



Annual Report FY2020

TOWN OF CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020

TOWN OF CHESTER

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

It's fair to say the past year has been one of the most exigent ever experienced by our entire world, let alone our town.

The business of operating a town is always demanding, and the COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges unique to us all.

The Selectboard started out Fiscal Year 2020 on the high notes of a new selectman to fill the vacant seat on the Board, the ongoing discussion of a shared police department with Blandford, and the work of the Chester Water Improvement Committee. In addition, the year brought continued cooperative work between the Gateway Regional School District and most of the Gateway towns on a new regional agreement.

After the go-ahead from the voters of both Chester and Blandford and numerous meetings with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, the Selectboards of Chester and Blandford, the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Chester Blandford Police Department was reached and signed. The CBPD, under the direction of Chief Dan Ilnicky came to be seamlessly and continues to operate well.

Special legislation to change certain town positions from elected to appointment concluded and Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Tax Collector, per the approval of the voters, are now all appointed. This has streamlined the process of filling these positions and enabled advertising for candidates when necessary. A personnel committee was appointed to help with the hiring process of new town employees.

As inevitably happens in any municipality, staff changes were effected by choice and necessity. A vacancy on the Selectboard was filled with a Special Election and a new Highway Superintendent was appointed.

The Selectboard continued to support the East West Rail Initiative and the potential a rail stop could bring for our town and area. Regional Resource Group was hired by the Board of Assessors and began work on ensuring accurate assessments of properties in town.

Numerous necessary projects at Town Hall were identified and put out to bid. Solar panels - paid for by a Green Communities grant - were installed on the Fire Station and Town Garage. Chester Commons went up for sale and after being for sale for many years, Brookside Lodge was sold - to a group of enthusiastic investors looking to make it a destination for weddings and events. A Host Community Agreement was signed with a cannabis growth and manufacturing facility that will bring much needed tax dollars and jobs to town.

Annual Town Meeting set the budget for the upcoming year and brought the creation of stabilization accounts for a new fire truck, town hall maintenance, and education. These accounts prepare for future expenses and in the case of education costs (the definition of unstable) and town hall maintenance, will help keep the town from financial pitfalls. All three accounts were proposed by the Town Administrator and the Selectboard is grateful for her input on myriad fronts and her dedication to the Town. In essence the 'gatekeeper' for all things Chester, the Town Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day operations the part-time Board of Selectmen never could be. This became clearer than ever when March 2020 brought COVID-19 to worldwide attention.

None of us could have imagined life during a pandemic. Almost everything we take for granted suddenly took on new meaning and initially there was conflicting or no guidance on exactly what we were to do. At the very beginning of the pandemic, the Selectboard held an emergency meeting with the Town Administrator, the Fire Chief, the Hilltown Community Ambulance's Paramedic Services Director, the Board of Health, the Police Chief, and one of our town's newest citizens, an expert in the field of pathology, who first introduced us to the phrases "slow the curve" and "R naught". Out of this meeting came the realization that we were dealing with

something much bigger and more frightening than any of us had experienced. We decided from the moment of that meeting our Town's best defense would be clear communication of facts as we knew them and we continued that strategy even as facts from the State and Federal governments, World Health Organization, and Center for Disease Control changed on a regular basis. In the end it became clear the key strategies for combating our invisible enemy were increased hygiene, masking-wearing, and the most difficult of all, social distancing. Town hall shut down for a time and meetings were held remotely, but the business of the town continued uninterrupted. Events were cancelled, both public and private, and drive-by celebrations and window-visiting became new ways to show each other we care.

The pandemic became the "new normal", but we learned to live with it, hopeful for a vaccine and eventual return to a semblance of the 'old normal'.

Looking back over the days since the pandemic began, it is clear the people of the Town of Chester have been and continue to be the very thing that makes us 'Chester Strong'. Neighbors look out for neighbors, whether running errands to keep those vulnerable safe, gathering supplies in case people need them, or just checking in to make sure people are okay. One citizen was able to facilitate a seed donation from his employer and with the help of the Town Clerk, the seeds were made available to anyone who wanted or needed them. Our businesses have been able to remain operational by embracing both state restrictions and flexibility and to our knowledge, none have closed, unlike many businesses in the state. People visited Chester with a new appreciation for the natural and safe environment we who live here already treasure.

Town Officials and Staff went above and beyond their normal duties from the tireless efforts of our Board of Health, emergency response teams, Town Administrator and Town Hall staff, Transfer Station staff, and Highway Department, to Chester Municipal Electric Light Department and their inspired literal rays of light with the lighting of the town tree early on.

Because of the dedication of those who continued to work, despite risk, the business of the Town carried on. Elections and Town Meetings were held. Roads were maintained. Emergency calls were answered. We persevered.

We mourn those we lost to COVID-19. We celebrate those who were ill and recovered. We honor and are grateful to everyone who carried on not only in spite of the challenges, but because of them.

You are all our Heroes and because of you we remain, Chester Strong.

Barbara Pease Huntoon
Chairman

John Baldasaro
Vice Chair

Richard Holzman
Clerk

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

FY2020 Report

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Principal Assessor - Regional Resource Group, Inc.

Board of Assessors:

Chair - Timothy Dunn

Member – Marjorie Dunn

Member - Michele Kenney

Assessor Clerk - Laura Lafreniere

Fiscal Year 2020 was a year of change for the Chester Assessors office. Pamela Anderson retired from being Principal Assessor on June 30th, 2019. Chester then hired Regional Resource Group from Leominster, MA to handle the Principal Assessors duties. The Assessors signed the contract with them in October. In November they calculated the new growth, looked at the market sales, adjusted values, and submitted all reports to the Dept. of Revenue. The Department of Revenue then approved and certified those values. The tax rate, \$20.70 was then set in December.

In January 2019, the office was also starting to convert to a new software program, which was mandated by the State. The State no longer was going to be supporting the CAMA program that we have had since 2002, which has all the detail and value information of every parcel in town. Changing to this new software program turned out to be very time consuming. This added an extra workload with the correcting of parcel detail and values that converted over. Additional time was also given to taking classes that were given on entering information and using the different areas of this program. This is still ongoing as of this date.

FY2020 Tax Rate - \$20.70 per \$1000 value	
Total amount to be raised	\$3,744,171.49
Total receipts received	<u>1,225,662.00</u>
Tax Levy (\$ amount needed)	\$2,518,509.49

Chester has 1,137 properties valued at: \$121,667,125.00
 With 95 Exempt properties valued at: \$13,119,200.00

Tax Levy (Real Estate & Personal Property)	Tax Rate	Tax Dollars
\$121,667,125.00	X	= \$2,518,509.49

The Town Hall and the Assessors' office is now closed because of Covid-19. I am in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays. 10 am to 4pm. Call 413-354-6318 with any questions or concerns. Leave a message and I will return your call when I am back in the office OR email llafreniere@townofchester.net I check my email messages when I am not in the office and will email you back. We have been able to have appointments in the auditorium, but that also depends on the percentage of Covid19 cases in the area.

Property record cards, GIS maps, State tax forms, all Applications, Exemption forms and helpful links are available online at townofchester.net/assessors/ If you cannot print out any of these forms or applications, call the office and I will mail them to you.

All homeowners are encouraged to view their property cards for accuracy after tax bills are received in January, as abatements can only be accepted up until the February tax due date. The information on these cards is used to calculate your taxes. Please call the assessors' office at 413-354-6318 if you see any errors or omissions on these cards.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Lafreniere
Assessors Clerk
March 1, 2021

Report of the **TOWN CLERK:**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Residents of the Town of Chester I herewith submit the annual report of the Town Clerk for the year Fiscal Year 2020.

I was appointed Town Clerk on January 12, 2020 to fulfill the remaining 6 months of Sue Kucharski's term. On March 19th, the world changed as we were in the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. The town hall was closed to the public. In late June we were opened by appointment only. Masks, hand sanitizer, social distancing was the new way of life.

During the year, this office managed three elections. These elections were different because of the COVID -19 pandemic. Residents for the first time were able to easily request ballots by mail. This took time to prepare the mailing envelopes, entering data into the computer before and upon returning of ballots. This I believe really helped keep the lines in check and everyone felt safe voting. We required masks and social distancing and thank you to everyone that followed the rules. The presidential primary on March 3, as well as a special town election for a vacant selectmen seat, were the first two elections. The annual town election was moved from May to June because of the COVID 19 pandemic. Results from the elections can be found on the website.

With the help of Kathe Warden town administrator, I applied for and received \$5,000.00 from the CTCL COVID -19 Response Grant for elections. With this grant we were able to purchase sanitizing equipment and have someone available to clean the voting booths. This grant also helped with the added expenses that we had for the elections.

The annual town meeting was moved to the last Monday in June, it took 31 minutes to complete! Everyone that came wore a mask and sat 6 feet apart.

Every household in Town received a Street Census form in January. All residents were urged to complete and return the form, making any additions, corrections, or deletions. For your convenience we added a large drop box in the front of the Town Hall for dropping off street census, ballots, and any other papers during business /non-business hours. The Annual Town Census is very important for Chester's population count. This is for the verification of voter registration rolls as well as grants and school registration. Our safety officers also use this list when they are out responding to calls. Someday you may need to verify that you lived in Chester, and the annual street census would have that information. **A failure to return the form will result in a voter being placed on the "inactive" voter list and create additional paperwork for you, on Election Day.**

During the Calendar year:

The Town Clerk's Office turned over to the Town Treasurer the sum of \$5,023.00 for fees collected during 2020. Included in this sum was \$2,265.00 for dog and kennel licenses. We issued 5 Kennel License- 94 three-year licenses-80 two-year licenses and 53 one-year licenses. The office issued 40 Doing Business Certificates- 29 were renewal and 11 were new at \$40.00 each bringing the income in at \$1,600.00. The office issued 6 marriage licenses at \$40.00 bringing the income in at \$240.00. The office processed many requests for birth, death, and marriage certificates. The income for these was \$918.00.

We had 11 births and 18 deaths recorded in town during 2020. Thanks to all involved for carrying on the work of this office, we all benefit from your efforts. Being a new town clerk, I appreciate all the help my fellow department heads gave to me.

Thank you to the volunteers that come to us through the Senior Work-off Program. I appreciate your assistance with opening and filing census forms, organizing our dog license applications, election prep and many other daily tasks.

Thank you to the Wardens and Clerks who dedicate so much of themselves to the Clerk's Office during the 5 elections we had this year. I appreciate the help and assistance of our Board of Registrars.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Dalesandro

Town Clerk

TOWN COLLECTOR

Annual Report 7/1/19 to 6/30/20

The Chester Town Collector is dedicated to serve all the citizens of Chester and other Town Departments in the collection of receipts for the town. In addition to tax revenue the collector also collects electric and water liens placed on tax bills.

Tax Bills are calculated by the Assessors' office. Once calculated, the Assessors commit the bills to the Collector for collection. Requests for tax abatements and exemptions must be granted by the Assessors. You may contact their office at (413) 354-6318 for more information or an application. The only function of the Town Collector is the collection of Tax revenue.

The Town of Chester Property Tax is on a quarterly collection schedule. August, November, February, and May. Bills are mailed out 30 days in advance. It is the responsibility of the property owner to notify the Collector of an address change.

This office has been dealing with postal issues for well over a year now. When the collector takes the bills to the post office for mailing, an affidavit is stamped showing the date bills went out in the mail. Once a bill leaves the collectors office it is out of the control of the collector

Please allow enough time for mailing your payments, including payments made by your online banking system. Payments may also be made on the town website through Unibank. There is a fee applied to each payment that goes to the processing company.

If you did not receive your tax bill, under state law, Chapter 60, section 3, failure to receive a bill does not affect the validity of the tax or any interest or fines incurred due to late payment. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to secure his/her tax bill when one is not received. If you do not receive a bill, please contact the Collectors office.

With the outbreak of Covid in early in 2020 the Collectors office was closed to the public as was the entire Town Hall. It was necessary for the collector's office to stop accepting cash payments due to health reasons within the office personnel. This department appreciates the 100% cooperation from the residents for abiding by this decision. If receipts are necessary for anything a self-addressed stamped envelope is required for return receipt.

Tax collection was not greatly affected in the Town of Chester due to Covid. Those that pay on time continue and those that chose not to will continue. The Collectors office has turned in an additional \$4,898.00 in revenue in the form of unanticipated fees.

Please see the financial portion of this report for collection information. Once again it has been a pleasure to serve the citizens of Chester. The office can be reached at 413-354-6357.

Mary Ann Pease
Town Collector

Town of Chester
Trial Balance Report

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

1010.10	General Cash	196,469.34	
1040.62	Cash - Municipal Light	673,979.39	
1040.63	Cash-Light Depreciation	617,537.43	
1040.64	CMELD Petty Cash Advances	726.34	
1100.11	Personal Property Taxes 2011		-0.71
1100.13	Personal Property 2013		0.00
1100.14	Personal Property 2014		0.00
1100.15	Personal Property 2015	70.81	
1100.16	Personal Property 2016	761.49	
1100.17	Personal Property 2017	536.54	
1100.18	Personal Property 2018	603.36	
1100.19	Personal Property 2019	1,002.90	
1100.20	Personal Property 2020	12,164.40	
1200.00	Real Estate Taxes F2000	203.22	
1200.01	Real Estate Taxes F2001	169.94	
1200.02	Real Estate Taxes F2002	210.80	
1200.03	Real Estate Taxes F2003	198.02	
1200.04	Real Estate Taxes F2004	211.60	
1200.05	Real Estate Taxes F2005	1,880.81	
1200.06	Real Estate Taxes F2006	55.20	
1200.07	Real Estate Taxes F2007		-328.94
1200.08	Real Estate Taxes F2008		-1,410.73
1200.09	Real Estate Taxes F2009		-1,880.19
1200.10	Real Estate Taxes F2010		-1,301.47
1200.11	Real Estate Taxes F2011		-3,043.96
1200.12	Real Estate Taxes 2012		-5,731.34
1200.13	Real Estate Taxes 2013		-587.93
1200.14	Real Estate Taxes 2014		-1,012.42
1200.15	Real Estate 2015	7,039.17	
1200.16	Real Estate 2016	5,474.81	
1200.17	Real Estate 2017	29,371.08	
1200.18	Real Estate 2018	25,254.42	
1200.19	Real Estate 2019	53,297.80	
1200.20	Real Estate 2020	242,411.47	
1200.21	Real Estate Taxes 2021		-5,295.72
1200.87	Real Estate Taxes F1987	65.30	
1200.88	Real Estate Taxes F1988	458.81	
1200.89	Real Estate Taxes F1989	4,801.44	

Town of Chester
Trial Balance Report

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From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

1200.90	Real Estate Taxes F1990	7,845.24	
1200.91	Real Estate Taxes F1991	14,464.59	
1200.92	Real Estate Taxes F1992	14,549.34	
1200.93	Real Estate Taxes F1993	26,560.70	
1200.94	Real Estate Taxes F1994	12,376.92	
1200.95	Real Estate Taxes F1995	140.82	
1200.96	Real Estate Taxes F1996	1,144.24	
1200.97	Real Estate Taxes F1997	1,539.67	
1200.98	Real Estate Taxes F1998	871.66	
1200.99	Real Estate Taxes F1999	261.10	
1300.00	Motor Vehicle Taxes 2000	671.39	
1300.01	Motor Vehicle Ex F2001	1,979.52	
1300.02	Motor Vehicle Ex F2002	579.49	
1300.03	Motor Vehicle Ex F2003	693.96	
1300.04	Motor Vehicle Ex F2004	247.91	
1300.05	Motor Vehicle Ex F2005	240.27	
1300.06	Motor Vehicle Ex F2006	254.36	
1300.07	Motor Vehicle Ex F2007	242.52	
1300.08	Motor Vehicle Ex F2008	165.46	
1300.09	Motor Vehicle Ex F2009	718.55	
1300.10	Motor Vehicle Ex F2010	1,475.47	
1300.11	Motor Vehicle Excise 2011	593.78	
1300.12	Motor Vehicle Excise 2012	5,590.49	
1300.13	Motor Vehicle Excise 2013	543.14	
1300.14	Motor Vehicle Trailer 2014	623.03	
1300.15	Motor Vehicle 2015	1,136.78	
1300.16	Motor Vehicle 2016	1,536.32	
1300.17	Motor Vehicle Excise 2017	2,697.06	
1300.18	Motor Vehicle Excise 2018		-1,827.69
1300.19	Motor Vehicle Excise 2019	18,576.40	
1300.20	Motor Vehicle Excise 2020	26,665.09	
1300.90	Motor Vehicle Ex F1990	3,783.67	
1300.91	Motor Vehicle Ex F1991	3,114.94	
1300.92	Motor Vehicle Ex F1992	2,721.44	
1300.93	Motor Vehicle Ex F1993	1,417.62	
1300.94	Motor Vehicle Ex F1994	889.85	
1300.95	Motor Vehicle Ex F1995	2,286.38	
1300.96	Motor Vehicle Ex F1996	1,936.06	

Town of Chester**Trial Balance Report**

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From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

1300.97	Motor Vehicle Ex F1997	505.25	
1300.98	Motor Vehicle Ex F1998	1,839.86	
1300.99	Motor Vehicle Ex F1999	2,434.77	
1412.00	Water Rates Receivable	63,214.79	
1414.00	Water Liens	856.73	
1450.00	Rollback Taxes Chap 61		-1,178.79
1562.00	Tax Titles	46,496.37	
1570.99	Tax Title Possessions	21,207.78	
1585.00	Sale of Real Estate		-42,500.00
1601.00	St. Aid Hwy - Chapt 90	237,852.39	
1630.62	CMELD Rcpts-Electricity	160,820.07	
1631.62	CMELD Rcpts-Other	9,300.24	
1632.62	CMELD Liens	1,909.64	
1650.00	Due from CMELD	44,657.43	
1651.00	Due from CMELD - Misc.		-57.43
1652.00	Due from Comm. - Vet's Benefits	42,797.00	
1653.00	Due From/To Collector		0.00
1670.00	Subsequent Years		0.00
1700.20	Revenue Fiscal Year 2020		-3,184,788.91
1800.00	Estimated Receipts		-10,349.67
1852.00	Due Frm Stabilization Fnd	245,853.00	
2001.00	Warrants Payable		0.00
2005.00	P/R Insurance Withholding		-1,271.60
2011.00	Sale of Timber Liabi.		0.00
3052.00	Reimb TT Legal Fees		-1,719.28
3054.00	FireArm Permit Fees		-3,156.31
3055.00	TT Redemption Fees		-75.00
3057.00	State Pymts.-Electric Lt.		0.00
3058.00	Deferred Revenue - Vets Benefits		-42,797.00
3072.00	Tailings		-3,477.71
3092.00	Recreation Donations		-201.92
3094.00	Town Clock Donations		-617.05
3095.00	Library Donations		-13.36
3097.00	Veterans' Mem'l. Gift		-200.00
3098.00	Composting Proj.Donations		-145.00
3102.00	Flag Donations		-1,111.50
3105.00	Police Dept. Donations		-898.38
3106.00	Cemetery Donations		-615.00

Town of Chester

Trial Balance Report

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From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

3107.00	COA Donations	-2,563.10
3108.00	COVID 19 Donation	-2,500.00
5002.00	Elections - State	-1,156.85
5007.00	PVPC- COVID EMERGENCY GRANT	-1,494.44
5007.01	Covid 19 Relief Fund	-21,950.00
5008.00	State Aid to Libraries	-10,166.18
5010.00	Economic Development Shared Service	-11,522.98
5011.00	CCC Grants and DLTA Awards	0.00
5013.00	SHARED POLICE GRANT	-910.35
5014.00	FY20 IT Grant	-15,950.00
5036.00	Cultural Council Grant	-9,884.48
5036.01	Big Yellow School Bus Grant	0.00
5042.00	Council on Aging - State	-1,320.21
5048.00	Block Grant	0.00
5049.00	PVPC/Septic Repair-Int.	0.00
5055.09	Emergency Manage EMPG09	0.00
5060.00	MEMA	0.00
5066.00	Share Police Salaries	0.00
5067.00	Shared Police Expenses	-22,609.00
5509.00	Police Off-duty Pay	-6,170.23
5510.00	Cemetery Operation Fees	-11,798.84
5513.00	Plumbing/Gas Insp. Fees	-795.00
5514.00	Wiring Inspector Fees	-90.00
5516.00	BOH Revolving Fund	-2,381.85
5519.00	Deputy Collector Fees	-145.00
5520.00	Tax Collectors Fees	-1,020.08
5521.00	Town Clerk's Fees	-4,541.93
5525.00	Transfer Station Fees	0.00
5529.00	Insurance Revolving/proceeds old ja	0.00
5530.00	Cemetery PC Fnd-Revolving	-2,660.70
6008.00	Air Pollution Control	0.00
6009.00	Green Community Grant	65,668.65
6011.00	R.M.V. N/R Surcharges	0.00
6013.00	Regional Transit Auth.	0.00
7002.00	Sale of Cemetery Lots	-21,770.00
7004.00	Sale/Land of Low Value	0.00
7005.00	Receipts Reserved for Insurance Cla	-6,765.99
8089.00	Overlay F1989	-4,801.44

Town of Chester**Trial Balance Report**

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From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

8091.00	Overlay F1991		-472.67
8092.00	Overlay F1992		-7,569.80
8093.00	Overlay F1993		-17,907.08
8095.00	Overlay F1995		-140.82
8096.00	Overlay F1996		-1,182.99
8097.00	Overlay F1997		-1,212.13
8098.00	Overlay F1998		-430.40
8099.00	Overlay F1999		-183.21
8100.00	Overlay F2000		-203.22
8101.00	Overlay F2001		-169.94
8103.00	Overlay F2003		-198.02
8104.00	Overlay F2004		-211.60
8105.00	Overlay F2005		-1,973.01
8106.00	Overlay F2006		-55.20
8109.00	Overlay F2009		-2,787.24
8110.00	Overlay F2010		-2,510.19
8111.00	Overlay F2011		-3,294.74
8112.00	Overlay 2012		-9,104.75
8113.00	Overlay 2013		-12,742.87
8114.00	Overlay 2014	1,598.16	
8115.00	Overlay 2015		-2,722.97
8116.00	Overlay 2016	1,577.26	
8117.00	Overlay 2017	4,191.44	
8118.00	Overlay 2018	3,477.33	
8119.00	Overlay 2019	9,321.71	
8120.00	Overlay 2020	4,146.58	
9001.00	CMELD Rsvd for Petty Cash		-726.34
9002.00	Tax Title Revenue		-46,496.37
9003.00	Revenue-Possessions/Tax		-21,207.78
9006.00	Motor Vehicle Excise Rev		-85,127.00
9015.00	Revenue-Rollback Tax C61	903.86	
9022.00	Water Rates Revenue		-60,981.69
9026.00	Water Liens Revenue	268.04	
9050.00	Muni Light Deprec.Revenue		-617,506.94
9052.00	Municipal Light Revenue		0.00
9053.00	CMELD Liens Revenue		0.00
9107.00	Due to Water Dept.		0.00
9950.00	Surplus Revenue		-794,040.20

Town of Chester
Trial Balance Report

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From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

9951.00	Free Cash		-120,575.00
9956.00	Water Available Surplus		-18,691.80
9958.00	Muni Light Avail. Surplus		-891,705.23
10114.00	Moderator	200.00	
10115.00	Finance Committee Expense	100.00	
10122.00	Selectmens Salaries	6,581.00	
10122.01	Town Administrator Salary	39,319.12	
10122.02	Administrative Asst	4,000.00	
10124.00	Selectmens Expenses	2,000.00	
10124.01	Town Counsel Services	11,000.00	
10124.02	General Office Expense	2,999.71	
10124.03	Town Report	1,000.00	
10124.07	Economic Development Shared Service		0.00
10135.00	Accounting Salaries	16,551.90	
10135.01	Accounting Expenses	750.00	
10135.05	Accounting Software Support	2,940.00	
10135.07	Audit Expense	12,664.00	
10141.00	Assessors Salaries	4,479.54	
10141.01	Principal Assessor Salary	11,721.26	
10141.02	Assessors Clerk Salary	11,164.00	
10141.03	Assessors Expenses	1,750.00	
10141.04	Assessors Schooling	500.00	
10141.05	Consultant	24,750.00	
10141.06	Assessors Maps	3,000.00	
10141.10	Assessors Software	3,750.00	
10145.00	Treasurer Salary	12,877.00	
10145.01	Ass't Treasurer Salary	1,250.00	
10145.02	Treasurer Expenses	1,900.00	
10145.03	Land Court Fees	6,960.69	
10145.04	Bank Charges/Fees	100.00	
10145.06	Treasurer Software Support	2,651.00	
10145.07	Payroll Expenses	2,359.15	
10145.09	Treasurer's Training/School	500.00	
10146.00	Collector Salary	19,169.26	
10146.02	Collector Expenses	5,000.00	
10146.03	Tax Taking Expenses	2,000.00	
10146.06	Tax Collector's Software	208.00	
10161.00	Town Clerk Salary	8,479.00	

Town of Chester
Trial Balance Report

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From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

10161.01	Ass't Clerk Salary	1,632.00	
10161.02	Town Clerks Expenses	2,175.00	
10161.04	Dog Licensing Database-DO NOT USE		-2,095.00
10161.05	Dog Licensing Software-USE	2,095.00	
10161.06	Election Software ATM19		0.00
10162.00	Elections	4,000.00	
10163.00	Registrations	1,270.00	
10171.00	Conservation Comm. Expens	300.00	
10175.00	Planning Board Expenses	200.00	
10176.00	Zoning Bd of Appeals Exp.	300.00	
20422.00	Highway Dept. Salaries	196,715.51	
20422.02	Snow Removal Salaries	38,306.49	
20422.03	Highway contract Services	8,500.00	
20422.22	Chapter 90		-160,233.24
20422.28	E. River Rd. Project 11-19 STM	45,590.20	
20423.00	Town Garage Heat/Light	13,500.00	
20423.01	Uniforms	4,660.90	
20423.02	Supplies/Repairs	50,056.71	
20423.03	Stone/Gravel/Asphalt	18,878.04	
20423.04	Gas/Oil/Diesel	23,000.00	
20423.05	Pest Control	1,000.00	
20423.07	Snow Removal Expenses	121,544.93	
20424.00	Street Lighting	7,423.16	
20427.01	Cemetery Laborer Salaries	8,781.90	
20427.02	Cemetery Expenses	1,000.00	
20428.01	Water Department Salaries	40,960.88	
20428.02	Water Dept. Expenses	45,882.79	
20428.03	Water Dept Capital Expend		0.00
20430.00	Tree Removal	5,069.94	
30001.00	Gateway Regional School	1,557,842.13	
30001.01	Assessment Stabilization ATM19		0.00
30001.10	Vocational Education	213,965.87	
40491.00	Board of Health Salaries	4,100.00	
40491.01	Trans. Station Salary	6,119.00	
40491.02	Insp. of Animals Salary	903.61	
40491.03	Board of Health Expenses	1,400.00	
40491.04	Transfer Station Expenses	38,256.06	
40491.07	Transfer Station Assistant	4,550.00	

Town of Chester
Trial Balance Report

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From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

40491.08	Animal Inspector Expenses	500.00	
40491.09	Board of Health - Calvin Joppru		0.00
40492.00	Historical Comm. Expenses	1,800.00	
40493.00	Preservation Project Yr 2		-4,000.00
40494.00	Council on Aging Expenses	4,500.00	
40494.01	COA Salary	10,313.24	
40494.02	Van Services	1,000.00	
40494.04	COA Administrative Projects	1,000.00	
40500.00	Library Salaries	24,394.00	
40500.01	Library Expenses	11,810.95	
40500.07	MassCat Automation	900.00	
40543.00	Veterans Agent Salary	6,258.00	
40543.01	Veterans Benefits/Service	41,000.00	
40543.02	Memorial Day	500.00	
40544.00	Recreation Comm. Expenses	1,000.00	
60110.00	Fire Chief Salary	5,054.39	
60110.01	Fire Expenses	35,500.00	
60110.02	Civil Defense	1,000.00	
60110.03	Fire Dept. Wages	1,584.00	
60110.10	Fire Doors FY06		0.00
60110.14	Fire Turn Out Gear	10,000.00	
60210.00	Police Chief Salary	2,580.00	
60210.01	Police Officer Wages	37,905.00	
60210.02	Constable Salary	125.00	
60210.04	Police Expenses	15,000.00	
60210.06	PD Cruiser Purchase FY11		0.00
60210.07	Police Cruiser Lease	13,456.00	
60210.08	Police Blackboard Notification	3,000.00	
60210.10	PD Secretary Wages	600.00	
60210.11	Police Training	3,600.00	
60210.16	Police/Computer Video	1,500.00	
60231.00	Ambulance Service	29,977.00	
60231.02	Ambulance Replacement Fund	2,825.29	
60240.00	Building Inspector Salary	8,565.19	
60241.00	Building Inspector Expens	2,250.00	
60292.00	Animal Cntrl Off. Salary	1,354.51	
60292.01	Animal Control Expenses	1,500.00	
80720.00	Water Treatmnt Plant Loan	29,479.00	

Town of Chester
Trial Balance Report

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From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

80721.01	Highway Truck	44,447.00	
80752.00	Int. Short-term Debt	1,000.00	
90100.00	Town Hall Custodian Salar	5,777.00	
90192.00	Town Hall Expenses	20,897.48	
90192.01	Town Hall Repairs	18,000.00	
90192.06	Town Hall Internet & Telephone	13,626.08	
90192.08	Engineering & surveying		-2,500.00
90192.09	Desgin Services		-18,288.31
90192.12	Town Hall Repairs 11-19 STM		0.00
90193.00	Prop Casualty/Liab Insur.	26,000.00	
90193.03	Police/Fire Accident Insu	8,200.00	
90912.00	Workers Compensation Insu	7,000.00	
90914.00	Group Health Insurance	72,000.00	
90914.02	Upfront Group Health	45,000.00	
90916.00	Medi/FICA	9,615.09	
90917.00	Unemployment Ins./SUTA	3,981.47	
90917.01	County Retirement	95,870.00	
90917.02	Bonds	1,000.00	
90919.00	Wood Landfill Test Costs	3,971.50	
90919.01	Economic Development Shared Svc	14,000.00	
96010.00	Muni Light Maint & Operat		0.00
96030.00	Muni Light Customer Depos		-12,050.00
600010.00	Trust Cash	483,450.76	
600020.00	Stab. Fund Equity-Unres.		-391,400.62
600020.01	Fire Truck Reserved Account		-25,000.00
600020.02	Town Building Reserved Account		-10,000.00
600020.03	Town Roads Reserved Account		-10,000.00
600022.00	Cemetery P.C.Equity-Unres		-1,451.93
600024.00	Cemetery P.C. Equity-Res.		-45,598.21
800001.00	Net Funded Fixed Debt/IDL	428,764.84	
800013.00	Water Dept. Loan		-343,698.84
800015.04	Highway Truck		-85,066.00
	Balance	<u>\$7,316,077.01</u>	<u>\$-7,316,077.01</u>

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	10122.00	Total		Selectmens Salaries				472.00
	10124.02	Total		General Office Expense				192.55
	10135.01	Total		Accounting Expenses				290.00
	10145.04	Total		Bank Charges/Fees				55.00
	10161.00	Total		Town Clerk Salary				-122.26
	10161.01	Total		Ass't Clerk Salary				-367.06
	1100.14	Total		personal property 2014				405.39
	1100.15	Total		Personal Property 2015				386.00
	1100.16	Total		Personal Property 2016				403.20
	1100.17	Total		Personal Property 2017				406.40
	1100.18	Total		Personal Property 2018				367.66
	1100.19	Total		PERSONAL PROPERTY 2019				227.41
	1100.20	Total		PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX FY20				88,488.79
	1200.02	Total		Real Estate Taxes F2002				-10.03
	1200.09	Total		Real Estate Taxes F2009				11.07
	1200.10	Total		Real Estate Taxes F2010				24.00
	1200.11	Total		REAL ESTATE TAXES F2011				19.95

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	1200.12	Total		REAL ESTATE TAXES FY2012				455.55
	1200.14	Total		REAL ESTATE TAXES				131.67
	1200.16	Total		2016 REAL ESTATE				412.51
	1200.17	Total		Real Estate 2017				3,712.28
	1200.18	Total		Real Estate 2018				15,642.31
	1200.19	Total		REAL ESTATE 2019				63,692.10
	1200.20	Total		REAL ESTATE 2020				2,161,721.57
	1200.21	Total		FY 2021 REAL ESTATE TAX				5,295.72
	1300.00	Total		Motor Vehicle Taxes 2000				0.00
	1300.10	Total		Motor Vehicle Ex F2010				15.00
	1300.11	Total		Motor Vehicle Ecise 2011				60.00
	1300.14	Total		Motor Vehicle Trailer 2014				47.50
	1300.15	Total		Motor Vehicle 2015				39.38
	1300.16	Total		MOTOR VEHICLE EX 2016				122.17

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	1300.17	Total		Motor Vehicle Excise 2017				246.11
	1300.18	Total		Motor Vehicle Excise 2018				8,800.30
	1300.19	Total		MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE 2019				32,594.16
	1300.20	Total		MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE FY20				121,282.91
	1412.00	Total		Water Rates Receivable				87,834.60
	1414.00	Total		Water Liens				3,221.91
	1450.00	Total		Rollback Taxes Chap 61				903.86
	1562.00	Total		Tax Titles				5,952.00
	1601.00	Total		St. Aid Hwy - Chapt 90				290,614.00

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	1630.62	Total			CMELD Repts-Electricity			1,160,513.63
	1631.62	Total			CMELD Repts-Other			87,837.77
	1632.62	Total			CMELD Liens			1,570.22
	1650.00	Total			Due from CMELD-Med/FICA			25,447.55
	1653.00	Total			DUE TO/FROM COLLECTOR			12.41
	1800.00.4170	Total			Interest on Real Estate Tax			6,827.69
	1800.00.4171	Total			Interest on Personal Property Tax			8,980.65
	1800.00.4172	Total			Interest on Motor Vehicle Tax			2,288.04
	1800.00.4173	Total			Interest on Tax Title			360.00
	1800.00.4180	Total			Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PIOLT)			12,981.00
	1800.00.4199	Total			Trailer Park Receipts			780.00

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	1800.00.4247	Total		Garbage & Trash				50,168.26
	1800.00.4319	Total		Police Dept Administratio				103.60
	1800.00.4320	Total		Municipial Liens				1,710.00
	1800.00.4321	Total		Motor Vehicle Marking Fees				1,570.00
	1800.00.4322	Total		TOWN FEE RETAINED FRM TAX				1,618.00
	1800.00.4326	Total		Town Clerk Fees				2,815.15
	1800.00.4371	Total		Refunds				250.00
	1800.00.4372	Total		Rental Income				2,750.00
	1800.00.4374	Total		Cell Tower Rent				39,454.57
	1800.00.4420	Total		Selectment Licenses & Permits				14,438.49

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	1800.00.4422	Total		ZBA Permits				150.00
	1800.00.4423	Total		Board of Health Permits				3,945.00
	1800.00.4424	Total		Building Permits				6,418.85
	1800.00.4427	Total		Fire Dept. Permits				750.00
	1800.00.4429	Total		Planning Board Permits				150.00
	1800.00.4430	Total		Police Dept. Permits				1,625.00
	1800.00.4431	Total		Conservation NOI				442.50
	1800.00.4667	Total		Vetereans/Blind/Surv. Benefits				5,903.00
	1800.00.4670	Total		Local Aid Chapter 70				52,198.00
	1800.00.4672	Total		Unrestricted State Cherry Sheet				191,177.00
	1800.00.4675	Total		State Owned Land PILOT				15,543.00
	1800.00.4676	Total		Elementary Education				3,399.00
	1800.00.4679	Total		Veterans Reimbursement				24,952.00
	1800.00.4680	Total		one time aid				2,335.20
	1800.00.4696	Total		RMV Court Fines				1,662.25

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	1800.00.4773	Total		Dog Licenses				1,380.00
	1800.00.4821	Total		Interest - General Fund				11,991.15
	1800.00.4822	Total		Interest - Stabilization General Accounts				20.53
	1800.00.4823	Total		Interest - Stabilization Capital Fund				1.08
	1800.00.4826	Total		Interest - Cemetery Fund Accounts				0.89
	1800.00.4830	Total		Stabilization Dividends				728.81
	1800.00.4831	Total		Cemetery Dividends				142.42
	1800.00.4836	Total		Stabilization Market Fluctuations				2,622.22
	1800.00.4837	Total		Cemetery Market Fluctuations				277.98
	1800.00.4838	Total		Stabilization Fees/Expenses				-253.16
	1800.00.4839	Total		Cemetery Fees/Expenses				-49.51
	1800.00.4840	Total		Misc. Revenues N.O.C.				4,410.93
	1800.00.5000	Total		Animal Control Fees				115.00
	2005.00	Total		Employee Insurance W/H's				4,796.04
	20423.02	Total		Supplies/Repairs				282.85
	20428.02	Total		Water Dept. Expenses				405.00
	3054.00	Total		Fire Arm Permit Fees				4,875.00

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	3057.00	Total		State Pymts.-Electric Lt.				1,722.65
	3095.00	Total		Library Donations				6.52
	3102.00	Total		Flag Donations				585.00
	3106.00	Total		Cemetery Donations				500.00
	3107.00	Total		COA Donations				120.00
	3108.00	Total		Covid 19 Donation				2,500.00
	5002.00	Total		Elections - State				1,081.82
	5007.00	Total		Grant - PVPC COVID-19				27,124.00
	5008.00	Total		State Aid to Libraries				3,041.67
	5010.00	Total		Economic Dev. Grant				80,343.50
	5014.00	Total		FY20 IT Grant				16,950.00
	5036.00	Total		Cultural Council Grant				4,800.00
	5042.00	Total		Council on Aging - State				6,000.00
	5048.00	Total		Block Grant				24,837.32
	5055.09	Total		Emergency Manage EMPG09				7,069.13
	5066.00	Total		Community Police Grant				50,000.00
	5509.00	Total		Police Off-duty Pay				87,180.90

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	5510.00	Total			Cemetery Operation Fees			1,600.00
	5513.00	Total			Plumbing/Gas Insp. Fees			1,345.00
	5514.00	Total			Wiring Inspector Fees			2,115.00
	5516.00	Total			Board of Health Fees			8,561.96
	5519.00	Total			Deputy Collector Fees			3,399.00
	5520.00	Total			Tax Collectors Fees			2,863.00
	5525.00	Total			Transfer Station Fees			0.00
	600020.00	Total			Stab. Fund Equity-Unres.			215,853.00
	7002.00	Total			Sale of Cemetery Lots			500.00
	7005.00	Total			Insurance Claims - Receipts Res			6,765.99
	90193.00	Total			Prop Casualty/Liab Insur.			9,762.00
	90193.03	Total			Police/Fire Accident Insu			73.00
	90912.00	Total			Insurance - Workers Compensation			2,717.00
	90914.00	Total			Insurance - Group Health et al			-6,702.02

Town of Chester

Treasury Receipts by Revenue Account

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

Code	Account #	Packet#	Eff Date	Bank Account	Receipt Type	Deposit #:	Description	Amount
	96010.00	Total		Muni Light Maint & Operat				14,021.40
	96030.00	Total		Muni Light Customer Depos				5,100.00
	Report Total							5,240,759.58

