

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOF MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
May 6, 2021  
Via ZOOM

**Call to order**

Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance included Virginia Carmany, Jennifer Rannestad, John O'Hare, Richard Strauss, Jon Joslow, seated for Rick Nygard was Mike Joplin, Andrew Gardner (not seated), Chief Grzybowski, Selectwoman Janecek (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), First Selectwoman Gister (arrived at 7:31 p.m.).

**Audience of Citizens** – None.

**New Business – 2021/2022 Budget:**

John O'Hare made a motion to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from the assigned general fund balance to Capital Non-Recurring line item # 10-05-62-1000-150. Mike Joplin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Rannestad made a motion to approve the following transfers:

From 10-01-13-1000-125 Board of Finance – General Contingency \$61,000  
From 10-05-55-1000-325 Employee Benefits – Medical Insurance \$39,000  
To 10-05-62-1000-150 Capital Non-Recurring \$100,000

John O'Hare seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John O'Hare made a motion to approve the following transfers:

From 20-00-01-0000-007 Board of Selectmen – Assigned \$200,000  
To 20-00-31-0000-446 Infrastructure – Road/Sidewalk/Bridge Repairs \$200,000

Jennifer Rannestad seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Final BOF action is necessary on the following items; note that the BOF has already discussed these items through the budget process and now needs to officially vote on same.

Jennifer Rannestad made a motion to Approve the Capital 5 Year Budget for Town Vote. Mike Joplin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jon Joslow made a motion to:

- Authorize the following expenditures from the Capital Fund:
  - \$8,000 from the Capital Fund – Cedar Lake/Watershed 20-00-01-0000-042
  - \$20,000 from the Capital Fund – Town Hall Computer Replacement line item #20-00-01-0000-092
  - \$300,000 from the Capital Fund – Road/Sidewalk/Bridge Repairs line item # 20-00-31-0000-446

- \$5,000 from the Capital Fund – North Quarter Park/Playground line item # 20-00-31-0000-454
- \$95,000 from the Capital Fund – Tree Removal line item # 20-00-31-0000-456
- \$68,346 from the Capital Fund – Town Buildings – Repairs/Code Compliance line item #20-00-36-0000-065
- \$45,000 from the Capital Fund – Fire – Equipment Replacement – line item #20-00-42-0000-235
- \$15,000 from the Capital Fund – Project Adventure line item #20-00-90-0000-058
- \$20,000 from the Capital Fund – School – Building Rehab & Enhancement - line item #20-00-90-0000-090

Jennifer Rannestad seconded the motion. The BOF discussed:

Richard Strauss reported that the BOS requested that the BOF authorize the amount of \$15,000 for the NQP playground item, not \$5,000 as presented above. Virginia responded that her understanding, after a discussion with First Selectwoman Gister, was that the amount should be adjusted to \$5,000.00. Virginia continued that the amount needed is unclear at this time because no grant has been identified, requested or awarded. The \$15,000 is in the budget but should not be released until further clarification is received. No BOS action had taken place when the BOF agenda was posted.

Richard Strauss made a motion to amend the NQP request to \$15,000 in accordance with the BOS's action. Jon Joslow seconded the motion. The BOF discussed:

Virginia reiterated that at the time the BOF agenda was posted, no BOS action had occurred. Jon Joslow suggested that perhaps the BOF should take no action on this item at this time.

Jen Rannestad suggested that the BOF approve \$5,000 (as time is of the essence to some extent) and discuss further when the First Selectwoman is present at the meeting. She expressed concern that funds would be approved without a timeline/process in place.

Virginia reported that the status of grant is unknown. Jon Joslow suggested that the motion stipulate the parameters of a potential grant.

Virginia reported on past history of voting on funds for a specific project; i.e., the dredging project, and then unforeseen circumstances arise and the parameters of the project change.

Richard Strauss made a motion to amend the already amended motion and qualify that \$10,000 of the \$15,000 be used specifically as a grant match. Jon Joslow seconded the motion.

Vote as follows:

- Rannestad – no
- O'Hare – no
- Strauss – yes
- Joslow – yes
- Joplin – yes
- Carmany – no

In the event of a tie vote, the motion fails.

The vote on the original motion (that included \$5,000 for NQP) passed unanimously.

The consensus of the BOF was to cancel the Regular BOF meeting for the month of May.

**Audience of Citizens** - None

**Old Business**

Executive Session

Mike Joplin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:31 p.m. to discuss Pending Legal Action and Risk. John O'Hare seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. First Selectwoman Gister was invited into the Executive Session.

Regular session resumed at 7:48 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Jennifer Rannestad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. John O'Hare seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Clerk