

Call to Order

The Chester Board of Finance held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

- Introduction and seating of members

Members in attendance and seated were Virginia Carmany, David Cohen, Charlie Park, Richard Nygard seated for Jennifer Rannestad, Alex Strekel seated for Joyce Aley and Lori Ann Clymas seated for Bob Gorman.

- Approval of Minutes August 21, 2014

Motion made and seconded to approve August 21, 2014 Minutes amended as follows -

Page 2, under First Selectman's Report, 2nd paragraph, add sentence, "It was noted the Library Building Grant was for an initial 8200 square feet."

Page 2, under First Selectman's Report, 3rd paragraph, 1st sentence should read, "There was much discussion regarding a recent special Board meeting comprised of members from Board of Selectmen, Board of Ed and Board of Finance called by Dr. Levy relative to declining school enrollment."

New Business - none.

Reports

- Monthly Financials

Chairman Carmany noted the financials for July and August are being prepared. There were no comments on the final year end report.

- Consideration and Approval of Bills - none.

- First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Meehan reported on the following items -

Auditors will start annual audit on Monday.

Tax Sale for 59 Winthrop Road has been postponed to December to allow neighboring property owner to do some environmental investigation of the property at their own expense.

North Quarter Park and Library Building Committee submitted the Library Grant application on 8/29/14. Chester was one of three town that requested \$1 million and a fourth town requested \$600,000.

There is \$4.5 million available so Chester should be in good shape if all the funds are released.

Main Street (East) Project is progressing. The consultant has been tasked with completing the 70% plans by mid October. The most difficult part of this project is the replacement of the culvert.

Connecticut Water Company has done some surveying. They reported to the Main Street Project Committee it was their original intent to reline the pipe but have determined it is too fragile and needs to be replaced. Chester has asked CWC to do that before the town does road improvements. First Selectman Meehan reviewed timing of the CWC project. They will be replacing 1800 linear feet of pipe. He explained the difference between a trench patch and lane patch noting it would be better to have the whole road paved for the winter months. There was a brief discussion whether water rates would go up as a result of pipe replacement and whether or not additional fire hydrants were necessary. The hydrant question will be up to the Fire Department.

The Main Street Bridge Replacement project is still on schedule for Fall of 2015 for relocation of overhead power with construction starting January 2016. A lot of improvements in the Main Street Project are incorporated into the Main Street Bridge Project.

Economic Development Commission is looking at ways to help businesses in the center during construction. They held a meeting with merchants to discuss traffic management, parking, pedestrian way, joint marketing, possible use of websites, etc.

Park & Rec had a very good season. There were 368 summer camp participants averaging 46 children per week. Camp started early this year because school got out early. Additional counselors were hired because of ratio to children.

The concession at the Shack was very reliable, open, had a good menu and reasonable cost. Things were kept very clean. Hopefully they will return next year.

The Public Works Department finished paving of Highfield and Brooks Lanes, Dock Road and Dock Road guardrails. A long standing drainage problem on Goose Hill and Kings Highway was corrected and a retaining wall was rebuilt.

Concrete repairs on the dam and spillway at Jennings Pond has been finished.

The Town is investigating replacement of the underground oil tank at the Meeting House with an above ground oil tank.

The Police Department is looking at cost estimates and bidding for replacement of the police cruiser.

Looking into getting the generator installed at the Town Garage.

First Selectman Meehan reviewed two items relative to CCM -

1. The Town now has Prescription Discount Cards for Uninsured or Underinsured residents.

2. CCM is researching other in the State to see if there are any Ordinances regarding shooting ranges on private. A petition has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen requesting a prohibition for shooting on private property. There are 2 or 3 property owners in Town that occasionally shoot.

Chairman Carmany inquired about a recent article from Congressman Joe Courtney regarding freight train tracks. Meehan noted RiverCOG has retained a consultant to do a tourism/freight train feasibility study from Old Saybrook to Middletown, but the tracks are not in place from Haddam north.

Chairman Carmany asked First Selectman Meehan for clarification on a comment he made at the last meeting regarding Farmers Home Administration Loan. He reviewed funding for this project noting that both Chester and Deep River have used the Farmers Home Administration Loan in the past for sewer projects. Meehan stated he wasn't sure how Aaron Manor is proceeding with this and whether they are attempting to do on site improvements. There had also been some discussion regarding possible tax deferral which is allowed by the State Statutes.

Chester Point Marina has not submitted their building plans yet for their new building. 6 Main Restaurant and Cabo's have closed.

There was a brief discussion regarding parking and pedestrian way during the bridge construction.

Auditors questionnaires were distributed to the BOF members.

First Selectman Meehan gave an update on the Library Grant submission which was based on schematic plans that are concept drawings of the

Chester Board of Finance
September 18, 2014
Page 4 of 4

floor plan layout. He reviewed the funding process once the Grant is awarded to a community. It could take a few years to actually get through the whole process (referendum, State Bond Counsel, etc.). He noted the Town has spent \$40,000 to date.

First Selectman Meehan noted the Town has a good 3 year technology plan in place, and good road and equipment budgets.

Old Business - none.

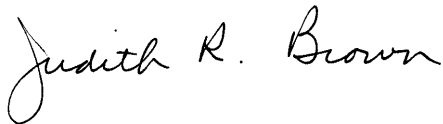
Other- none.

Audience of Citizens - none.

Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Unanimously approved. Motion Carried.

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