Town of Chester

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Expense Report - B&H

As of: 08/25/2020 11:53:10 AM

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

01 - GENERAL FUND		Previous	Original	Budget	Revised	Actual		
Account	Description	Year's Bal	Budget	Revisions	Budget	Expended	Balance	% Exp
10114.00	Moderator	200.00	200.00		400.00	200.00	200.00	50.00 %
10115.00	Finance Committee Expense		100.00		100.00		100.00	0.00 %
10115.01	Reserve Fund		2,500.00	-2,500.00				100.00 %
10122.00	Selectmens Salaries		6,581.00		6,581.00	5,560.51	1,020.49	84.49 %
10122.01	Town Administrator Salary	329.00	39,021.00		39,350.00	39,648.12	-298.12	100.75 %
10122.02	Administrative Asst			4,000.00	4,000.00	2,824.00	1,176.00	70.60 %
10122.03	Selectmen Computer/software							100.00 %
10124.00	Selectmens Expenses		2,000.00		2,000.00	1,915.24	84.76	95.76 %
10124.01	Town Counsel Services		5,500.00	5,500.00	11,000.00	9,216.25	1,783.75	83.78 %
10124.02	General Office Expense		3,000.00		3,000.00	2,681.83	318.17	89.39 %
10124.03	Town Report		1,000.00		1,000.00	553.25	446.75	55.32 %
10135.00	Accounting Salaries		16,427.00		16,427.00	16,551.90	-124.90	100.76 %
10135.01	Accounting Expenses		750.00		750.00	299.68	450.32	39.95 %
10135.05	Accounting Software Support		2,940.00		2,940.00	2,651.00	289.00	90.17 %
10135.07	Audit Expense	12,000.00		9,000.00	21,000.00	24,664.00	-3,664.00	117.44 %
10141.00	Assessors Salaries		4,479.54		4,479.54	4,092.12	387.42	91.35 %
10141.01	Principal Assessor Salary			11,721.26	11,721.26	11,721.26		100.00 %
10141.02	Assessors Clerk Salary		7,164.00	4,000.00	11,164.00	10,931.65	232.35	97.91 %
10141.03	Assessors Expenses		1,750.00		1,750.00	1,610.53	139.47	92.03 %
10141.04	Assessors Schooling		500.00		500.00		500.00	0.00 %
10141.05	Consultant		33,000.00	-750.00	32,250.00	24,750.00	7,500.00	76.74 %
10141.06	Assessors Maps		3,000.00		3,000.00	2,936.05	63.95	97.86 %
10141.10	Assessors Software		3,750.00		3,750.00	3,745.00	5.00	99.86 %
10145.00	Treasurer Salary		12,877.00		12,877.00	12,877.00		100.00 %
10145.01	Ass't Treasurer Salary		1,250.00		1,250.00	1,250.00		100.00 %
10145.02	Treasurer Expenses	334.50	1,900.00		2,234.50	2,196.05	38.45	98.27 %
10145.03	Land Court Fees		10,000.00		10,000.00	6,375.14	3,624.86	63.75 %
10145.04	Bank Charges/Fees		100.00		100.00	-55.00	155.00	-55.00 %
10145.06	Treasurer Software Support		2,221.00		2,221.00	2,651.00	-430.00	119.36 %
10145.07	Payroll Expenses		2,100.00		2,100.00	2,359.15	-259.15	112.34 %
10145.09	Treasurer's Training/School		500.00		500.00		500.00	0.00 %
10146.00	Collector Salary		19,023.00		19,023.00	19,169.26	-146.26	100.76 %
10146.02	Collector Expenses		5,000.00		5,000.00	4,066.09	933.91	81.32 %
10146.03	Tax Taking Expenses		2,000.00		2,000.00	854.40	1,145.60	42.72 %
10146.06	Tax Collector's Software		208.00		208.00		208.00	0.00 %
10161.00	Town Clerk Salary		8,479.00		8,479.00	8,217.24	261.76	96.91 %
10161.01	Ass't Clerk Salary		1,632.00		1,632.00	1,387.20	244.80	85.00 %
10161.02	Town Clerks Expenses		2,175.00		2,175.00	2,153.83	21.17	99.02 %
10161.04	Dog Licensing Database-DO NOT USE	2,095.00			2,095.00		2,095.00	0.00 %
10161.05	Dog Licensing Software-USE	-2,095.00			-2,095.00		-2,095.00	100.00 %
10161.06	Election Software ATM19	1,000.00			1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00 %
10162.00	Elections		4,000.00		4,000.00	2,813.29	1,186.71	70.33 %
10163.00	Registrations		1,270.00		1,270.00	980.10	289.90	77.17 %
10171.00	Conservation Comm. Expens		300.00		300.00	118.58	181.42	39.52 %
10175.00	Planning Board Expenses		200.00		200.00		200.00	0.00 %
10176.00	Zoning Bd of Appeals Exp.		300.00		300.00	72.56	227.44	24.18 %
Total	General Government	13,863.50	209,197.54	30,971.26	254,032.30	234,038.28	19,994.02	
20422.00	Highway Dept. Salaries		211,022.00		211,022.00	182,794.44	28,227.56	86.62 %
20422.02	Snow Removal Salaries		24,000.00		24,000.00	38,306.49	-14,306.49	159.61 %
20422.03	Highway contract Services		12,500.00	-4,000.00	8,500.00	8,226.71	273.29	96.78 %

Town of Chester

Expense Report - B&H

As of: 08/25/2020 11:53:11 AM

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

01 - GENERAL FUND		Previous	Original	Budget	Revised	Actual		
Account	Description	Year's Bal	Budget	Revisions	Budget	Expended	Balance	% Exp
20422.22	Chapter 90	216,843.18			216,843.18	315,586.94	-98,743.76	145.53 %
20422.28	E. River Rd. Project 11-19 STM			45,422.28	45,422.28	45,590.20	-167.92	100.36 %
20423.00	Town Garage Heat/Light		13,500.00		13,500.00	12,340.82	1,159.18	91.41 %
20423.01	Uniforms		3,500.00	1,000.00	4,500.00	4,660.90	-160.90	103.57 %
20423.02	Supplies/Repairs		49,875.00		49,875.00	50,056.71	-181.71	100.36 %
20423.03	Stone/Gravel/Asphalt		88,000.00		88,000.00	18,878.04	69,121.96	21.45 %
20423.04	Gas/Oil/Diesel		23,000.00		23,000.00	22,317.69	682.31	97.03 %
20423.05	Pest Control		1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00 %
20423.07	Snow Removal Expenses		50,000.00		50,000.00	121,544.93	-71,544.93	243.08 %
20424.00	Street Lighting					7,423.16	-7,423.16	100.00 %
20427.00	CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS SALARY		775.00		775.00		775.00	0.00 %
20427.01	Cemetery Laborer Salaries		7,969.00		7,969.00	8,781.90	-812.90	110.20 %
20427.02	Cemetery Expenses		1,000.00		1,000.00	494.99	505.01	49.49 %
20428.01	Water Department Salaries	80.00	41,809.00		41,889.00	38,801.15	3,087.85	92.62 %
20428.02	Water Dept. Expenses		40,000.00	5,316.03	45,316.03	46,287.79	-971.76	102.14 %
20428.03	Water Dept Capital Expend							100.00 %
20430.00	Tree Removal		11,500.00		11,500.00	1,372.50	10,127.50	11.93 %
Total	Public Works & Facility	216,923.18	579,450.00	47,738.31	844,111.49	923,465.36	-79,353.87	
30001.00	Gateway Regional School		1,552,256.00	5,567.00	1,557,823.00	1,557,842.13	-19.13	100.00 %
30001.01	Assessment Stabilization ATM19	23,222.87			23,222.87	23,222.87		100.00 %
30001.10	Vocational Education		150,000.00	63,985.00	213,985.00	213,114.10	870.90	99.59 %
Total	Education	23,222.87	1,702,256.00	69,552.00	1,795,030.87	1,794,179.10	851.77	
40491.00	Board of Health Salaries		4,100.00		4,100.00	2,733.28	1,366.72	66.66 %
40491.01	Trans. Station Salary		6,119.00		6,119.00	6,040.38	78.62	98.71 %
40491.02	Insp. of Animals Salary		880.00		880.00	903.61	-23.61	102.68 %
40491.03	Board of Health Expenses		1,400.00		1,400.00	116.80	1,283.20	8.34 %
40491.04	Transfer Station Expenses		36,000.00		36,000.00	38,256.06	-2,256.06	106.26 %
40491.06	HRMC Membership		7,000.00		7,000.00		7,000.00	0.00 %
40491.07	Transfer Station Assistant		4,550.00		4,550.00	4,254.25	295.75	93.50 %
40491.08	Animal Inspector Expenses		500.00		500.00	64.76	435.24	12.95 %
40492.00	Historical Comm. Expenses		1,800.00		1,800.00	1,357.64	442.36	75.42 %
40493.00	Preservation Project Yr 2	4,000.00			4,000.00		4,000.00	0.00 %
40493.01	Flap Poles 6/19ATM Art 16			700.00	700.00		700.00	0.00 %
40494.00	Council on Aging Expenses		7,000.00	-2,500.00	4,500.00	2,479.69	2,020.31	55.10 %
40494.01	COA Salary		10,235.00		10,235.00	10,313.24	-78.24	100.76 %
40494.02	Van Services		1,000.00		1,000.00	61.00	939.00	6.10 %
40494.04	COA Administrative Projects	1,000.00	1,000.00		2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	50.00 %
Total	Human Services	5,000.00	81,584.00	-1,800.00	84,784.00	67,580.71	17,203.29	
40500.00	Library Salaries		24,394.00		24,394.00	20,799.50	3,594.50	85.26 %
40500.01	Library Expenses	1,125.42	13,933.00		15,058.42	12,244.86	2,813.56	81.31 %
40500.07	MassCat Automation		900.00		900.00	900.00		100.00 %
40543.00	Veterans Agent Salary		6,258.00		6,258.00	6,253.00	5.00	99.92 %
40543.01	Veterans Benefits/Service		47,000.00	-6,000.00	41,000.00	33,518.86	7,481.14	81.75 %
40543.02	Memorial Day		500.00		500.00		500.00	0.00 %
40544.00	Recreation Comm. Expenses		1,000.00		1,000.00	999.62	0.38	99.96 %
Total		1,125.42	93,985.00	-6,000.00	89,110.42	74,715.84	14,394.58	

Town of Chester

Expense Report - B&H

As of: 08/25/2020 11:53:12 AM

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

01 - GENERAL FUND		Previous	Original	Budget	Revised	Actual		
Account	Description	Year's Bal	Budget	Revisions	Budget	Expended	Balance	% Exp
60110.00	Fire Chief Salary		5,016.00		5,016.00	5,054.39	-38.39	100.76 %
60110.01	Fire Expenses		35,500.00		35,500.00	33,221.76	2,278.24	93.58 %
60110.02	Civil Defense		1,000.00		1,000.00	321.91	678.09	32.19 %
60110.03	Fire Dept. Wages		1,584.00		1,584.00		1,584.00	0.00 %
60110.14	Fire Turn Out Gear		10,000.00		10,000.00	9,615.00	385.00	96.15 %
Total	Public Safety		53,100.00		53,100.00	48,213.06	4,886.94	
60210.00	Police Chief Salary		2,580.00		2,580.00	2,580.00		100.00 %
60210.01	Police Officer Wages		37,905.00		37,905.00	37,905.00		100.00 %
60210.02	Constable Salary		125.00		125.00	125.00		100.00 %
60210.04	Police Expenses		15,000.00		15,000.00	15,000.00		100.00 %
60210.06	PD Cruiser Purchase FY11							100.00 %
60210.07	Police Cruiser Lease		13,456.00		13,456.00	13,456.00		100.00 %
60210.08	Police Blackboard Notification		3,000.00		3,000.00	3,000.00		100.00 %
60210.10	PD Secretary Wages		600.00		600.00	600.00		100.00 %
60210.11	Police Training		3,600.00		3,600.00	3,600.00		100.00 %
60210.16	Police/Computer Video		1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00		100.00 %
60231.00	Ambulance Service		29,977.00		29,977.00	29,976.92	0.08	99.99 %
60231.02	Ambulance Replacement Fund			2,825.00	2,825.00	2,825.29	-0.29	100.01 %
60240.00	Building Inspector Salary	112.70	8,500.00		8,612.70	8,677.89	-65.19	100.75 %
60241.00	Building Inspector Expens		1,500.00	750.00	2,250.00	1,499.67	750.33	66.65 %
60292.00	Animal Cntrl Off. Salary		1,319.00		1,319.00	1,354.51	-35.51	102.69 %
60292.01	Animal Control Expenses		1,500.00		1,500.00	1,155.01	344.99	77.00 %
Total	Public Safety	112.70	120,562.00	3,575.00	124,249.70	123,255.29	994.41	
80720.00	Water Treatmnt Plant Loan		29,479.00		29,479.00	29,479.00		100.00 %
80721.01	Highway Truck		44,447.00		44,447.00	44,446.99	0.01	99.99 %
80752.00	Int. Short-term Debt		1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00 %
Total	Debt		74,926.00		74,926.00	73,925.99	1,000.01	
90100.00	Town Hall Custodian Salar		5,777.00		5,777.00	5,756.16	20.84	99.63 %
90192.00	Town Hall Expenses		17,500.00	2,500.00	20,000.00	20,897.48	-897.48	104.48 %
90192.01	Town Hall Repairs		8,000.00	10,000.00	18,000.00	17,932.81	67.19	99.62 %
90192.06	Town Hall Internet & Telephone		11,600.00	454.88	12,054.88	13,626.08	-1,571.20	113.03 %
90192.08	Engineering & surveying	2,500.00			2,500.00		2,500.00	0.00 %
90192.09	Desgin Services	18,900.81			18,900.81	612.50	18,288.31	3.24 %
90192.12	Town Hall Repairs 11-19 STM							100.00 %
90192.13	Town Hall 3 Doors			42,000.00	42,000.00		42,000.00	0.00 %
90193.00	Prop Casualty/Liab Insur.		26,000.00		26,000.00	16,238.00	9,762.00	62.45 %
90193.03	Police/Fire Accident Insu		8,200.00		8,200.00	7,828.00	372.00	95.46 %
Total	Unclassified	21,400.81	77,077.00	54,954.88	153,432.69	82,891.03	70,541.66	
90912.00	Workers Compensation Insu		7,000.00		7,000.00	4,283.00	2,717.00	61.18 %
90914.00	Group Health Insurance		72,000.00		72,000.00	67,180.05	4,819.95	93.30 %
90914.02	Upfront Group Health			45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00		100.00 %
90916.00	Medi/FICA		7,100.00		7,100.00	9,615.09	-2,515.09	135.42 %
90917.00	Unemployment Ins./SUTA		3,000.00		3,000.00	3,981.47	-981.47	132.71 %
90917.01	County Retirement		95,870.00		95,870.00	95,870.00		100.00 %
90917.02	Bonds		1,000.00		1,000.00	603.00	397.00	60.30 %
90919.00	Wood Landfill Test Costs		3,500.00		3,500.00	3,971.50	-471.50	113.47 %
90919.01	Economic Development Shared Svc		14,000.00		14,000.00	14,000.00		100.00 %
Total	Unclassified		203,470.00	45,000.00	248,470.00	244,504.11	3,965.89	

Town of Chester

Expense Report - B&H

As of: 08/25/2020 11:53:12 AM

From 07/01/2019 to 06/30/2020

01 - GENERAL FUND		Previous	Original	Budget	Revised	Actual		
Account	Description	Year's Bal	Budget	Revisions	Budget	Expended	Balance	% Exp
96010.00	Muni Light Maint & Operat	19.54			19.54	1,252,413.18	-1,252,393.64	*,**.*% %
96030.00	Muni Light Customer Depos	4,856.37			4,856.37	-2,300.00	7,156.37	-47.36 %
Total	Municipal Light	4,875.91			4,875.91	1,250,113.18	-1,245,237.27	
Total Fund 01		286,524.39	3,195,607.54	243,991.45	3,726,123.38	4,916,881.95	-1,190,758.57	
	Grand Total	286,524.39	3,195,607.54	243,991.45	3,726,123.38	4,916,881.95	-1,190,758.57	

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Chester Finance Committee met on 4 Saturdays in February and March to review and discuss Budget Requests from Town Department Officials. The discussions were constructive and insightful, and the Finance Committee would like to thank all who participated. The goal of the Finance Committee is to present a recommended FY2021 Budget to the Selectboard, with an increase over last year of no more than 2.5%.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Myers, Chair
Bob Daley
Sister Judith Delasandro
John Foley
Jason Forgue
Jonathan Glionna

CHESTER COUNCIL ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT

The Council on Aging (COA) serves local residents who have reached 60 years of age or older. The Chester COA provides programs such as:

Community Dining Center, now in its fourth year of operation. Meals are provided by Highland Valley Elder Services (HVES) every Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) and the 3rd Friday of the month and has now expanded to twice a week beginning in March of 2020 (Thursdays were added). What also happened in March was the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic which changed everything for the COA and their usual social gatherings.

Gone were the congregate meals and Grab & Go Lunches became the new normal. Many more seniors jumped on the bandwagon at that point as we were now serving between 9-10 meals per month doubling the number of days that had previously been offered and tripling the number of people served at each meal.

Up to this point we still had social gatherings such as weekly knitting and Mahjong, monthly potluck lunches, special event parties such as, Hot Dog Festival, Halloween, Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, Christmas, Valentine's Day. The St. Patrick's Day party became a Grab & Go Lunch.

The Foot Clinic continued every other month through February and served 25-30 seniors over a period of two days each time.

In January 2020 we began holding monthly Blood Pressure Screenings. Of course, that stopped when the Pandemic hit.

Monthly Brown Bag disbursements have continued and serves 18-25 seniors per month. Food Commodities are provided by the Western Massachusetts Food Bank.

Loaned Medical Equipment continues, on an as needed basis.

These programs are run by a part-time paid director (12 hrs./week) and some dedicated volunteers giving of their time to keep the COA running smoothly. We will continue to provide these programs as freely as possible so that seniors may thrive and remain as active and independent members of our community. We look forward to exploring new ideas to serve the seniors in Chester.

The COA works closely with the Southern Hilltown's Council on Aging Consortium (SHCOAC) which hosts the Hilltown Senior Outreach Center, which serves as the outreach component for three towns (Blandford, Chester, and Huntington) to serve seniors from those towns along with families and caregivers of those seniors.

SHCOAC has taken on the task of much needed "outreach" to our seniors in the community providing Application Assistance, Benefits Check-up screenings, SHINE Counseling, Circuit Breaker Tax Assistance, Housing and Transportation issues, and a whole host of other needed services our area seniors are seeking.

The COA staff and volunteers are determined to maintain the many excellent programs that have been instituted over the years. As the senior population continues to grow, it is our hope that we will grow and expand on programs and initiatives of interest to the seniors in our community.

Please consider becoming a volunteer to help in our efforts. Contact the COA if you are interested in filling this role. I am forever grateful to all of our current, dedicated volunteers who have provided numerous hours to support the on-going programs of our organization, whether it be serving at the weekly meal site, driving seniors to doctor's appointments, sending a card to a senior on their birthday or when they are ill, or managing the foot clinic. I could not do this alone and your continued efforts have made this possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Graveline, COA Director

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nicholas Chiusano

Elizabeth Massa

Greg Harrison

15 Middlefield Street

Chester, MA 01011

413-354-7781

BoardofHealth@townofchester.net

The Chester Board of Health had no idea that COVID-19 was coming for 2020.

Nicholas J. Chiusano, chair, Elizabeth Massa and Gregory Harrison have helped the Hilltown community the best it could during the pandemic. Our pleas for PPE in early spring were answered by generous donations by The Home Depot supplying the Chester Board of Health directly with a palette of N95 masks of which we donated (mostly in person) to first responders and health care providers in the towns of Blandford, Becket, Middlefield, Peru, Goshen, Ashfield, Washington, Otis, Monterey, Granville, Russell, Sandisfield, Southwick, Tolland, Westfield, Montgomery, Worthington, Chesterfield, Williamsburg, Hinsdale, Windsor, the Hilltown Community Ambulance, Hampshire Ambulance, State Trooper Barracks in Russell, Northampton 911 call center, Visiting nurses of Westfield and the Sandisfield Nursing Home. We firmly believe this helped stop the spread of COVID-19 in the Northern and Southern Hilltowns during the first surge.

The Board also works closely with the Mass DEP and DPH to oversee the Chester Transfer Station and all health related permits and issues. Health Agents re-hired in 2020 are Charlie Kaniecki and Claudia Lucas which fees are paid through the permitting process. The Board has updated the website to include permit forms online, updated transfer station information and has revised the permit application process for a faster turnaround.

The transfer station has been brought up to DEP standards and has received its Authorization-to-Operate permit after twenty four (24) years. There are currently 237 resident transfer station permits. Operating hours are Wednesday 3 to 6 pm and Saturday 9 am to 1 pm and is manned by two attendants and an alternate plus the Board of Health as volunteers.

The Board of Health issued annual Food Permits/Inspections (3), temporary Food Permits/Inspections (2), Commercial Kitchen Food Permit/Inspections (2), Title V Reviews (15), Septic Plan Reviews (4), Construction Works Permits (7), Certificate of Compliance (8),

Percolation Tests (12), Well Permits (0), Housing Inspections (2), Septic Installer Permits (5), Campground Permits (1), Trailer Park Permits (1), Beaver Permits (1), Septage Hauler Permits (2). The Board also handles Housing code enforcement, infectious disease investigation and reporting, health related public complaints and investigation.

The Board welcomes all questions, comments and suggestions at BoardofHealth@TownofChester.net or by phone 413-354-7781. The Board of Health office is open 2nd and 4th Mondays 5 to 7 pm normally or by appointment.

The Board is dedicated to keep Chester Beautiful and Healthy for its residents and businesses.

Respectfully submitted.

Nicholas J. Chiusano, Chair

Elizabeth Massa

Gregory Harrison

CHESTER PLANNING BOARD

Activity Summary 2020

The following is a summary of the Planning Board activities for FY 2020:

1. 1. Planning Board personnel
 - a. Board membership status (as of January 2021): 5 active board members: Richard Holzman, Lyle Snide (Chairman), Nick Chiusano, Harry Sanner (Clerk), and Mike Hickson
2. 2. Special Permits/permits/approvals granted
 - a. An Approval Not Required Under the Subdivision Bylaw (ANR) request was endorsed to subdivide a parcel owned by Grant Holland on Crane Road.
 - b. An Approval Not Required Under the Subdivision Bylaw (ANR) request was endorsed to subdivide a parcel owned by Michael and Judith Starr on Mica Mill Road.
3. 3. Special Permits/permits/approvals denied
 - a. None.
4. 4. Other
 - a. None.

CHESTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND SOCIETY

Local Historical Commissions are the official agent of the Municipal Government and are responsible for community-wide historical preservation and planning. They are advisors to the Board of Selectmen.

Local Historical Societies are private organizations concerned with the preservation of local histories through records, collections, and properties.

This year the Historical Society opened the Chester History Museum for our summer monthly meetings, for special requests and on every Sunday afternoon from July 1 through Labor Day. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, we were unable to hold our annual spring Penny Social, but along with our calendar sale, book sales, donations and our 2019 fall fundraiser, the Snowflake Festival, we were very successful in raising money to continue our work on the Museum. We were able to finish construction of our handicap accessible restroom.

The “Old Chester Jail”, across the street from the museum, is used for our monthly winter meetings, and continues to be our research area. It was visited many times by people researching family history and genealogy during the summer. With our yearly Commission money, we maintain the Jail, do necessary repairs, pay for the heat, and produce brochures, pamphlets, etc. to promote the history of our town.

We wish to thank all who continue to support our efforts to preserve our “Gem of the Valley’s” history.

John Hultman

President

HAMILTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/20

This past fiscal year was filled with wonderful opportunities, but trying to operate a library during a pandemic was definitely challenging. The hard work from our Board of Trustees and the Library Director made the task possible.

In January, we hired a new director, Angelique Toroni. She started several new programs and classes which included: LEGO Club, Card Making, Craft Time Saturdays and American Sign Language Classes. These activities were enormously successful.

On March 13th, our library was shut down due to the COVID-19 Statewide shutdown. Even though this was extremely difficult for our staff, it challenged us to learn about virtual programming and research what was available. During the shutdown, we offered multiple virtual programs. Here are some of the highlights:

- Tours of National Parks
- Performance from the Dutch Orchestra
- Tours of several Museums
- Several books read by authors and storytellers
- A drawing series to teach children to express their emotions during stressful times

While we were closed to the public, we wanted our patrons to have the ability to access materials so we joined the OverDrive Libby App. Libby is a reading app for borrowing digital books, magazines and audiobooks from our library partner's Overdrive collection. This free app is available for Android, iOS (iPhone/iPad/iPod touch), and Windows 10 devices.

At the end of May, we were allowed to start curbside pickup. Patrons were able to call or email to reserve an item; the materials were then processed and placed in the foyer for a scheduled pickup time

Additionally, we added new resources for the library which included the purchase of two new computers now set up for our homework/study stations. We also added a healing library section for children, we developed several different packages that families can check out to help children with difficult situations; such as the death of a pet, the death of a family member, separation and divorce, or a family member that has Alzheimer's. They include books covering these topics, an encouraging craft, as well as questions for parents to have an open discussion with their child which was developed by child psychologists. We were also privileged to receive two sensory packs for Autism from the Start em Early Foundation (Youth Education, Sensory Awareness - Outreach) program. These packs can be checked out by families possibly going on a trip and need assistance with sensory issues or used in house.

The Hamilton Memorial Library has future projects in the works to help support, educate, and encourage our community. We would like to thank the residents of the Town for their tremendous support and we appreciate our patrons.

Respectfully submitted,
Angelique Toroni, Director

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the recreation committee successfully completed numerous projects throughout 2020, primarily at Emery Field. We again increased the usable area of the location with additional parking areas added to allow for viewing of events while maintaining social distancing. We added more seating areas as well as activities such as a ping pong table. Additional significant renovations were made by Gateway Little League to the infield area of the baseball diamond as well. The GYAA recreational and travel soccer leagues were played at Emery Field in the fall, providing a competitive outlet for kids and their families that may otherwise not have been available. We were also able to hold the town trunk or treat celebration on Halloween which was greatly appreciated by all that could make it.

Numerous new projects are slated to occur in 2021 including new water line installation, playground installation, volleyball court installation, along with increased lighting and continual field improvements. As with many things this year, the impacts of COVID-19 put a hold on many of our previously planned projects. When determined to be safe, we also plan to continue increasing the number of town events held at Emery Field to make our town even more enjoyable. Examples of these events include an annual Easter egg hunt, a town picnic, trunk or treat event, movie nights, a clean-up effort at Hampden St park, etc. Several of these events will be made possible with the assistance of the Chester Hill Association. We are always open for suggestions as well as additional volunteers. Please reach out to me anytime at (413) 205-6504 with any questions/comments/suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Forgue

WILD & SCENIC WESTFIELD RIVER COMMITTEE

2020 Annual Report

The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee works to preserve, protect, and enhance the special qualities and outstanding natural resources of the Westfield River Watershed in concert with local communities. Appointed representatives from Becket, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Huntington, Middlefield, Savoy, Washington, Windsor, and Worthington meet monthly with representatives from the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and others. Project funding is provided through the National Park Service's Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Program.

2020 welcomed new faces on the committee. Carl Cignoni, the Chesterfield representative, replaced long time chairman Bob Thompson of Chester. We are very appreciative of the hard work that Bob put in guiding the committee for many years. Jake Lehan is the new representative to the committee from Mass DER replacing our longtime DER rep Carrie Banks. As with Bob we are very appreciative for the guidance that Carrie provided to the committee as the administrator. Andrew Petit de mange is now sitting on the committee as a representative of the National Park Service.

- The committee supported a land conservation project in Plainfield undertaken by Mass Audubon.
- Upgrades to the East Branch Trail in Chesterfield were funded by the committee. Older wooden box culverts were replaced by stone swales that allow storm water to safely flow across the old road bed.
- A screening of the Wild and Scenic Film Festival was held in Chesterfield with committee funds. This features a curated selection from the national festival that is available for communities to view. It makes a good mid-winter community event.
- The committee made significant progress on completing a new Stewardship plan for the river that will help to guide the activities of the committee for the next group of years. CEI (who did the engineering for the Windsor culvert project) is developing the plan. It has been a bit slow due to the constraints of the pandemic but will be done in 2021.
- The committee met with fisheries biologists from DFW and learned that the Westfield River is among the best in Massachusetts for native brook trout habitat.
- Two representative Keystone Arch Bridges in Becket & Middlefield and the Chester Railway Station were nominated by the National Park Service for National Historic Landmark status in September 2020, with the designation happening in January of 2021, successfully ending a multi-year effort by the Committee and especially Dave Pierce of Chester.

The committee's outreach and education efforts were hampered this year due to the pandemic. Outreach coordinator Meredyth Babcock went online producing a series of informative walks with ecologists, Russ Cohen and John Burns. These short videos are available on the website: www.westfieldriverwildscenic.org.

Meredyth worked with interns from Westfield State on invasive plant mapping and eradication concentrating on Center Pond in Becket. She is testing a new technique for Japanese Knotweed control in Cummington. This consists of staking a section of 1/2" mesh galvanized hardware

cloth over the knotweed. The knotweed will grow through the mesh but griddle itself as it reaches size. After several years, hopefully, the plant will starve itself. People are encouraged to try this technique on their lands within the watershed.

Our committee meets once a month and all meetings are open to the public. We encourage you to take part in any of our sponsored activities, including stream teams, river clean-ups, land protection, and workshops. To learn more about what is happening in the watershed, visit our newly updated website at www.wildscenicwestfieldriver.org.

For more information contact your Chester representative, Dave Pierce, at 413 354 7752 or dpiercedlp@aol.com

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Caffrey
Robert Thompson
David Pierce

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

At the time of this report being composed we are in the transition of the Police Chief. I want to thank so many people for the positive support over the years. I have been in law enforcement for 33 years, 12 years as Chief in Chester, 2 ½ years as Chief in Blandford and the last year as the Chief of the Chester-Blandford Police Department (CBPD). I want to thank the Select Boards, Town Administrators, other Town Departments and of course citizens of each community for the overwhelming support I have enjoyed during my tenure.

The Chester-Blandford Police Department is dedicated to being available and responsive as often as possible, and to be considered a valuable asset to the people we serve in our communities. Our goal is to make every effort we can to meet the public and personal safety needs of our community.

CBPD has set a standard for other municipalities in Massachusetts by our joining together. A reflection of our collaboration between towns is demonstrated with our new patch, showing common attributes of both communities and identifying the unique character of our region.

Over the years we have progressed into having cruisers for each patrol district, one for Chester and one for Blandford. We have implemented a computer aided dispatch system, installed an electronic record management system, laptops and printers in each cruiser unit, radio systems that provide inter-operability with control centers, state police and statewide operations. We are wrapping up the process of full migration to Northampton Control for dispatch services for all Town services, ensuring consistent communication of public safety for all. We continue to meet training and educational requirements, both areas aimed at improving officer knowledge and development, adding to the professionalism of our personnel.

Our ability to provide the level of services we have conducted over the last year is an impressive accomplishment considering that every position in our police department is part-time. My exodus was partly the result of acknowledging the need for a full-time Police Chief. The demands on a police department in these times are extraordinary, and with my other obligations I couldn't selfishly stay and give only a part-time effort. We have a dedicated group of officers who know and understand that community policing is about providing as many services as possible, regardless of available funds. Our officers have worked with me in creating a police department that has integrity and respect, leading to the recognition of Chester-Blandford having a highly regarded professional police organization. I would also like to note that just as full-time departments, we need to meet the same law enforcement, regulatory, state and federal requirements as every other police department in the state. This is not a simple task, but one we accomplish year after year.

I want to end my submission with a heartfelt thank you to the officers of CBPD. These colleagues have been some of the most professional, dedicated, ethical and knowledgeable officers I have had the opportunity to work with during my career. I am proud to have worked beside them and call them not only fellow officers but friends. You should be moved to have them be a part of our communities.

Respectfully Submitted, Daniel Ilnicky, Chief of Police

ANIMAL CONTROL AND INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS REPORT

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

47 “farm” visits were made in the fall of 2019. The purpose of documenting ownership of each animal provides the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources with data for response planning in an emergency.

A total of 5 home kennels were inspected prior to licensure for 2019. All kennels were inspected and approved as meeting all standards of care per the state guidelines.

Calls to the ACO were as follows:

5-missing dogs

3-possible neglect

3-unlicensed dog

10-dog “at large”

3-wildlife call

1-Abandoned livestock

2- stray pick up

1- Positive rabies

2- cat bite

Respectfully Submitted

Terry Donovan ACO/Animal Inspector

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Forty five permits were issued by the building department in 2020 which is on average of the previous few years but below the number from 2019. Three of these permits were for new single family dwellings, while ten more were for major home renovations, additions, or large garage/barn projects. Three permits were issued for new commercial projects as well. Despite the impacts of the pandemic, the fact we still have new industry scheduled to come to town this year along with numerous major improvement and re-opening projects throughout our town, it is pretty clear that our town continues to perpetually move forward. The positive advancement towards Chester's inclusion in the East-West rail will only further increase the improvements to our downtown area.

Nine energy conservations permits pulled this year including solar installations, window/replacements, and insulation and air sealing upgrades. Five permits were also issued for wood or pellet stoves. Please note that the installation of any solid-fuel burning appliance (wood stoves, pellet stoves, etc.) requires a permit, regardless of the installer. The fee for this permit is reasonable, required by all home insurance companies, and important to the safety of the inhabitants of the structure. If you have already installed one of these devices, you can still apply for a permit and have a quick inspection.

The efficiency of the department improved dramatically this year with the rollout of our new online permitting system. All building permits are now applied for/issued through this new online system, making it more accessible to contractors and homeowners alike, while vastly improving reporting capabilities of our other offices in town hall.

A large thank you goes out to all of the other town departments and boards for their assistance and cooperation when requested. The dedication of these numerous, primarily volunteer, individuals is greatly appreciated and a testament to their commitment to the betterment of our town.

Under normal circumstances, office hours are every 2nd and 4th Monday evening of the month from 5:00-7:00, however I am readily available to meet with you in the office, at your home, or at the jobsite as needed. As a Chester resident myself, I am consistently in the area so please feel free to reach out to me anytime at (413) 205-6504. Copies of each type of building permit application are located on the outside of my office door for you to pick up at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Fogue, Building Commissioner

JACOB'S LADDER TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY ANNUAL REPORT - 2020

The Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway (JLTSB) Advisory Board was impacted in 2020 by the COVID 19 Pandemic. All in person meetings were postponed and due to various issues, online meetings were difficult to schedule. Communications were held via email.

The boards slated outline for 2020 will continue to be the initiative for the upcoming year:

- Various Trail Improvements
- Working with DCR to reopen the Chester/Blandford Forest Campground
- Grants for historic trolley wall stabilization along Route 20
- Updating Scenic Byway Maps and guides issued back in the 1990s.
- Biking trail along the Scenic Byway
- To re-establish an active Advisory Board similar to the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway

The JLTSB Centennial Booklet was popular with visitors for its detailed rich history of the Byway and towns. The original supply from 2010 is nearly exhausted and an updated reprint will be sought.

The Gateway Hilltown Visitor Center located at 241 Route 20 in Chester (at Carm's Restaurant) cohosts a home for the JLTSB along with Historic Route 20. Originally opened in January, the Visitor Center reopened in mid-June and saw numerous travelers from across the country. A tally shows that nearly 500 people stopped for information, maps and more. While June and July were still slow, an uptick came in late August thru mid-October.

MASS-DOT installed Visitor INFO signs on the Scenic Byway (Route 20) in Chester to indicate the location of the Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center offers free Wi-Fi, public restrooms and information pertaining to the JLTSB.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Farr – President

CHESTER WATER IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE /CWIC

2020 Annual Town Report

Three years ago our BOS entered into agreement with the federally funded Rural Communities Assistance Partnership/RCAP, to provide technical advice, education & training for the purpose of developing a “strategic plan” to support & sustain Improvements to our water quality & overall Water Plant operations. The next step in the process was the proposal by Selectman James Higby to establish the CWIC for the purpose of research, review & recommendation to the BOS/Water Commissioners. CWIC began interacting with RCAP and soon realized the need for professional leadership to navigate the complex world of DEP regulation & mandates. The priority issue requiring attention was our non-compliance with the four year cycle of the DEP ‘Sanitary Survey’, placing us at risk for fines & further sanction by the DEP. CWIC met several times with RCAP’s

Matt Cassedy, who recommended we meet with water system expert Dr. Rich Gullick of Water Compliance Solutions/ WCS. CWIC met/interviewed Dr. Gullick, recommending to BOS/Water Commissioners, to enter into contract with WCS to address immediate DEP non-compliance issues and develop a Strategic Plan for our Water Plant operations, to be proposed to BOS for action January 2021.

The plan was developed using the SMART framework

Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Bound t

Applied to assess all Water Dept components, including: Personnel, Physical Plant & Equipment, Finance, Maintenance, capital Improvements. The value of something is what it contributes. As of December 2020, we are in real time compliance with DEP and moving forward to implement the strategic plan. This operational assessment has provided evidence based clarity that will lead to long term solutions.

CWIC urges all residents to become well informed of the Strategic Plan, leading to discussion & consensus.

CWIC Members are James Higby, Tom Bean, Rick Stone, Steve Salvini, Bob Daley

Contributors; Kathe Warden & Kathy Engwer Administrative/data; Jenna Day & Matt

Cassedy RCAP training/tech assist; Eric Weiss PVPC Regionalization & Grant research;

Dr Millman UMASS Study Group; Dr. Rich Holzman PVPC Commissioner/liaison to UMASS & PVPC

Respectfully submitted by Bob Daley January 2021

VETERANS SERVICES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of the goals and objectives for our department district wide have either been canceled or postponed. Much of the work of our office has been done remotely which has been a significant challenge for my staff and our benefit processes, but we've managed to keep operating with very few interruptions in service. Back in the end of March 2020 as all of our offices ended up closing to the public, we faced a huge challenge: how do we keep track of our vulnerable population and keep up communication on their needs if they are unable to come to our town offices. Our solution was to bring our support to them. We collaborated with the Salvation Army of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Military Support Foundation and One Call Away to provide monthly boxes of both nonperishable food items, and beginning in October 2021 prepacked boxes of fresh dairy, protein and produce which we have been delivering on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the district. At the time of this writing, 1 year from the pandemic shutdown, we have delivered over 1050 of these food boxes. To date we have delivered 13 from the Salvation Army and 25 from Food4Vets to our recipients in Chesterfield. Great thanks goes out to each of these organizations for their help and support.

Tom Geryk, VSO on our staff participated in the SHINE training that occurred the fall of 2020 and has become a certified SHINE Representative. Our objective for this is to more directly assist Veterans and families to access the ever-changing medical insurance challenges. The federal government has made significant changes (Mission Act) to the VA Healthcare system nationally and in Western Mass., and we will need to provide the best information possible as our older veterans are being compelled to use more and more health services in the community.

Our office, as a member of the Western MA Veteran's Outreach Project participated in coordinating and presenting at our February 10 webinar: *Adapting and Thriving in the Era of COVID-19*. This was cosponsored by the Smith College School of Social Work. We had nearly 90 registered and almost 70 were still present when the webinar ended. We believe that since most stayed until the end of a 2-hour webinar they obviously found the material and the speakers credible and valuable.

The holiday season during a pandemic was also a big concern for our population. So many of our veterans and surviving spouses do not live with their families and in some cases their families live far away. To address this isolation we contacted those who live alone and brought them a full holiday meal right to their door. We worked with the VFW in Florence to help prepare over 60 meals that were delivered by volunteers from the VA medical center and members of the Northampton Kiwanis club throughout Northampton, Williamsburg, Hadley and Amherst. As we had done on Veterans Day, we included bags with small gifts of goodies and activities such as word puzzles and jigsaw puzzles. We also worked with the Amherst Police Department to provide Home Depot buckets with winter coats and other goodies to some of our most needy in the community.

We were unable to participate in most all of our traditional outreach events i.e. the Western Mass. Stand Down, Cummington Fair, 3-County Fair, the Big E, and the University sporting events due to the pandemic. Therefore, information about veterans' benefits has been hard to get out to the

veterans and their families who could assist them in a time of great need or for ongoing support. The Department's objective is ongoing and efforts to find new and innovative methods of outreach will be important to ensure all who need assistance receive it.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the restrictions that came with it, the majority of our community objectives for FY 21 were unmet and we hope that most of them will be addressed in fiscal year 22. In so many ways it's been a lost year for our community.

In CY 2020, VA compensation and pension benefits were issued to some veterans and dependents in Chester in the amount of \$126,494/mo. In FY 2020, the Town of Chester provided a total of \$33,435 in M.G.L. CH 115 benefits. These benefits helped several veterans and families make ends meet. Seventy five percent of those benefits (\$25,077) were reimbursed by the state.

This report is in remembrance of Eugene Barton "Gene" Watters (April 16, 1929 – May 18, 2020). Gene served as a radioman on a Navy submarine during the WWII era. In 1969, several years after his military service, Gene became a permanent resident of Chester. He found many ways to continue his public service and good deeds within his local community. Some of Gene's contributions include the many hours he spent driving a school bus for Gateway, snow plowing for his neighbors, taking his neighbors trash to the dump, and delivering groceries to those in need. In addition to everything Gene regularly accomplished throughout the community, he also worked for the Assessor's office until the day he passed. Gene was a kind and gentle soul with a great sense of humor. Any brief interaction with him would improve anyone's day. Countless, family, friends, and neighbors will miss Gene dearly.

Eugene Barton Watters

April 16, 1929 - May 18, 2020



Photographs by Samuel Mazzaferro of West Branch Aerial Photography

