



**Meeting Minutes for**  
**CHESTER BOARDS OF SELECTMEN AND FINANCE**  
**APRIL 29, 2021**

**Following Public Hearing starting at 7:00 via Zoom**  
**203 Middlesex Avenue**  
**Community Meeting Room**

**Call to order**

- Welcome and Introduction: Meeting commenced at 8:08 pm following the Public Hearing
- Seating of members of BoF: Virginia Carmany, Richard Nygard, Jon Joslow, Jennifer Rannestad and Richard Strauss. Also present but not seated Michael Joplin and Andrew Gardner. Seated members of the Board of Selectmen: Lauren Gister, Charlene Jancek and Tom Englert.

**Audience of Citizens – no audience member spoke**

**New Business**

- No comments at the Public Hearing were made and it was not necessary to consider any adjustments or vote
- Board of Finance Voted to send 2021/22 Budget of \$14,860,993 for Town Vote: A motion was made by John O'Hare seconded by Richard Nygard.

During the discussion of this vote: Jon Joslow wanted to know when the drop dead date for the Board of Finance to approve the budget. The date is two weeks prior to the Town Vote and the mil rate will be set after the Town vote.

An explanation regarding the calculation of a mil was requested. Virginia took a stab at it's calculation but incorrectly stated the way the mil rate is calculated. Lauren got the answer from Peter Evankow: The calculation of a mil is the Grand list divided by 1000 times the 98.75% (the collection rate). Peter Evankow joined the meeting and provided the correct calculation and it will be sent out to BoF and BoS members after the meeting.

Richard Strauss noted that the dollars associated with R4 and CES were incorrectly stated. It was determined that the lines had been reversed but the dollars were correct.

2.04% is the increase from last year's budget and Lauren will have Peter check all the numbers in the budget.

Richard Strauss questioned if there is a double count of the discounted tax collection. Peter demonstrated that the revenue and tax collection are not double counted. Additionally, Richard was concerned that the surplus was getting built up and we are over taxing. Virginia noted that the surplus was being generated in part by collecting all the Masonicare tax while the case was moving through the court as well as tax collection exceeding the tax collection rate due to back taxes and interest. A more detailed understanding of Tax Collection over the last few years was requested. Jennifer Rannestad thanked Lauren for a great presentation and the Town employees for change in Health Insurance producing a significant savings.

The vote was 5 yes and 1 no by Richard Strauss.

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Motion to adjourn by Jon Joslow and seconded by John O'Hare. Unanimously voted Aye.  
Motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen by Charlene Janecek, seconded by Lauren. Unanimously voted aye.  
The meeting closed at 9:01 pm

Minutes provided by Virginia Carmany

## **Audience of Citizens**

Adjourn