

Minutes of BOS/BOF Budget Public Hearing and Meeting Held on May 10, 2022.

Page 1 of 6

First Selectwoman Janecek noted this was the presentation of the Town’s Budget. The BOS and BOF been working on it since February. All meetings have been open to the public. At the end of the presentation, there will be an opportunity for questions and/or comments.

TOWN OF CHESTER PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2022/2023

Anticipated Revenue Sources:

State of CT Educational	\$ 910,789.00	
General	358,342.00	
Total		\$1,269,131.00

Town Taxes and Fees:

Property Taxes	\$13,340,706.00
Prior Taxes, Interest and Fees	132,500.00
License and Permits	77,900.00
Misc. Revenues	478,330.00
Removing from Fund Balance	31,233.00

Estimated Total Revenue \$15,329,800.00

Revenue is up 3.15%

Revenue is made up of :

- 87.89% property taxes
- 8.28% State Funding
- 3.12% Licenses
- .51% Misc.
- .0 Fund Balance

Summary of Proposed Expenditures 2022/2023:

Town General Government Expenditures	\$4,392,882.00
Capital	557,515.00
Elementary School	5,441,522.00
Region 4 District	4,937,881.00

Town General Government, Capital and Elementary School were all up. Region 4 District was down. Spending increase of \$468,807 or 3.15% over the current year budget.

Budget Drivers and Increases:

Chester is financially stable with a solid reserve fund. We are always looking for efficiencies and cost savings while prioritizing the health and safety of our residents. Increases are contractual obligations for teachers and union employees. Student population is rising at the Elementary

Minutes of BOS/BOF Budget Public Hearing and Meeting Held on May 10, 2022.

Page 2 of 6

School. Park and Rec Summer Camp payroll is offset by revenue. New full time employees for both clerk, public works and ambulance. Resident Trooper increase put the State of Connecticut and Police Constable Private Duty is offset by revenue. The Capital Budget allows the Town to set aside funds for major purchases and maintenance of infrastructure. Under funding of capital purchases means deferring maintenance and can lead to higher and unexpected repair or replacement costs. We continue to analyze infrastructure needs. We have a 5 to 10 year plan which includes protection and maintenance of the natural water resources. Continuing energy and money saving projects. Vehicle replacement for both fire department and public works, roads, sidewalks, drainage and culvert repair, maintenance of town buildings including major mechanical and roof replacements and expense of real estate revaluation this year.

The 5 Year Capital Plan and the Grand List were referenced. The Grand List is the aggregate valuation of all the property taxable within the town. It includes real estate, personal property, vehicles and business property including computers and desks. Our current Grand List is \$457,951,707.00. The Value of a Mil is \$452,227.00. Based on our current Mil Rate of 29.5, tax revenue would equal \$13,340,706.00. The Board of Finance bases our estimated tax revenue on a collection rate of 98.75%. Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance proposes to use \$535,000 of the General Fund current year surplus to prefund Capital. Estimated Fund Balance will exceed 16.66% of Operating Expenses. We are proposing a Mil Rate of 29.50 which is no increase over last year.

A graph of what the mils buy was reviewed. 67.71% is education. 13.72% is general government. 6.48% is public works. 2.87% is fire protection. 2.54% is police protection. 1.54% is other safety. 1.02% is health and welfare. .49% is debt service. 3.64% is capital. We have continued restoration of waterways damaged by the September 18th flood. Exploration of trail development and boardwalk between North Quarter Park and the Village. Continue removal of hazardous trees and rights of way. Exploring installation of public WIFI in Chester Center. Completion of environmental cleanup and sale of Kenyon property on Winthrop Road. Continued pandemic recovery and ? efforts throughout Chester. Plans for compliance and diversification of housing and equity in Chester. HVAC upgrades at Town Hall, the Town Garage and the Library. And energy upgrades at the Town Garage. And IT upgrades for both the Town Hall and Meeting House.

That is the budget proposal for this year. Madelyn Meyer noted she was hoping the mil rate would drop. She indicated Deep River came down 3%. Was hoping Chester could do something similar. She indicated there are only 14 liens out there, but people are really struggling with their taxes. She also noted the phone bills for the town hall, fire department

Minutes of BOS/BOF Budget Public Hearing and Meeting Held on May 10, 2022.

Page 3 of 6

and library are each \$3,000. Was hoping we could get a real good deal this year. She felt the Board of Education for the Town of Chester is too high.

First Selectwoman Janecek noted as there were no further comments, she would call the BOS/BOF meeting to order.

Rick Nygard noted he felt Janecek had done a real good presentation of the budget. It was really clear. He asked Brian (?) if he would give a little more information on the increase for the Chester Elementary School Budget. He noted the main driver of the increase is staff which represents a significant portion of the increase. There are a couple contractual increases for salaries. There are 6 labor groups this year going through negotiations. There also was an increase in the Supervision District budget due to support of special programming.

Carmany noted there are (?) projects in the budget but that is separate. Town Hall and Meeting House technical upgrades.

Public hearing was adjourned at 7:20 PM and the joint meeting of the BOS and BOF was called to order at 7:21 PM.

BOS/BOF Meeting, May 10, 2022

BOS was called to order with Meehan, Englert and Janecek present. BOF was called to order with Nygard, Carmany, Bernhardt, O'Hare, Gardner and Cline (seated for Michael) were present. Vilcheck was also present but not seated.

