had meetings with the Superintendent and First Selectmen Smith (Deep River) and Needleman (Essex). He noted a lot of communities around the State are having problems and appealing what they have to pay. Meehan suggested at this point that the Town look to its municipal organizations (COST and CCM) to see if they will take the lead with this issue. In Chester's case, its more than just declining enrollment. Its the whole structure of the system. Meehan reviewed ADM numbers. He reiterated he would like to wait and see what the municipal organizations do with this. Further discussion ensued. It was agreed a draft letter should be prepared and brought back to the Board of Finance for review.

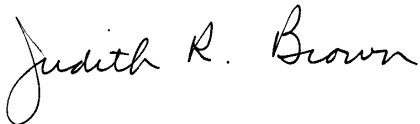
- Other - none.

Audience of Citizens - none.

#### Adjournment

Motion by Park, second by Gorman, to adjourn at 8:15 PM. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary