

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, January 19, 2023  
Community Room  
Chester Town Hall and via TEAMS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O'Hare called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance included: John O'Hare, Deb Vilcheck, Bill Bernhart, Andrew Gardner, Steve Cline, Michael Jordan (seated), John Chillock and Roger Labrecque in attendance but not seated.

Also in attendance included Peter Evankow, Finance Manager and Ed Meehan, Selectman, Chief Grzybowski.

Chairman O'Hare encouraged members to review the Finance and Accounts Procedure Manual. Peter recommended a committee be developed to update same.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 12/15/22

Bill Bernhart made a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/15/22 meeting as amended. Andrew Gardner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note proper spelling: Labrecque

Amendment – under ARPA item to Town Meeting - \$11,570 for completion of work behind 43-47 Main Street, should read the repair of manhole 20 (behind old Town Hall).

SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Ed Meehan reported:

- STEAP - The DOT agreement can be signed upon receipt (as approved at Town Meeting). All Financials are also approved and in place to facilitate the project; i.e., engineering.
- Bids are posted for the WPCA projects.
- The Assessor Report vis a vis the Grand List should be considered during budget discussions.
- As energy rates are increasing, the E-Team is researching competitive rates and options for electricity (virtual net metering, solar).
- The new website (Civic Plus) is being on-boarded at this time.

The broken window at the Skyview property will be reported to Public Works to secure.

REVIEW OF TOWN MEETING

The results of the 1/5/23 Town Meeting were discussed. All agenda items were approved by the legislative body.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports, developed by Peter Evankow, were included in the packet for BOF review and discussion. Peter provided an overview of the reports and was in attendance to address questions/concerns posed by board members and to provide clarification on the financial reports.

### ARPA DISCUSSION

Peter provided a status report on the ARPA expenditures, balance remaining and funds committed to projects.

The BOS has received and will consider at their 1/25/23 BOS meeting, an ARPA request from the Hose Company for the purchase of defibrillators.

### OLD BUSINESS

John O'Hare clarified that the cost estimate for the security at JW security is estimated at \$973,000, not \$1.7 million as reported.

Chief Grzybowski reported on the increasing call volume of the Hose Company (including Ambulance). The 2022 call volume has increased by 116 calls over 2021. Revenue projections have also increased as a result of the increased call volume. It is anticipated that this trend will continue.

The Chief provided an update/status report on the engine proposals. Three proposals were received and reviewed/vetted by the Committee. The Committee recommends that the "middle bid" @ \$855,000 be accepted. The bid price will be "held" until mid-March. Prices will increase by at least 2.5% after March.

The engine to be replaced is 35 years old and no longer in compliance as it is an "open cab". The equipment on the current truck can be relocated to the new engine.

Funding and payment options for the engine were discussed. A detailed report will be developed and provided to the BOS/BOF as appropriate. A Town Meeting is necessary to "release" the funds.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Clerk