1. To adopt a budget for the Town of Chester for fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 an amount totaling \$15,329,800, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve and send to BOS by O'Hare, second by Bernhardt. Unanimously Approved.**
2. To adopt a five year Capital Budget, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, seconded by ? . Unanimously Approved.**
3. To authorize the First Selectman and Treasurer to borrow such sums of money from time to time as may be necessary to defray expenses of the Town in accordance with authorized appropriations of fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. To be approved by the Town.

Minutes of BOS/BOF Budget Public Hearing and Meeting Held on May 10, 2022.

Page 4 of 6

4. To appropriate the sum of \$535,000 from the unassigned general fund balance, to Capital Non-Recurring line item # 10-05-62-1000-150, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by Cline. Unanimously Approved.**

5. To authorize the following Capital transfer, as recommended by the Board of Finance: **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by Nygard. Unanimously Approved.**

From	20-00-01-0000-007	Board of Selectmen – Assigned	\$535,000
* From	20-00-30-0000-030	Public Works – Highway Equipment	\$ 95,000
From	20-00-31-0000-448	Infrastructure – Maple Street Parking Lot & Walkway	\$ 1,985
* From	20-00-42-0000-062	Fire – Apparatus Replacement	\$170,000
To	20-00-31-0000-446	Infrastructure – Road/Sidewalk/Bridge Repairs	\$330,000
To	20-00-31-0000-456	Infrastructure – Tree Removal	\$ 10,000
To	20-00-31-0000-458	Infrastructure – NRCS Grant (streambed clean-out)	\$195,000
To	20-00-31-0000-XXX	Infrastructure – WIFI	\$ 95,000
To	20-00-36-0000-065	Buildings – Repairs/Code Compliance	\$171,985

*Funds are being borrowed and are to be replaced upon grant reimbursement.

6. To authorize the expenditure of \$8,000 from the Capital Fund – Cedar Lake/Watershed 20-00-01-0000-042, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by O’Hare, second by Gardner. Unanimously Approved.**

7. To authorize the expenditure of \$13,000 from the Capital Fund – Town Hall Computer Replacement line item # 20-00-01-0000-092, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by Bernhardt. Unanimously Approved.**

8. To authorize the expenditure of \$53,000 from the Capital Fund – Revaluation line item # 20-00-11-0000-010, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by O’Hare. Unanimously Approved.**

9. To authorize the expenditure of \$330,000 from the Capital Fund – Road/Sidewalk/Bridge Repairs lineitem # 20-00-31-0000-446, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by Cline. Unanimously Approved.**

Minutes of BOS/BOF Budget Public Hearing and Meeting Held on May 10, 2022.

Page 5 of 6

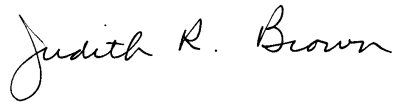
10. To authorize the expenditure of \$10,000 from the Capital Fund – North Quarter Park/Playground line item # 20-00-31-0000-454, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by Bernhardt. Unanimously Approved.**
11. To authorize the expenditure of \$80,000 from the Capital Fund – Tree Removal line item # 20-00-31-0000-456, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by Bernhardt. Unanimously Approved.**
12. To authorize the expenditure of \$270,000 from the Capital Fund – NRCS Grant line item # 20-00-31-0000-458, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by Bernhardt. Unanimously Approved.**
13. To authorize the expenditure of \$206,248 from the Capital Fund – Town Buildings – Repairs/Code Compliance line item # 20-00-36-0000-065, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by Cline. Unanimously Approved.**
14. To authorize the expenditure of \$45,000 from the Capital Fund – Fire – Equipment Replacement line item # 20-00-42-0000-235, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by Bernhardt. Unanimously Approved.**
15. To authorize the expenditure of \$12,000 from the Capital Fund – Project Adventure line item # 20-00-90-0000-058, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Bernhardt, second by Cline. Unanimously Approved.**
16. To authorize the expenditure of \$22,000 from the Capital Fund – Paving and Sidewalks line item # 20-00-90-0000-XXX, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by Bernhardt, second by O’Hare. Unanimously Approved.**
17. To authorize the expenditure of \$13,000 from the Capital Fund – School – Building Rehab & Enhancement line item # 20-00-90-0000-064, as recommended by the Board of Finance. **Motion to approve by O’Hare, second by Bernhardt. Unanimously Approved.**
18. To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$6,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) to fund a concrete pad for the Chester Public Libraries new carousel seating area. **Motion to approve by Carmany, second by O’Hare. Unanimously Approved.** It was noted BOS approved this at their April 27th meeting.
19. To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) to establish an ARPA Social Services Fund (ARPA-SSF) and provide assistance to the most disadvantaged households in Chester. **Motion to approve by Bernhardt, second by O’Hare. Discussion ensued. Unanimously Approved.**

Minutes of BOS/BOF Budget Public Hearing and Meeting Held on May 10, 2022.

Page 6 of 6

20. To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$44,820 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) to allow Tri Town Youth Services to hire three key staff positions for two years providing direct clinical services, prevention education, positive social-emotional skills development, and early interventions for identified youth. **Motion to approve by Bernhardt. Second by Cline. Discussion ensued. Unanimously Approved.**
21. To approve Call of May 24th Town Meeting. **Motion by Meehan, second by Englert, to approve as presented with the following modifications – delete Item #14 and renumber appropriately, and insert as recommended by the BOF in #5 and renumber #17 and revise #20 to add positions for two years. Unanimously Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary