

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOF MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 8, 2019
Community Meeting Room
Chester Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 10:02 p.m. In attendance included: Chairman Carmany, Rick Nygard, Richard Strauss, Charlie Park, Jon Joslow, Jennifer Rannestad, and Mike Joplin (seated for Dave Cohen).

BOF members commended First Selectwoman Gister for her Budget Presentation at this evening's Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Input from Public Hearing and Region 4 Vote

The BOF discussed Public Comments solicited at the Public Hearing. Items of discussion included:

- Possible use of \$200,000 from the Fund Balance to "buy down" the budget.
- Main Street Phase III funds of \$20,000
- FEMA reimbursements – The amount of the reimbursement is unknown and may not be received until the next fiscal year or later.

The BOF determined that unless Capital is cut, there are no areas to reduce the Town's side of the budget. There is also the option to borrow money to fund Capital projects; however, the BOF did not support borrowing/bonding money for Capital projects.

The postcard that was mailed to residents outlined the budget (6.2% increase) that was largely due to substantial R4 increases. Chester "voted down" the R4 budget. The BOF further discussed the school budgets, class sizes, staffing, etc.

Virginia reported that the auditor presented at the last Region 4 BOE meeting and reported that the Sinking Fund is \$187,000 in deficit and was in deficit when the property was purchased. Another property owned by Region 4 is developable and the Selectmen have asked the BOE to list the property for sale.

If the budget fails, CES will be asked to make cuts to their budget. Because the Region 4 budget passed, budget cuts can only be taken from the elementary school budget. Virginia reported that continued increases in the school budgets are unsustainable. BOF members were encouraged to get involved with the school budgets in late summer/early fall. Lauren will research the staggered terms of BOE members.

Vote to Send Chester Budget as Presented or Adjusted to Town Meeting

Jon Joslow made a motion to approve the budget as presented and forward to a Town Meeting. Rick Nygard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jon Joslow made a motion to amend the above motion to add “forward a budget in the amount of \$14,379,720.00 to a Town Meeting”. Mike Joplin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Joplin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Park seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk