

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD OF  
FINANCE MEETING

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
APRIL 19, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Chester Board of Finance was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Virginia Carmany. Those in attendance included Bill Ziegler, Rick Morrow (for Jennifer Wislocki), and Dave Clark (for Chris Johnson).

Bill Ziegler moved to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2007 meeting, with corrections. Rick Morrow seconded the meeting. The motion passed.

Changes to the minutes include: Page 1 – 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph – add the word “and” after review.

Page 2 – 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph – Locep Grant

Page 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph – add by GFOA

Page 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph – sentence should read: This can be used to reduce the property tax next year.

7<sup>th</sup> paragraph – Should read: The total budget reduction is \$515,000.00 of the projected \$831,593.00 deficit for the 2007-08 budget. This represents a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mil increase.

## REPORTS

### First Selectman's Report

Tom Marsh distributed a Suspense List from the Tax Collector. This lists the back taxes that are owed. Tom reported that if the BOF votes to put these on a Suspense List, the town can still go after them and collect them, but they will no longer be included in the back tax calculations. This does not represent all of the back taxes owed, just the “old” ones.

Bill Ziegler moved to accept the Suspense List as presented. The motion was seconded and all were in favor. The motion passed.

A citizen arrived at the meeting at this time.

Tom Marsh reported that he spent time at the Legislative Office Building meeting with the President concerning the Governor's Proposed Budget and the Legislature's Proposed Budget. Several Selectmen from other towns were present. The concern is that both the Governor's and the Legislature's proposal include substantial income tax increases. The

presentation is that this is an opportunity for either property tax reform or education funding reform (ECS). Tom reported that many towns will be getting additional funds through the generation of this income tax.

Tom reported that Chester, unfortunately, is in the unique position of being one of the few towns that actually suffers by paying more money but getting less back. He reported that it is a marginal amount, over two years; our community would pay about 1.3 million dollars in additional income tax and get approximately \$17,000 less in aid from the state.

Tom reported that Mr. Williams did listen (Tom also had this conversation with Jamie Spollone and Eileen Daly) but the state budget reflects the needs of the state and we all have to contribute to the general good. Tom's response was that Chester understands that and we are willing to do our share, but on the bigger picture, property tax reform and ECS funding does not come up and if this is the Legislature's "big push" to do some reform, we are not only not benefiting enough, we are falling further behind. At the town level, we only have the mechanism of the property tax to general revenue. The state has much more flexibility on how they generate revenue.

Tom reported that after hearing our representatives, he feels that it is his responsibility to address the issues that are unique to Chester. Tom reported that for him to accept this position that the state is putting forward a budget that takes money out of our system, is not acceptable.

#### Tax Collector's Report

The written report from the Tax Collector was included in the BOF packet. This reflects that the town is 99.10 collected and the overall is 101%.

#### Monthly Financials

The Accounts by Department Division Summary was included in the BOF packet.

#### BUSINESS

On a motion made and duly seconded, the BOF moved to:

#### Consideration and Approval of Bills

Legal Contingency Balance in account after transfer below is \$1,975.00. Please transfer \$1,792.00 from the BOF Legal Contingency line item to the following line items:

1-00-05-63-1105-116                      Assessor  
Gould, Larson, Bennet, Wells & McDonnell, P.C. (Firemen's Exemption) \$48.00

1-00-05-63-1105-270                      General Legal  
Gould, Larson, Bennet, Wells & McDonnell, P.C. (Prevailing Wages)                      \$928.00

1-00-05-63-1105-282	Inland Wetlands	
Gould, Larson, Bennet, Wells & McDonnell, P.C. (Mondelci)		\$656.00
1-00-05-63-1105-600	ZBA	
Gould, Larson, Bennet, Wells & McDonnell, P.C. (Komondy)		\$96.00
Gould, Larson, Bennet, Wells & McDonnell, P.C. (CT Gateway)		<u>\$64.00</u>
		\$160.00

The motion passed.

Tom Marsh reported that there is no money in the Legal Contingency; therefore, money Will be transferred.

On a motion made and duly seconded, the BOF moved to:

General Contingency Balance in account after transfer below is \$21,945.34

At the BOS request, please transfer \$2,945.86

From: 1-00-05-63-1165-125 BOF – General Contingency Account

To: 1-00-01-20-1000-365 Planning & Zoning – Admin/Operations – Outside Contractor

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Date and Call

Tom Marsh reported that the BOS will vote for the call at the BOS meeting scheduled for May 1, 2007.

Other

Minutes from 3/15/07 Regular Meeting

Bill Ziegler moved to approve the 3/15/07 minutes from the Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded.

Correction: Page 4 – Paragraph 1 – should read ... please transfer \$9,352.04 from the Police Protection Admin. Operations Resident Trooper to Police Protection Admin. Operation.

All were in favor. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made and duly seconded, the BOF moved into Executive Session to discuss Union negotiations at 8:27 p.m. All were in favor. The motion passed.

The BOF came out of Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. No votes or decision were made during Executive Session.

ADJOURN

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski