



Minutes for SPECIAL Joint Budget Workshop VII
CHESTER BOARDS OF SELECTMEN AND FINANCE

APRIL 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom
203 Middlesex Avenue
Community Meeting Room

Call to order

- Welcome and Introduction
- Seating of Members at 7:10 pm: Lauren Gister, First Selectwoman called the Board of Selectmen to order; seated Gister, Englert and Janecek. Virginia Carmany, Chair called the Board of Finance to order seated Carmany, Nygard, O'Hare, Strauss and Joplin for Rannestad, who arrived at 7:34 pm and not seated Gardner who arrived at around 8:30 pm.
- Also in attendance James Grzybowski, Fire Chief and arriving at around 8:30 pm Peter Evankow, Accounts Manager
- Approval of Workshop Meeting minutes – March 18 and March 24, 2021: John O'Hare made a motion to accept the minutes and Michael Joplin seconded. A request to strike from the March 24th minutes the phrase "started to work toward a 3.5% Tax Increase" was made and the minutes for both meetings was approved with Nygard abstaining from the March 18th meeting vote and Joplin abstaining from the March 24th meeting vote.

Audience of Citizens – no comments from the public

New Business

- Dredging Project – vote – Joel Severance spoke about the need for a portion of \$25k to be set aside for site work as part of the Dredging Project. This will need to go out to bid and an RFP would be prepared. First Selectwoman Gister indicated that the Board of Selectmen had voted to approve the release of this money from Capital at the pervious Board of Selectmen meeting. She also stated that there were still some outstanding open items regarding the use of the permit that were being researched so that the dredging could commence in April, though the site work could be completed at an unspecified later time.
- Virginia Carmany, Chair, made a motion to release the \$25k set aside in Capital under Executive Orders from Governor Lamont for this Dredging Project and an RFP would be prepared. Seconded by John O'Hare and unanimously approved.
Note: due to the executive orders in place the release of these funds does not need to go to a Town vote and the Board of Finance vote is sufficient.
- Real estate – vote. First Selectmen Gister indicated that there was not enough information for a discussion or a vote on this project at 9 Parker's Point. The Property owner has put the property back on the Market and has not replied to the town's request for consideration.

Budget 2021/22 – the combined boards reviewed all documents prepared for the meeting and several changes were agreed upon for inclusion to bring the 2021/2022 budget to a possible 3.5 % tax increase.

Peter Evankow will update all the appropriated documents and distribute. They will be reviewed at the April 7th meeting.

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- Reviewed updated documents and scenarios document
- Reviewed Capital Budget and open items
- Reviewed Operating Budget and open items
- Reviewed Revenue and open items
- Consider impacts to taxation – including any Federal monies (Education and Municipality) – no information at this time regarding the specific dollars expected or the limitations on their use

Audience of Citizens – there were no comments

A motion to adjourn Board of Selectmen by Gister, seconded by Janecek and passed unanimously and a motion to adjourn Board of Finance by Carmany and seconded by O'Hare and passed unanimously at 8:59 pm.