

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 25, 2023
Community Room
Chester Town Hall and via TEAMS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O'Hare called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance included: John O'Hare, Deb Vilcheck (via TEAMS), Andrew Gardner, John Chillock, Bill Bernhart, Roger Labrecque, also in attendance Peter Evankow, (via TEAMS).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made and duly seconded, the minutes from the 4/20/23 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

Bill Bernhart has resigned as a full member of the BOF and John Chillock has resigned as an alternate member of the BOF.

John O'Hare nominated Bill Bernhart to fill the alternate BOF seat. The term will expire in November 2023. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

John O'Hare nominated John Chillock to fill the full BOF seat. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

There remains an alternate member opening. Two individuals have expressed an interest in filling the position. Both individuals attended the meeting and had an opportunity to discuss their qualifications with BOF members. This item will be discussed further at a future BOF meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

John O'Hare thanked BOF members and Peter Evankow for their work on the budget. The budget was approved at the recent Town Meeting.

SELECTMAN'S REPORT

John O'Hare reported that he is in regular contact with First Selectwoman Janeczek.

FINANCE

Financial documents were included in the BOF packet. Peter Evankow was available to address questions/comments posed by BOF members. Peter reported:

- A check for \$48,000 was received relative to a Building Permit fee and is reflected in the Budget Status Report.

- The Interim Treasurer transferred approximately \$7.3 million to the STIF account @ approximately 5% interest.
 - Upcoming tax collections will be deposited in the Tax Collector's account at Essex Savings, then into the Treasurer's account at Essex Savings Bank, then transferred into STIF. STIF funds are readily accessible.
- Peter has met with representatives from Liberty Bank. He recommends maintaining a relationship with the bank.
- The Resident State Trooper bill came in approximately \$20,000 less than expected.
- It is anticipated that CES will have an approximate \$100,000 surplus.

APPROVE MIL RATE

John O'Hare reported that he has reviewed the budget numbers and developed projections in conjunction with Peter. John recommended the BOF consider a 29.7 mil rate for FY 23/24.

John O'Hare made a motion to set the FY 24/25 mil rate at 29.7. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Bill Bernhart thanked John for his work and due diligence during the budget process.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS –

Cindy Lignar updated the BOF on EDC and Sustainability initiatives including:

- Bike/Pedestrian path
- Sidewalk infrastructure (using the Road Safety Audit recommendations)
- Heritage Loop – (including Haddam and E. Haddam)
- Visitor Friendly initiatives – recycling bins, public restroom
- Cell towers
- Affordable Housing
- Cultural District application

Regular updates will be provided to the BOF and BOS. The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee has an opening for a BOF representative. Any interested board member should contact Cindy for details.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk